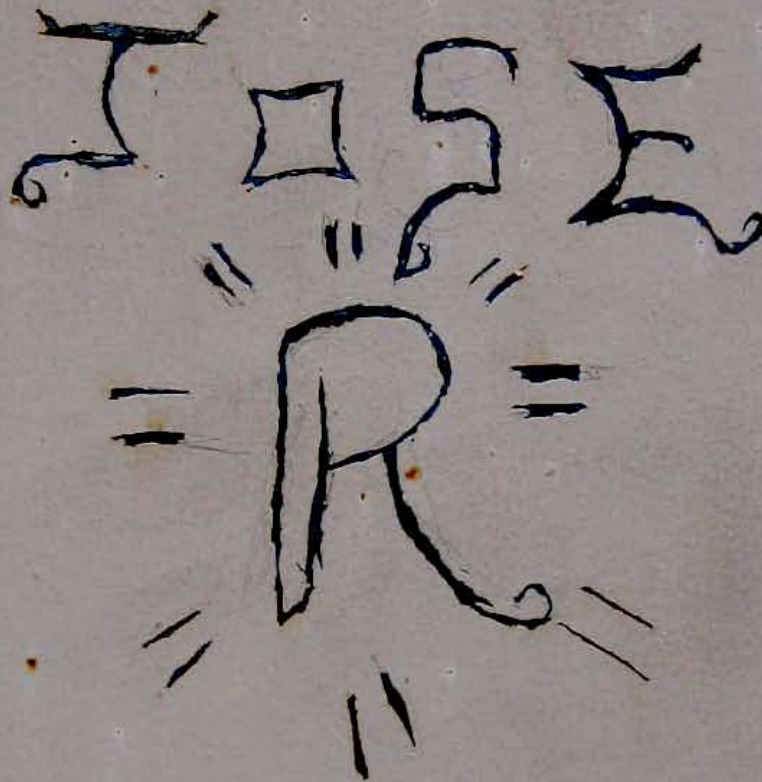


Bloodwars Magazine

December 2007 Issue Twenty Six

*The Magazine for Graffiti Writers & Street Lovers
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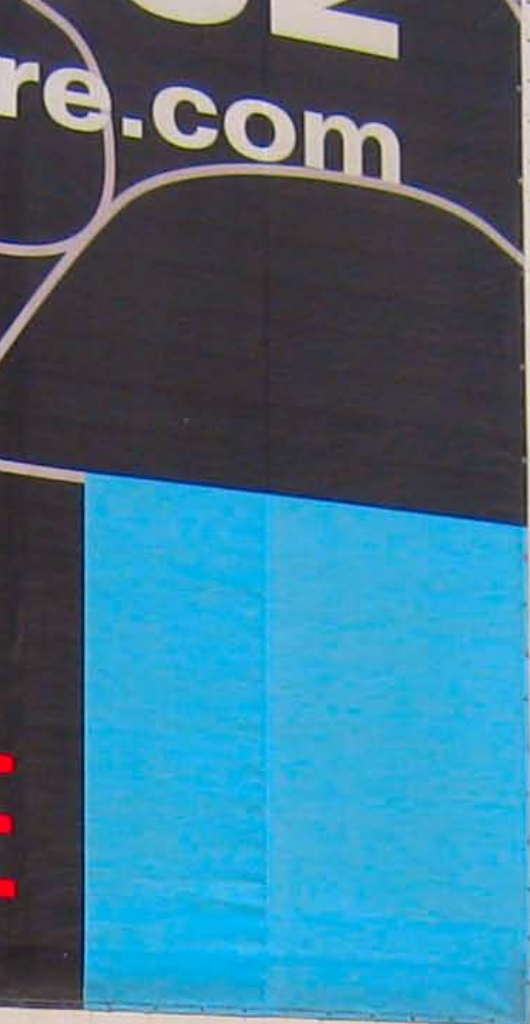




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SUBMIT

If you would like to contribute to Bloodwars (don't send files) first please send an email and I will get back to you. Submit photos of what you would like to see in Bloodwars: graffiti, stencil, sticker, or what jerks your head back for a second look. Social Commentary is welcomed.
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Text* Found graffiti newspaper articles.

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The Warriors Revealed

A PROJECT BY FRANCESCO SPAMPINATO

Art Parade 2007, Deitch Projects, New York
Saturday September 8, at 4PM on West Broadway, Soho

For the second year Italian artist Francesco Spampinato takes part in the Art Parade in New York, a happening at its third edition organized by Deitch Projects in collaboration with Creative Time and Paper Magazine. The parade will take place Saturday September 8 at 4PM on West Broadway in Soho featuring some of the most important contemporary artists from New York. Spampinato, who participated in 2006 with a fake Italian soccer team, this year presents the new performance *The Warriors Revealed*, inspired by American cult movie from 1979 *The Warriors*.



The Warriors is a movie on the phenomenon of street gangs in New York but it is also a movie about New York City. The *Warriors*, a gang from Coney Island, are unjustly accused of the murder of Cyrus, leader of the main city gang, during a meeting he organized up in the Bronx. From that moment all the city's gangs prey on *The Warriors*. From the Bronx to Coney Island, the eight *Warriors* joined by Mercy, a young prostitute, have to face several snares in the streets and subway stations they transit that night.

The Warriors Revealed is an investigation on the psychogeographical dimension emerging from the film. The map of New York City is redesigned according to the street gangs that infest it. Uniforms that every single member of a street gang wears are more than a recognition sign, they are symbols of territorial identification and of belonging to a group. For this reason, the *Warriors* chased do not give up their uniforms, a leather vest with a winged skull on the back they wear proudly, remaining then easily recognizable.



The Warriors Revealed is a performance project about the factor of recognizability of the *Warriors* lost in New York City. The leather vest is substituted by a dayglo yellow safety vest that makes who wear it recognizable even in the worst conditions of darkness. Besides, the eight *Warriors* will wear cardboard x-ray glasses that, instead of what people think, that these x-ray glasses allow to see through clothes, they allow to see backlight bones through the skin. *The Warriors Revealed* is built on the tension between to see and to be seen, between supervision and visibility. The *Warriors* wearing safety vests are even more visible and it is possible to detect their position easily: they reveal themselves. At the same time, through fake x-ray glasses, they can see further too, even further than what their enemies can imagine.

Contact: fspampinato@gmail.com

Illustrations by
john szot





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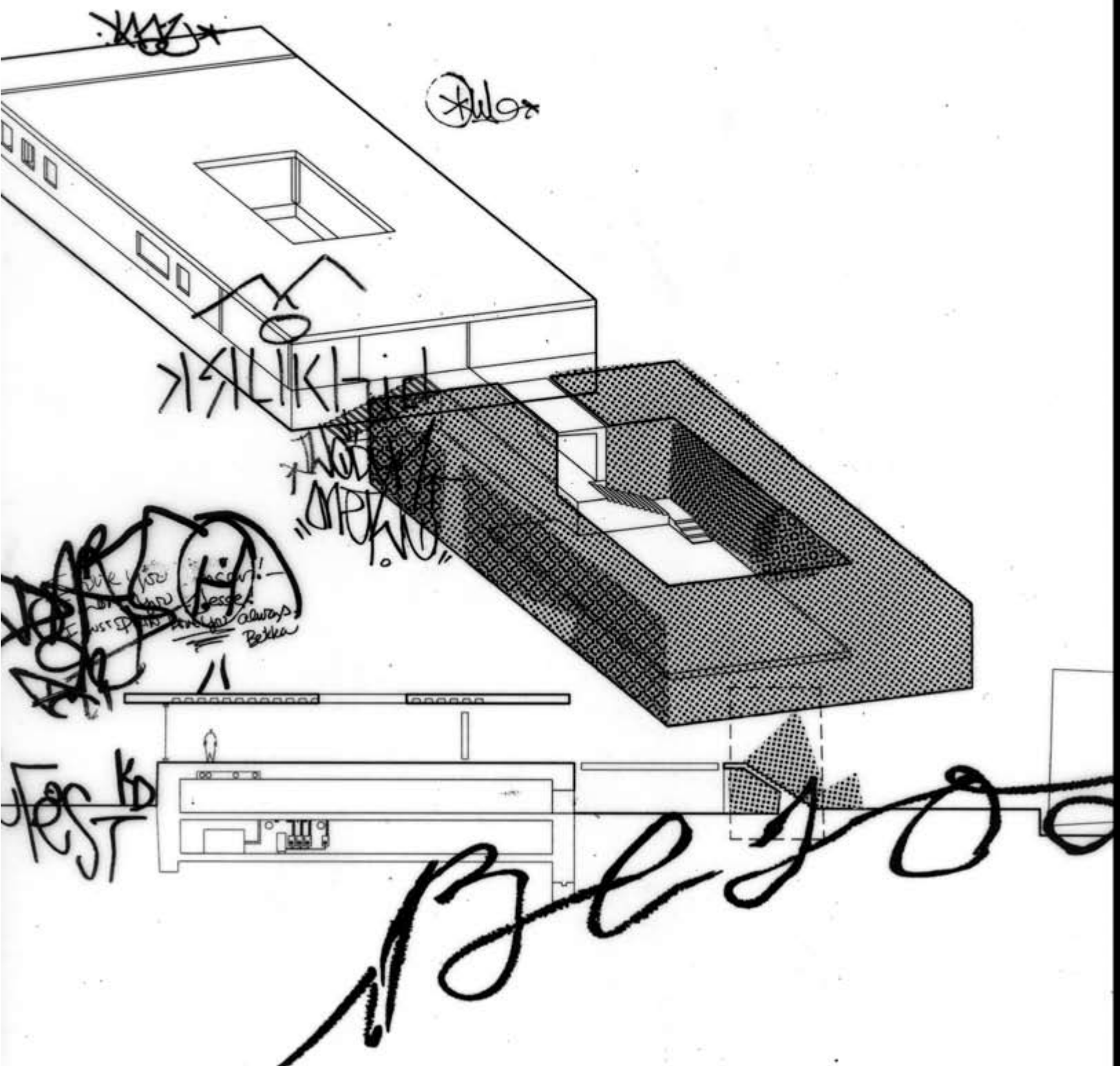
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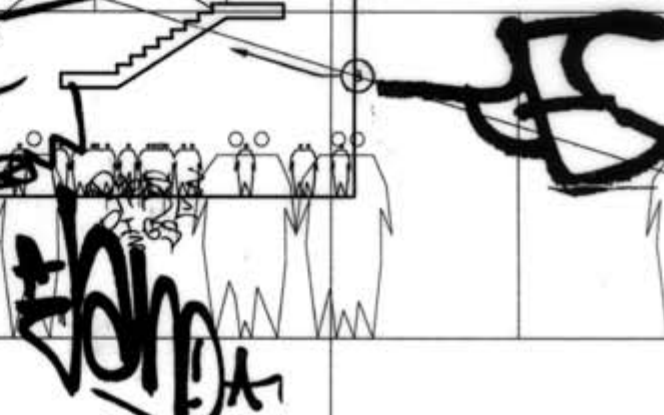
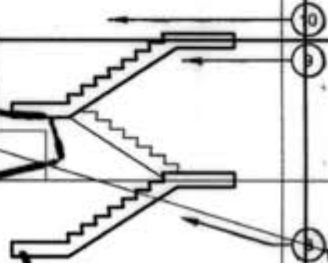
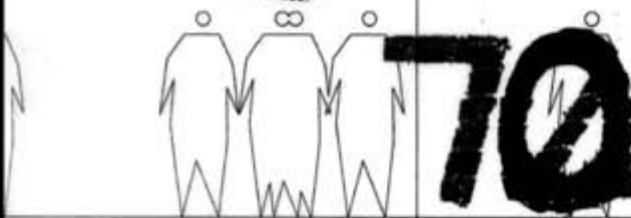
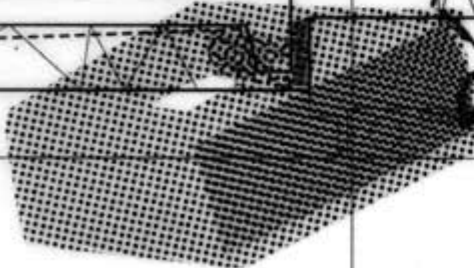
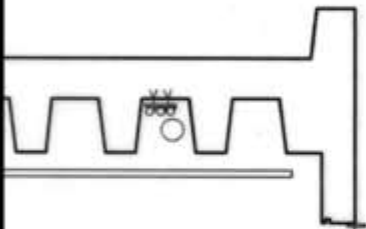
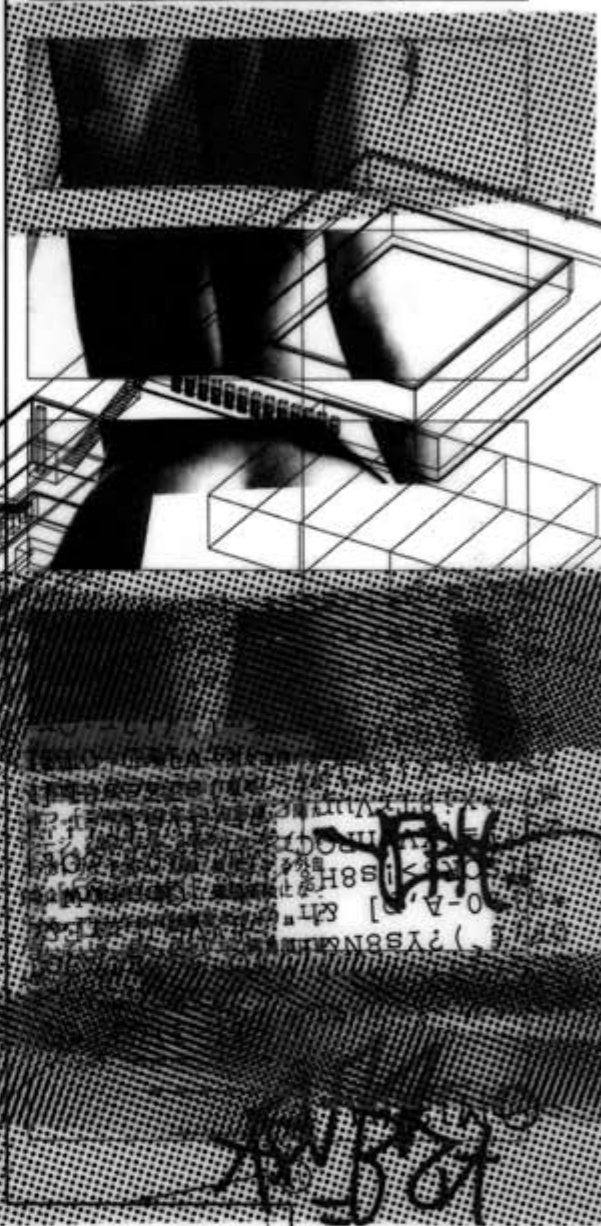
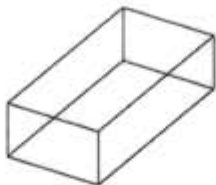
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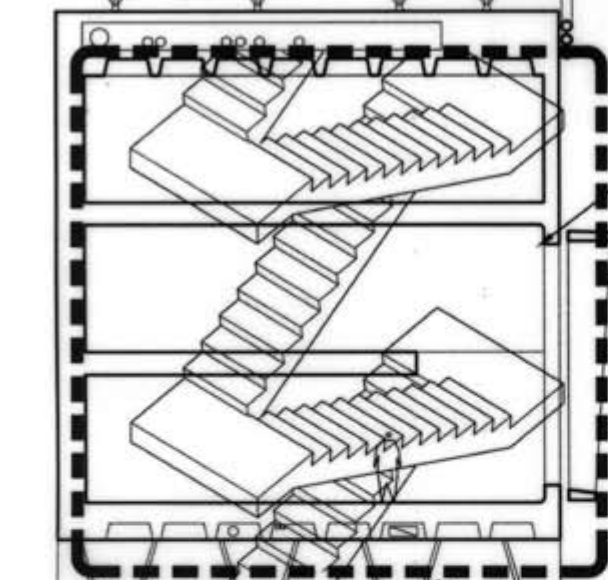
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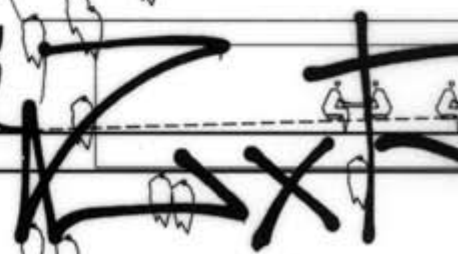
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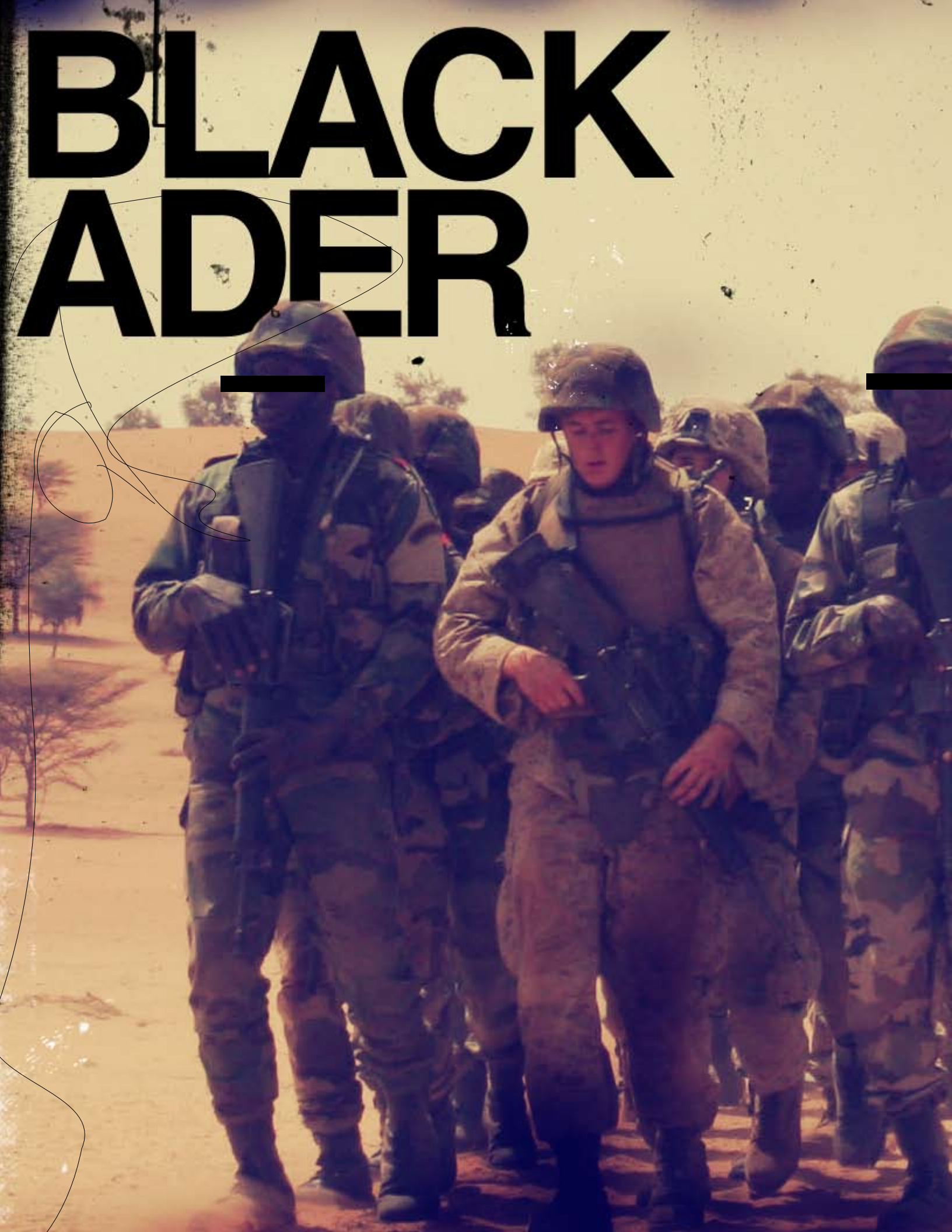
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Egger Highlands neighborhood near Nestor. Local housing experts said they know of no studies calculating graffiti's effect on property values. During the past year, Reyes has served as a volunteer member of the Otay Valley Regional Park Citizen Advisory Committee, and was among several people who organized a Sept. 26 meeting on graffiti that attracted a crowd of more than 130 people. Steven Schroeder, 64, helped organize September's meeting. "We're tired of our neighborhood looking like a ghetto," Schroeder said.

Since its inception, Reyes said, the Web site has earned warm reviews from the public. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey Dort and Hueso also like it. Dort called the Web site "an important first step" in fighting the problem because it will allow community members to take an "active role" in cleaning it up. He did warn that photographing graffiti vandals in action could be dangerous, even deadly. Hueso represents District 8, which covers much of south and southeast San Diego. He said graffiti has long been a serious problem.

"It is costing us millions and millions of dollars," Hueso said. "Rodel has taken it upon himself to create a Web site to help stop it." Hueso said he too has struggled with graffiti near his home in Barrio Logan, and often jogs or walks his neighborhood streets to jot down where he sees such vandalism. "I'm very sympathetic, because I live with this problem every single day," Hueso said. Reyes acknowledged the compliments but said "we don't need any more praise." "This fight against graffiti vandalism will ultimately be won in the political arena by electing officials who want to put these taggers in jail or juvenile hall," Reyes said.

Goal of the online effort is to catch taggers

A south San Diego resident has taken his frustration with graffiti online in an effort to catch the vandals defacing his neighborhood.

San Diego city utility worker Anvil Thomas used pressurized water on pretreated graffiti on Elm Street in south San Diego. A concerned resident is crusading against graffiti vandals through his Web site. Activist Rodel Reyes spent two days and \$100 creating his anti-graffiti Web site, which shows images of gang or tagger names spray-painted on fences, freeway signs, Dumpsters and other surfaces around Nestor and Otay Mesa. The Web site, launched Nov. 19, invites the public to look at the photos and share any information with the San Diego Police Department. Residents can send comments or photos to Reyes for possible publication. Although the Web site spurns law enforcement advice by displaying dozens of examples of graffiti, it is a hit with viewers, police, the District Attorney's Office and City Councilman Ben Hueso. "I just see him as a concerned citizen who wants to help solve the problem," said San Diego police Officer Bryan Roberts, who serves on the city's Graffiti Task Force. At 41, Reyes is not a professional Web designer. He said he just wanted to help stop chronic graffiti vandalism, which has unnerved him and hundreds of other residents in south San Diego.

Online: To see Rodel Reyes' Web site, go to:

web.mac.com/argento1/iWeb/Graffiti

Law enforcement officials usually worry that publishing graffiti images could encourage similar vandalism or give glory to the perpetrators.

Publishing photos "gives taggers what they want: publicity," Roberts said. "But the way it's presented on (Reyes') Web site, as a problem, is different. I don't see it as hurting us in any way." Roberts said he is frustrated that vandals he had arrested are often back on the streets days later, spray-painting more graffiti. "I would hope that the court would hold the parents responsible," he said. "But after I arrest them, it's out of my hands." Reyes said the city's current solution of quickly painting over or sand-blasting graffiti doesn't work. He also contends that people convicted of such crimes should serve time in juvenile hall or jail, rather than just being ordered to pay fines and restitution. Under state law, graffiti vandalism can be punished by up to a year in jail, and by fines of up to \$50,000. District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis said judges rarely sentence those convicted for graffiti to jail. Reyes believes graffiti has lowered property values in his









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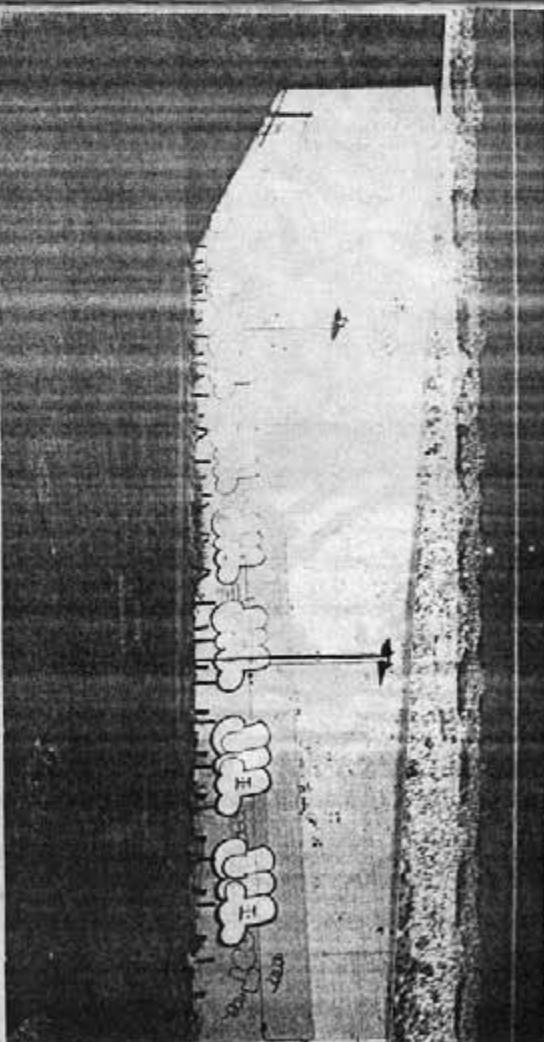
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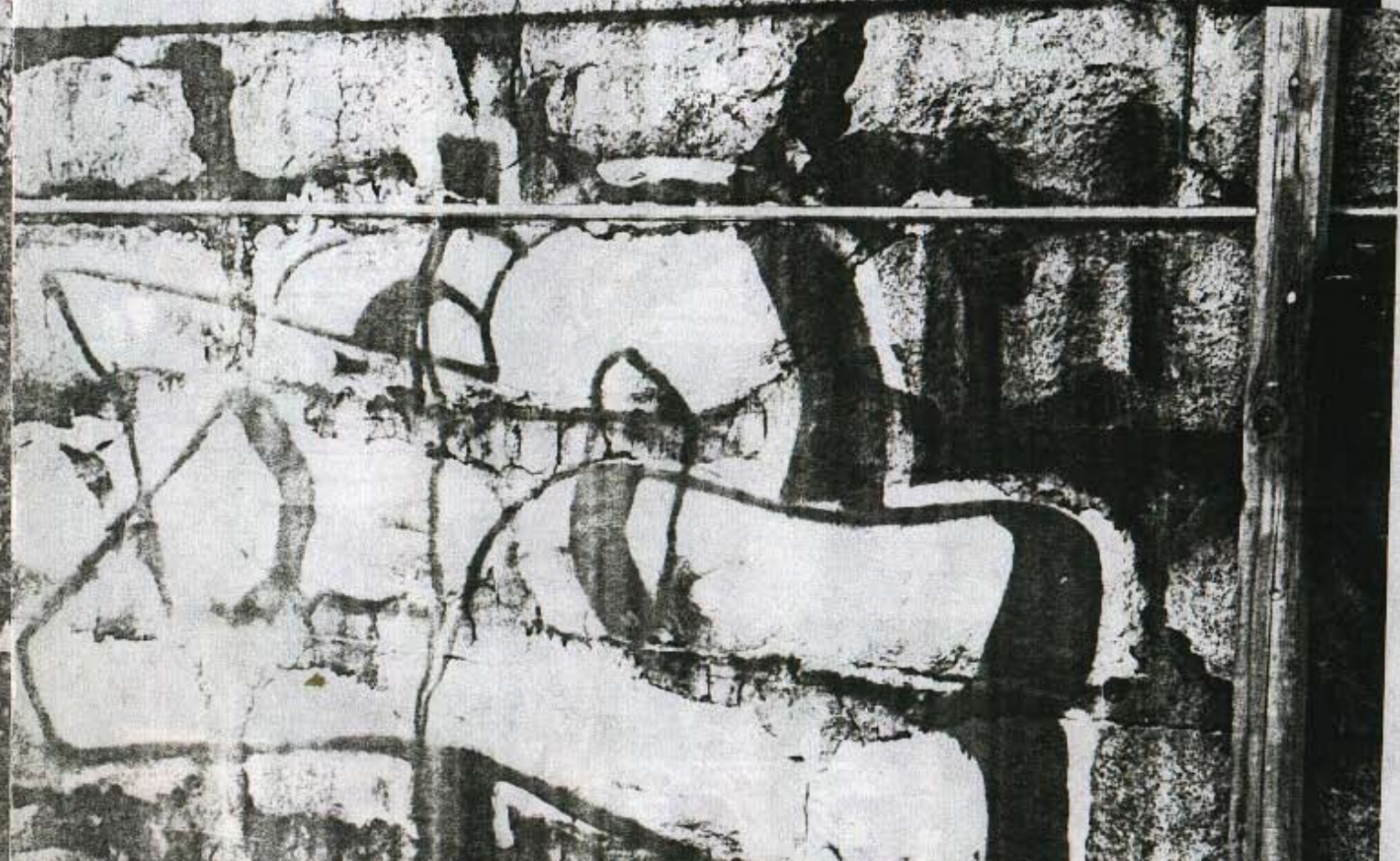
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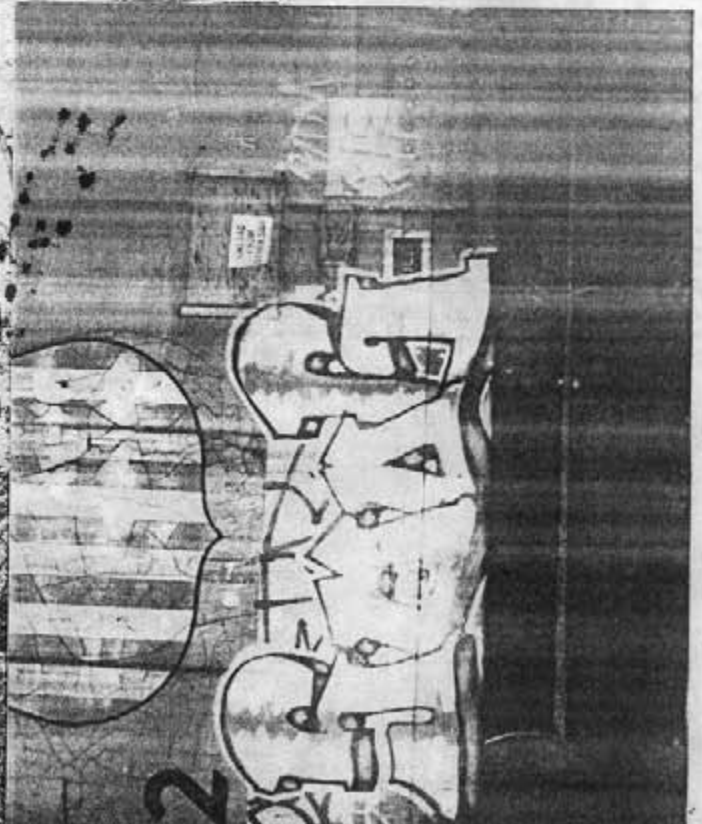






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Community service, restitution ordered for graffiti vandals

BY DAN REED

Mercury News Staff Writer

Six of the graffiti daredevils who spent months spraying their way across Bay Area freeway signs and Fremont-area buildings must perform between 500 and 600 hours of community service apiece and pay restitution for the damage they inflicted, a judge ruled Friday.

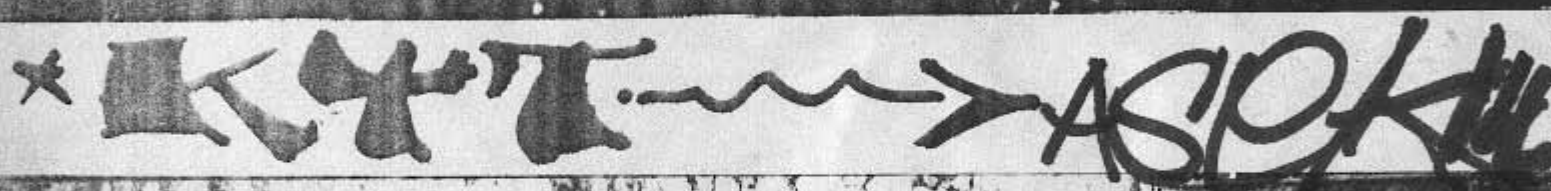
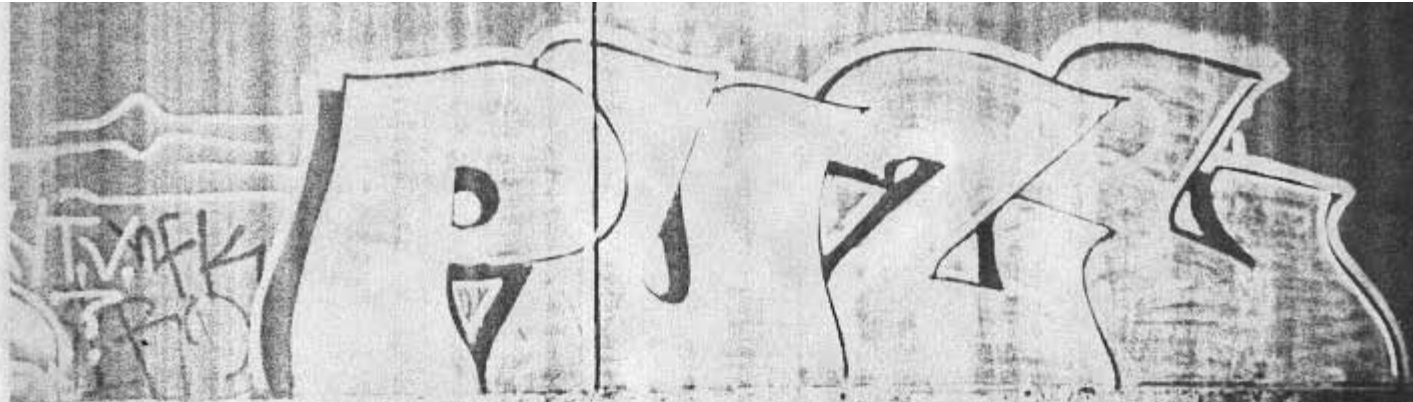
Part of a loosely affiliated gang thought to include the region's most prolific and destructive paint-can vandals, the young men were sentenced in Fremont Municipal Court under a negotiated misdemeanor plea.

The probation department will determine the type of community

sweep in February to pluck vandals who were "tagging" — or spray-painting their particular trademark. Some of the more than one dozen vandals arrested in the February dragnet were sentenced a few weeks ago. These included David [redacted] 23, known by the tag "Kose," who was given two years in prison.

[redacted] who has been ordered to pay \$80,000 in restitution, plans to contest that amount in a court hearing set for June 2.





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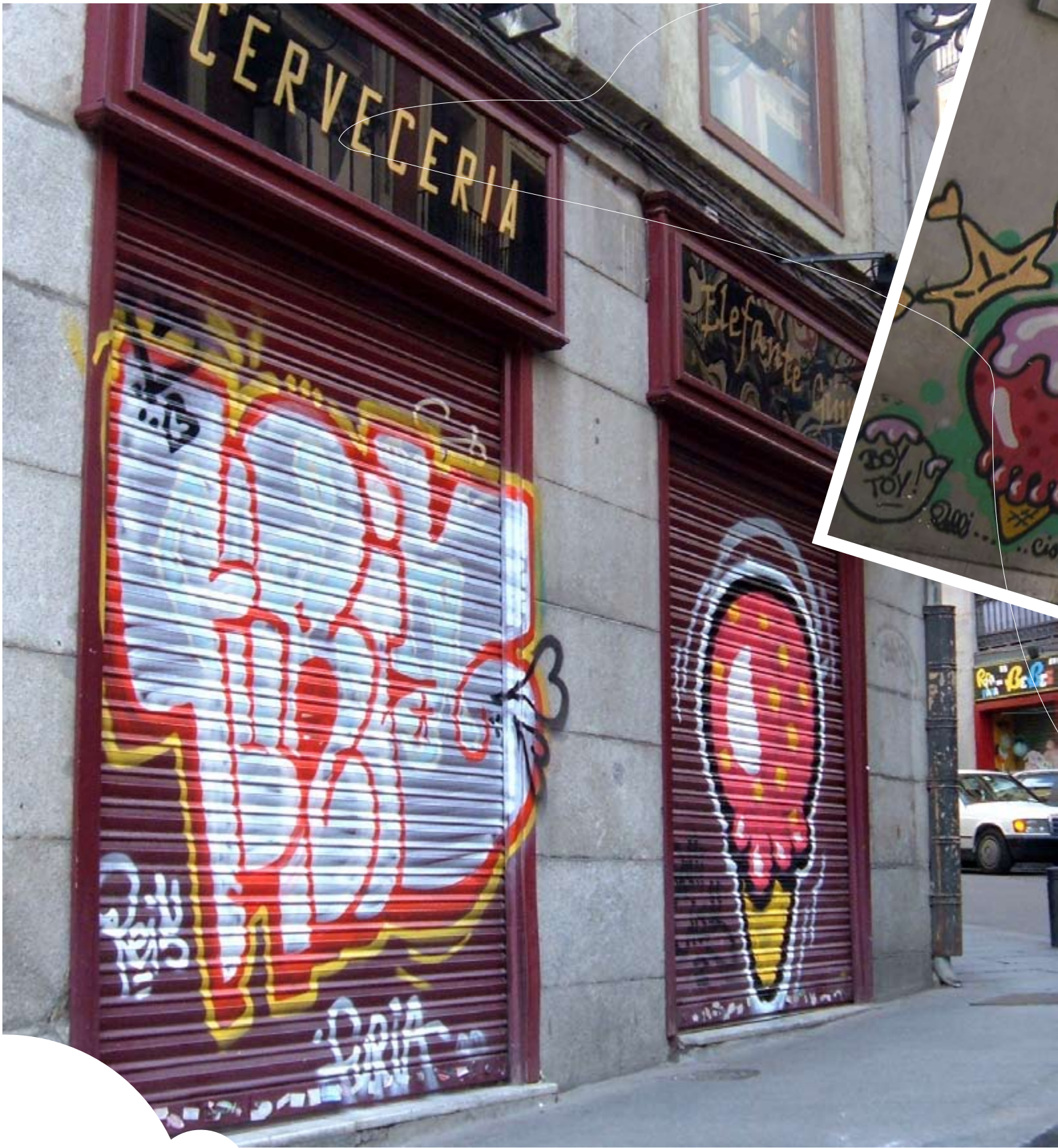
















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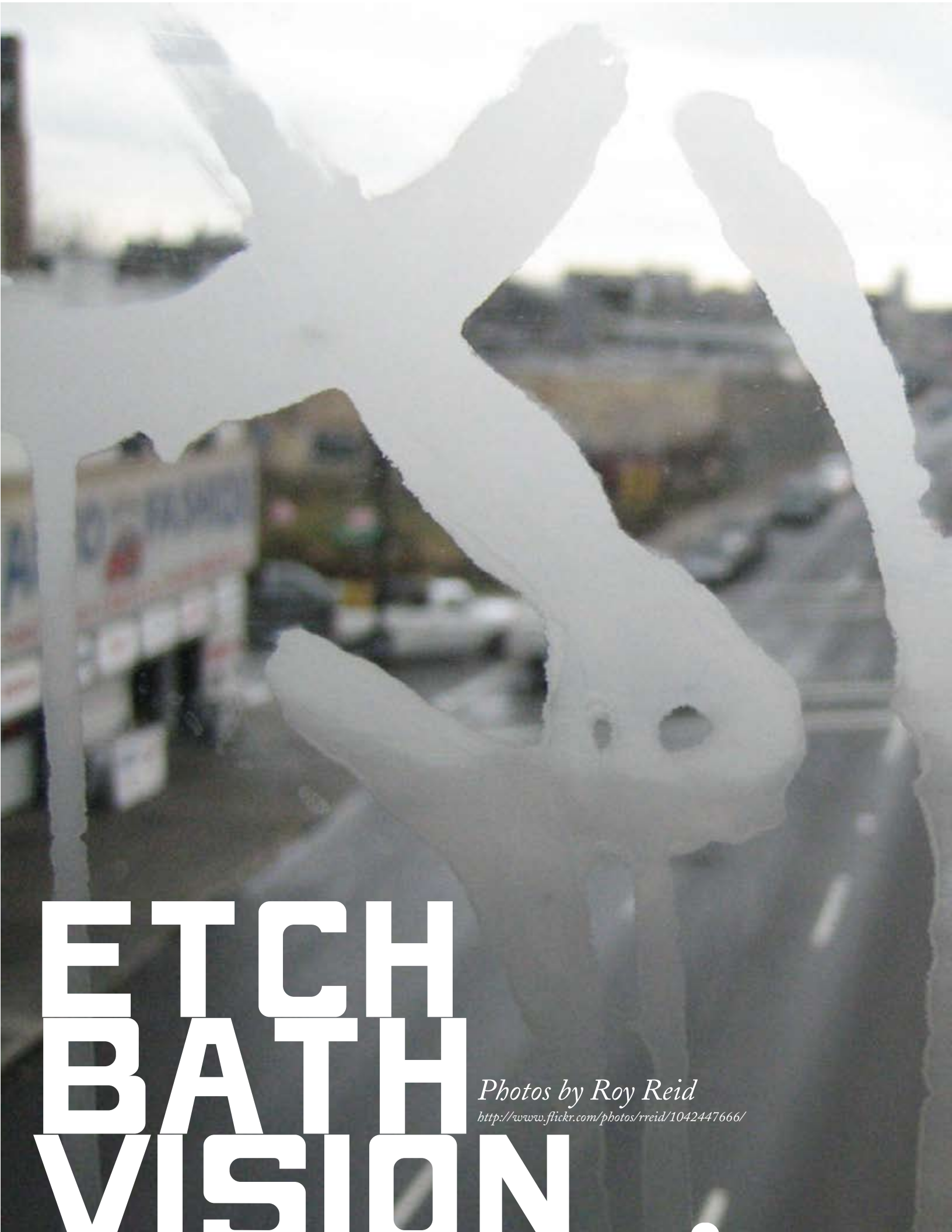


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ETCH BATH VISION

Photos by Roy Reid

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/rreid/1042447666/>





Eagle Team: NYC Transit's Anti-Graffiti Squad

The NYPD may have the anti-graffiti task force, but with many graffiti crimes perpetrated in the subway tunnels, the NYC Transit Authority has created its own anti-graffiti team. The Daily News tagged along with the Eagle Team, a “surveillance squad quietly formed three months ago.” The Eagle Team members, which include many former NYPD detectives as well as an ex-U.S. marine, inspect and patrol subway tunnels and yards for potential taggers.

Vandals engrossed in the graffiti subculture will spend hours, sometimes days, scouting a yard before striking, watching the patterns of police and transit workers and searching for vulnerabilities to exploit. They plan in advance how they will enter, escape and flee if suddenly interrupted.

“Every ‘i’ is dotted, every ‘t’ is crossed,” [former NYPD sergeant Robert] Barrow said. “It’s almost like ‘Mission: Impossible’ for

them.” After one vandal raid, authorities found a grappling hook and rope dangling to the ground on the outside of a 20-foot-high perimeter wall.

The Eagle Team, which supplements the NYPD’s work, hasn’t made any arrests yet. Last year, the “worst of the worst” graffiti tagger MAP was caught and this past fall, Ket pleaded guilty (after police used computer evidence to charge him) to tagging subway cars between 2004 and 2006.

Photograph of an A train etch by Les Dragonnes on Flickr







GRAFFITI COSTS LITTLE LEAGUE BIG TIME.

A couple of egotistical vandals with spray cans have just cost the kids of the Bayside Little League a whopping \$3,000, according to league officials. That's what it cost to remediate the defacement of two storage containers used to hold supplies and materials the league uses when the teams play on the ball fields of Crocheron Park.

It took a while to negotiate an agreement between the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and the league to allow them to place the containers - shorter versions of the trailer-sized shipping containers seen on cargo ships and trucks - in the lightly-wooded area near the ball fields.

"We had to paint them dark green so they would fit in," said Bob Reid, president of the Bayside Little League. "We also had to agree to maintain them." So when unknown vandals "tagged" the sides of the containers with silver paint, they went from unobtrusive to eyesore. "We had to repaint them and also plant evergreens around to dissuade people from putting graffiti on them," Reid said. "The whole tab was \$3,000-which we had to take away from things for the kids," he lamented.

Reid hoped that since the plantings concealed the containers, they wouldn't be a tagger target. His plan worked for a few days - until the early hours of Saturday, December 22, when the doors on the containers were again defaced with white spray paint. "Not many people even see them so why would you want to graffiti them," Reid asks. "We have so many other things we need the money for, it's just a shame," he said. The league made police reports for insurance purposes, but Reid concluded, "We're going to just have to catch them. Somebody's got to pay."

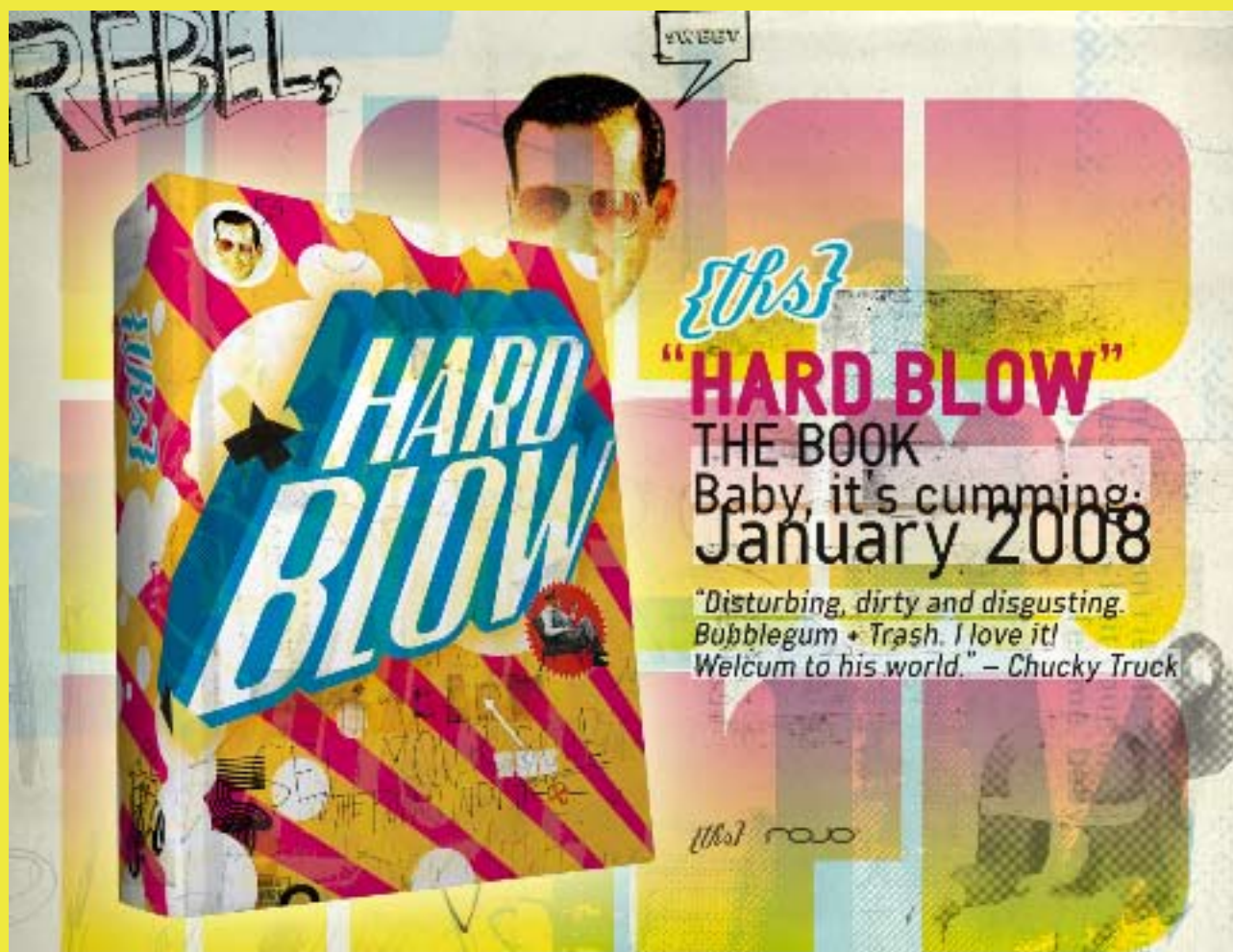
So, the word to taggers is, "It's the Little League, you'd better play ball with them." •











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Graffiti vandals beware.

There's a new sheriff in town, and you won't ever see him. Broadband Discovery Systems, a two-year-old company based in Scotts Valley, has developed a series of devices finely tuned to detect the sound of an aerosol spray can from as far as 35 feet away. "I despise graffiti," said president and chief executive Cory Stephanson, who worked with a team of engineers to build the device aimed to stymie graffiti vandals. Stephanson and vice president Michael Neely discovered that \$22 billion is spent every year in the United States dealing with graffiti, and they think their latest innovation will help. The device, nicknamed "Project Merlin" after Stephanson's son, has intricate sound recognition features that are tuned to detect only the specific sounds an aerosol can makes. When the sensor detects the sound of a can dispensing, it uses cell-phone-like technology to send out an alert. The sensor can trigger an alarm, light or camera, as well as send a text-message alert to a roving security guard or to the police. "A mall can deploy wireless units from one base unit that sends texts to an alarm infrastructure or to mall security," Stephanson said. For example, the moment someone discharges an aerosol can in one location at a mall, a roving security

guard would receive a text message with the location and head out to catch the perpetrator in the act. The Capitola Police Department has been beta-testing the police version of the sensors to help work out the kinks. "It does work," said Chief Richard Ehle. Capitola has been testing the devices in hidden locations for about six months. At one location, the device activated a security camera, which recorded graffiti vandals at work. "We didn't get a real good ID on the individuals, because the lighting was low," Ehle said. The devices can be held in the palm of the hand and are designed to be encased in harmless-looking electrical boxes. Project Merlin devices will be sold commercially starting in February. The company will sell the devices, which integrate with existing alarm systems, wholesale to alarm companies who can distribute to their clients, Stephanson said. Already, police departments in Santa Paula, New Jersey and Utah have signed on to purchase the system. "We're coming up with some really innovative solutions," Stephanson said of his company's recent products, which include a human hydration monitor and a gunshot recognition system. The company's latest project? Project Merlin's cousin, a system that detects the sound of a marker on a mirror, used specifically to catch graffiti in bathrooms.



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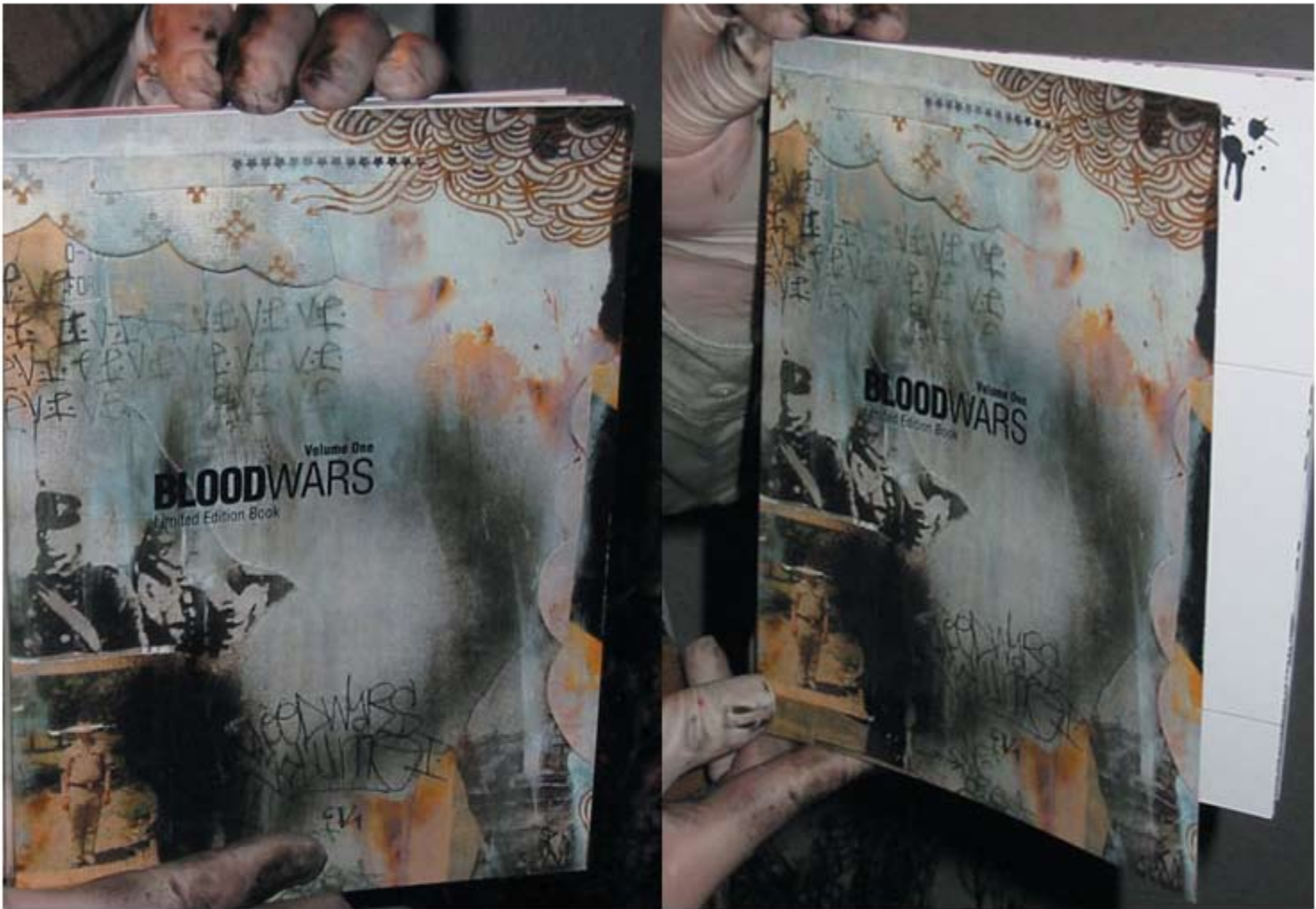
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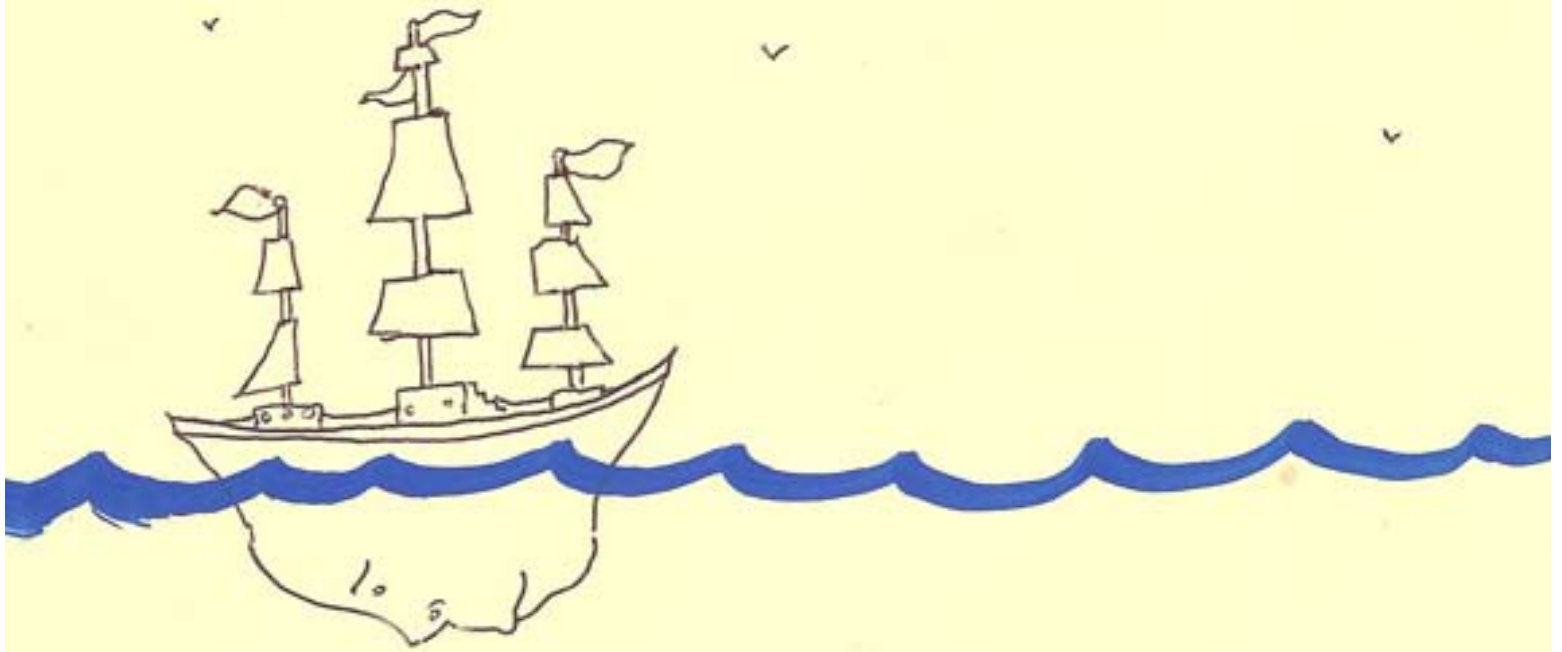
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