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Third Time Not the Charm for 19-Year-Old Arrested for Felony Vandalism

By NED RACINE, Editor

(July 30, 2008). When Transit Services Bureau (TSB) deputies arrived at 7 a.m. to serve a warrant at a Wilshire District home, July 25, it was the third time they had visited the home.

When deputies left the home, they left with Ebbie Echeverria, arresting him for the second time for vandalism/graffiti. This time, Echeverria, 19, was taken into custody on suspicion of causing \$24,000 damage to Metro Red Line cars.

Echeverria, whose moniker is "SKUNK," was arrested on suspicion of felony vandalism in Nov. 2007. When convicted, he was ordered to pay \$18,000 in restitution and given three years' probation.

This latest charge is also felony vandalism. The suspect remains in custody in Men's Central Jail in lieu of \$160,000 bail.

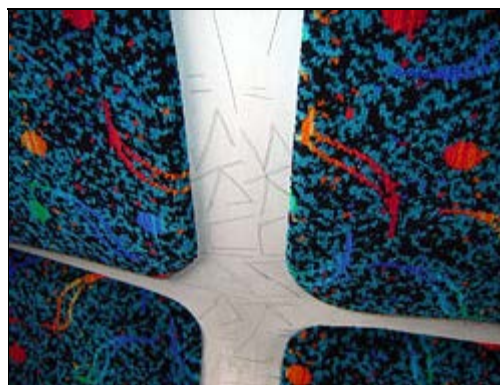
According to TSB Deputy Allen Jacobs, investigators found etching tools, markers and slap tags at the suspect's home. Jacobs said the suspect was very apologetic and didn't want to return to jail.

In fact, according to Jacobs, when arrested July 25, the suspect told investigators he had stopped tagging. TSB investigators disagree. "To our knowledge, all the damage was after the first arrest," Jacobs said.

Jacobs noted that the SKUNK moniker was accompanied by increasingly costly damage, beginning with window etching and escalating to carving the fiberglass seats of Red Line cars.

Jacobs originally discovered the SKUNK moniker while patrolling the Red Line in January 2007.

Around the time Jacobs began investigating Red Line tagging by SKUNK, a TSB deputy patrolling the Blue Line cited a man for riding the light rail line



Sheriff's Deputy Allen Jacobs found the "SKUNK" moniker etched into Metro Red Line seats. Below, TSB deputies found this display in the suspect's bedroom.



without a ticket. The man was identified as Echeverria.

The Blue Line deputy noted the man wore a baseball cap with SKUNK lettered on it and had admitted he was a tagger.

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