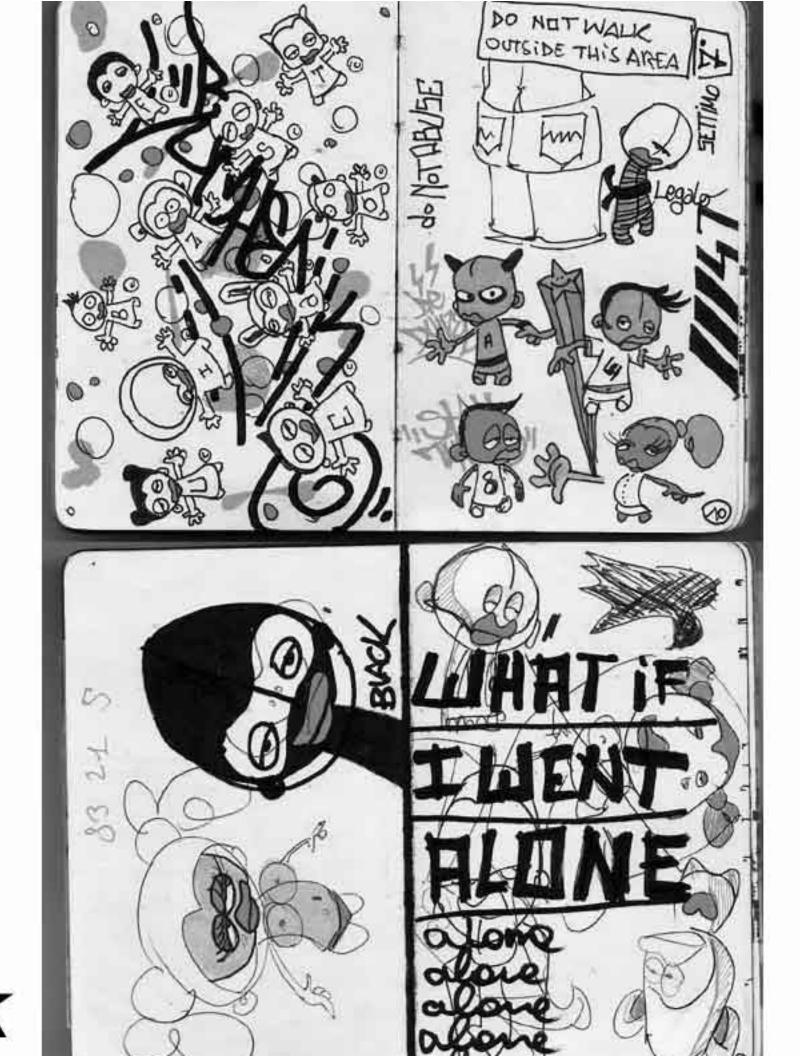
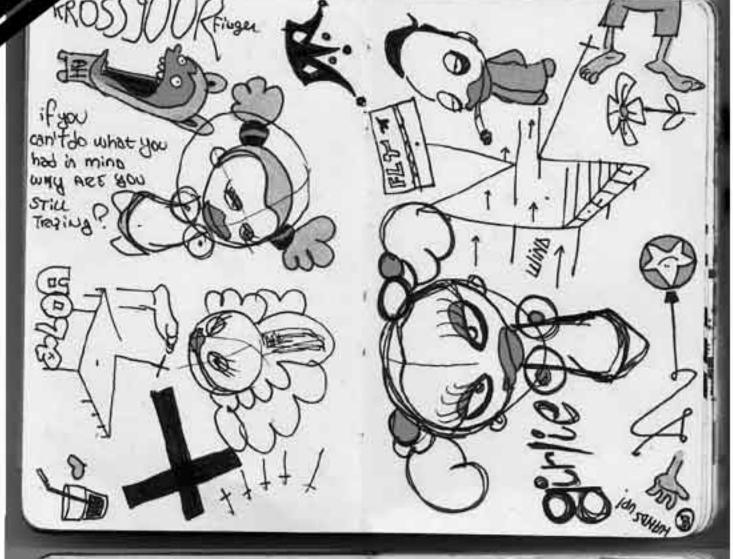




ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR CHILD

Black Book



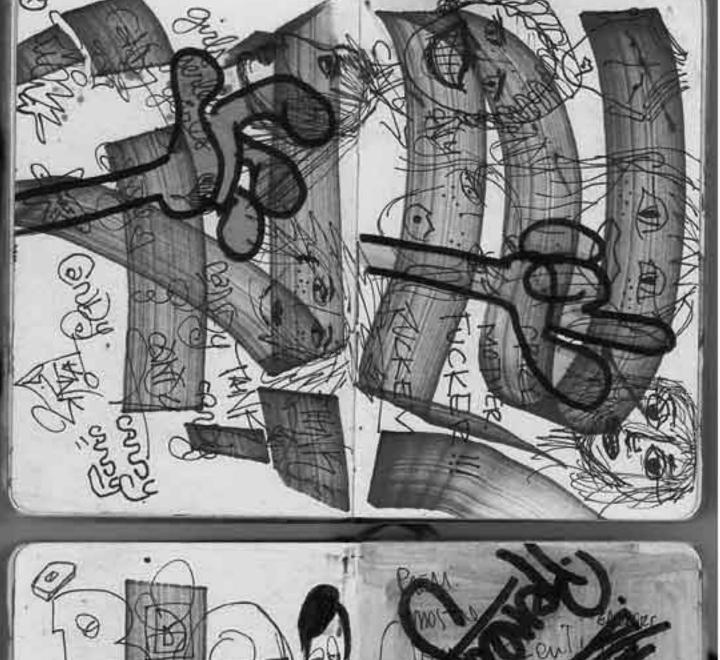






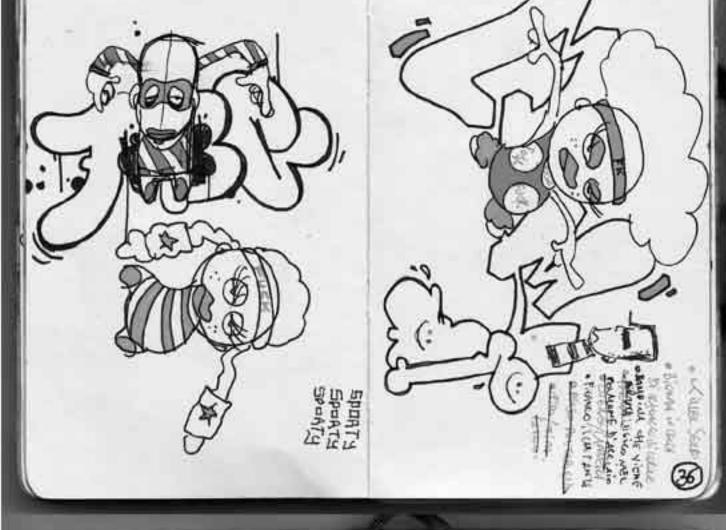


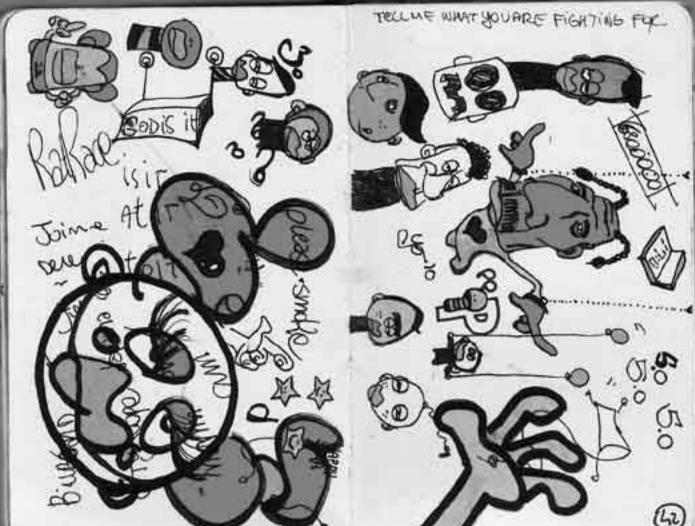














Photos by Rozest Western / The Chronicle

Graffiti marred a window of a building under renovation on New Montgomery Street in downtown San Francisco.

# San Francisco Takes On

An elaborate presentation of graffiti marked each floor of a building on Jessie Street near Fifth.

# Scrawl

By Edward Epstein
CHEONICLE STAFF WRITER

ack on March 2, San Francisco Supervisor Mabel Teng donned a white cotton jumpsuit, joined a city work crew and a few volunteers and repainted graffiti vandals'

favorite Inner Sunset target, a shuttered gas station at Irving Street and Seventh Avenue.

After that, Teng drove by every day to see if the vandals had returned. Sure enough, within a week the building was again smeared with tags.

For the supervisor – a longtime anti-graffiti campaigner – it was the last straw. She said this week that at the board's meeting Monday, she will propose creating a special San Fran-

The city's Department of Public Works has already undertaken a huge and growing effort to combat graffiti. It spends some \$2 million a year for its crews and volunteers like Teng to repaint 1.3 million square feet of walls, garage doors, lamp posts and utility, mail and fire boxes on public and private property that were scarred by graffiti scrawlers.

Parts of the city seem much cleaner than a few years ago, but others remain BY DRA ANC

CATAC

# Business leaders recruited in S.J. graffiti crackdown

BY BETTY BARNACLE

Graffiti, that pesky weed of the urban landscape, is the target of a new group of San Jose volunteers eager to root it out.

Business leaders were recruited Tuesday at a kickoff meeting hosted by the San Jose Silicon Valley Chumber of Commerce at which where the guests and speakers proposed ways to wipe out graf. fitt, which San Jose police Sgt. George Beattie estimated mars 90,000 different

sites throughout the city. Beattie, part of Mayor Ron Gonzales' month-old police graffiti enforcement team, told the gathering that the unit's three officers caunot possibly cover San Jose's sprawling 177 square miles them-

selves and need citizen help in catching

Most of the young people costing San Jose taxpayers \$1.3 million annually to cover their painted marks are loose knit groups of thrill-seeking youths from ev-ery level of society, said Rob Boyles, project coordinator for the city Anti-Graffiti Program. Only 2 to 3 percent of the culprits wielding the cans are gang members marking their turf as a warning to other See GRAFFITI, Page 4B

A San Jose anti-graffiti program worker Tuesday paints over a wall outside a convenience store on White Road.

THORE MARTIN - MERCURY NEWS



WHAT IS GRAFFITI? THE WORD **GRAFFITI CONSISTS** OF INSCRIPTIONS,

**SLOGANS AND DRAWINGS** SCRATCHED, SCRIBBLED OR PAINTED ON A WALL OR OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SURFACE. THE WORD "GRAFFITI" IS DERIVED FROM THE LATIN WORD "GRAPHIUM," WHICH MEANS "TO WRITE." THE TERM GRAFFITI" WAS ORIGINALLY USED ARCHAEOLOGISTS TO DESCRIBE AWINGS AND WRITINGS FOUND ON IENT BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS

OMPEII, EGYPT AND IN THE ROMAN

COMBS. WAS IT ILLEGAL THEN???

### Graffiti artists caught in the act, deputies say

BY RODNEY FOO

The two graffiti artists sought their own brand of fame, vandalizing highly visible objects - like freeway sound walls and even moving freight trains - with murals and monikers, the Santa Clara County sheriff said.

Steve Ha and Justin Mark Fone were so infatuated with their work, deputies said Friday, that the pair carried 35mm cameras and a videotape camera to record themselves putting up their street

Seized paraphernalia

included videotapes of the

suspects in action.

frescoes and bubble-style writing On Thursday, deputies say, Ha and Fone were caught painting a railroad sound wall in the vicinity of Interstate 280 and Foothill Ex-pressway in Cupertino.

Well, they're famous now," said Sgt. Jim Arata, "because

See GRAFFITI, Pay 4E

### Teen gets year in jail for Rep graffiti

He also must perform service, pay \$47,500, go to treatment

BY SANDRA GONZALES Mercury News Staff Writer

Calling the crime an insult to the community, a judge Friday sent a teenage graffiti vandal to county jail for one year and placed him on five years' probation for last fall's spray-painting of the new San Jose Repertory Theatre, which caused nearly \$50,000 damage.

Santa Clara County Municipal Judge C. Roy

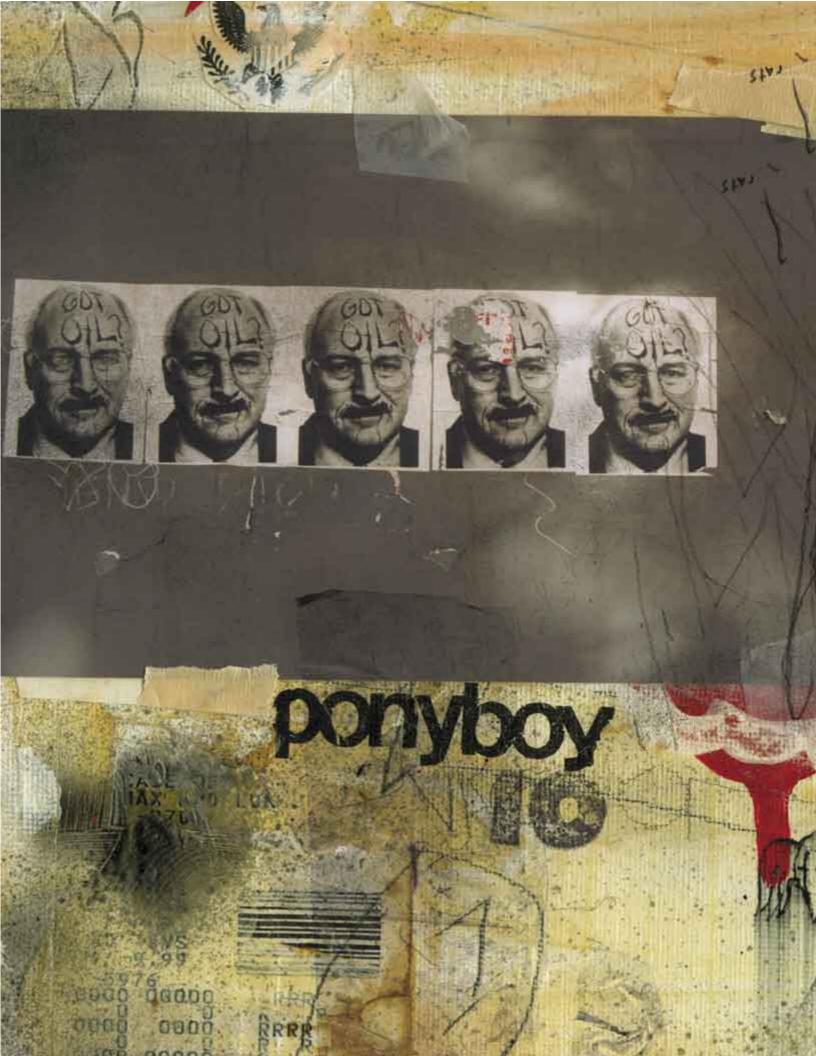
dall Schneider suspended a three-year prison sentence for Donald Erskin Lane but warned the 18-year-old that if he failed to meet any of the conditions of his probation, he would go straight to prison for the full term.

"I frankly struggled on whether or not you should go to prison because of your conduct," Schneider told Lane, who stood slouched in dark green, baggy jail clothing. "It's really an affront to the entire community.

One of the terms of his probation is to keep a San Jose tagging hot spot free of graffiti for a













## lug-in paint cans proposed s way to stop graffiti vandals

### RAFFITI

n Page 1B

convenient to use.

sol is waiting for a few big such as San Jose to pass mandating that stores h to the new can beforeproducing his product. Diaz the proposed ordinance d take effect only after at two companies entered the et.

e proposed ordinance would pt some government agenind businesses, such as auto shops. It also would direct officials to encourage other and counties to pass simi-

statewide measure, sponby Sen. Quentin Kopp, I-San Francisco, died in

industry lobbyists used clout in Sacramento.

pposition," Kopp said, addat he was "delighted" to of the San Jose proposal, accouraged by that because usly if a city uses such a in for a year, and a county t, then it will make it easier tatewide legislation next he said.

### of new can

opposition is led by the unl Paint and Coatings Asion, which has helped dewassures in Hawaii, Illinois and Rhode Island, said Heidi McAuliffe, an official with the Washington-based trade group.

The contention that the new breed of cans would prevent graffiti is "absolutely ridiculous," she said.

"The individuals who engage in graffiti are incredibly motivated," McAuliffe said, adding that vandals would alter the system, buy the traditional can elsewhere or use other products. "We've seen instances in the past," she said, "where kids used markers, nail polish, liquid paint, paint balls..."

McAuliffe also said the electric can would pose a major inconvenience to responsible users. In addition, she said, there's a safety hazard: "You've got a can full of flammable solvents and you're going to run an electrical current through it? It's a pretty scary proposition for manufacturers."

Rubbish, say the can's boost-

The electric can won't blow up in anybody's face, Bierend asserted: "When you plug in a cord on the power unit, it creates a very powerful magnetic pull. There's no sparking."

The real issue, Bierend and other pro-plug proponents said, is that the paint industry would lose big with such an ordinance.

"If you accept the paint industry's own estimates, it's a 6- to 7-billion-dollar-a-year industry to clean up the graffiti vandalism," said Greg Totten, Ventura County chief deputy district attorney, who has researched graffiti removal costs.

But McAuliffe said suggestions that the industry benefits from graffiti are "totally unfounded." She would not provide figures on the amount of paint sold to cover graffiti, but she called Totten's claim "grossly overstated."

Diaz's proposal received mixed reviews this week from two council members.

David Pandori said the city could stop graffiti effectively by employing more of the current enforcement and education methods, such as catching the vandals and making them clean up the graffiti.

He said the proposed law wouldn't succeed in San Jose unless every city in California, or the Legislature, passed a similar regulation. "It's sort of like trying to stop a flood with a couple of sandbags," Pandori said. Councilwoman Pat Dando dis-

Councilwoman Pat Dando disagreed: "We've tried all the old methods of fighting graffiti" without solving the problem. "His proposal sounds like one that should be examined closely and one that has merit."

The city manager's office will review the measure during the next few weeks. Then the rules committee will decide whether the full council should study the matter further.

## ew tactic proposed in war on tag

ontainers: Councilman seeks h to plug-in spray paint cans.

IN GARCIA

ose City Councilman liaz has declared war on andals.

ission: Force triggerggers to lay down their

attle plan: Ban convenns of acrosol spray paint ace them with a can that dy when plugged into an that way, Diaz figures, wielding cans tethered to ical cord would be hardpressed to tag railroad bridges, freeway sound walls and other outdoor scribble boards.

The chances for victory: Big, boasts Diaz. Small, says the pow-

erful paint lobby.

Proposals similar to the one Diaz recently introduced to the council's rules committee have failed elsewhere after the paint industry convinced politicians that the electric can would do nothing to stop determined graffiti vandals. Proponents of the new can, however, say the opposition

y

You can't just put them in your pocket . . . and climb overpasses.

-S.J. Conneilman Manny Diaz

comes from an industry that profits not only from the graffiti sprayed but also from the millions of dollars in paint needed to clean up the mess

clean up the mess.

Graffiti costs the city of San Jose about \$1 million annually for its paint-and-chemical anti-graffiti assault. And roughly 80 to

90 percent of that vandalism is spray-painted, said Jaclin Cortes, San Jose's community graffiti coordinator.

The anti-graffiti spray paint system, still being developed by Ensol Environmental Systems of Los Angeles, is a can that activates upon contact with a sepator own will cans than Ti bility

hood caus elect Bi is re wire used an e

### Graffitists grab chance to show signs of stupidity

INALLY, a few consecutive days without constant rain. It's a chance to stick our heads out from under our umbrellas to see what new things have sprouted in our world: the lush green velvet of the hillsides, the pink and white blossoms on the plum trees, the brave little daffodils once again raising their heads proudly, the graffiti all over the place. Yes, graffiti. While we were hunkered against the rain and the

paint-over crews were busy with more pressing duties, the no-talent vandals seem to have been at their busiest. They've thickened their clumsy paint jobs on railroad overpasses across Highway 101 and Interstate 280, braving recently installed razor-wire on

sign on Interstate 880 near The Alameda. Visiting from out of town? Looking for direc-tions downtown? Tough. These lunkheads think you'd rather read their initials instead. Some probably also think they have artistic talent, even though most people learn how to draw fat, overlapping letters by junior high school and outgrow it. It's almost enough to make one wish for rain again. And to wish the vandals had used water-soluble paint.

LEIGH

the latter. Some almost completely obliterated a large directional

cup-like power pack. Inven-Steve Bierend, Ensol's coer, said the reusable base cost about \$8 and the aerosol will be about 15 cents more regular containers.

Today, draftil is a sign of urban decay, it has become everyone and including to the angle of th of the Control of the residence of the r

The state of their reighborhoods. He sale as a state the law.

e idea is to take the portaout of paint cans.

on can't just put them in pocket, roam neighboris and climb overpasses" bee they won't work without tricity, Diaz said.

erend said a competing firm portedly trying to produce a less version with technology in cordless telephones, in ffort to make the new cans

See GRAFFITI, Page 4B



The anti-graffiti sp tem is electrically

Taggers hitting more high-profile targets

### Freeway graffiti vandals busier

### **■** GRAFFITI

from Page 1B

The noc-

scrawling

produces

few ar-

rests.

turnal

Law enforcement officials say taggers are usually juveniles or young adults and roam in teams but are not gang members and usu-ally are not violent. They crave widespread attention for their graffiti - which they consider to be "artwork" - and put it on highly visible freeway signs, overpasses and soundwalls, said Sgt. Matt Elvander of the San Jose Police Department's juvenile unit. Frequently seen monikers of local tagging crews include "ADS" (Artisti-cally Damaging Cities) and "DYC" (Destroying Your Cities).

Street gangs tend to inscribe their monikers on property to

mark their territory for the benefit of rival gangs, Elvander said. Gang graffiti usually stay in neighborhoods where gang members live.

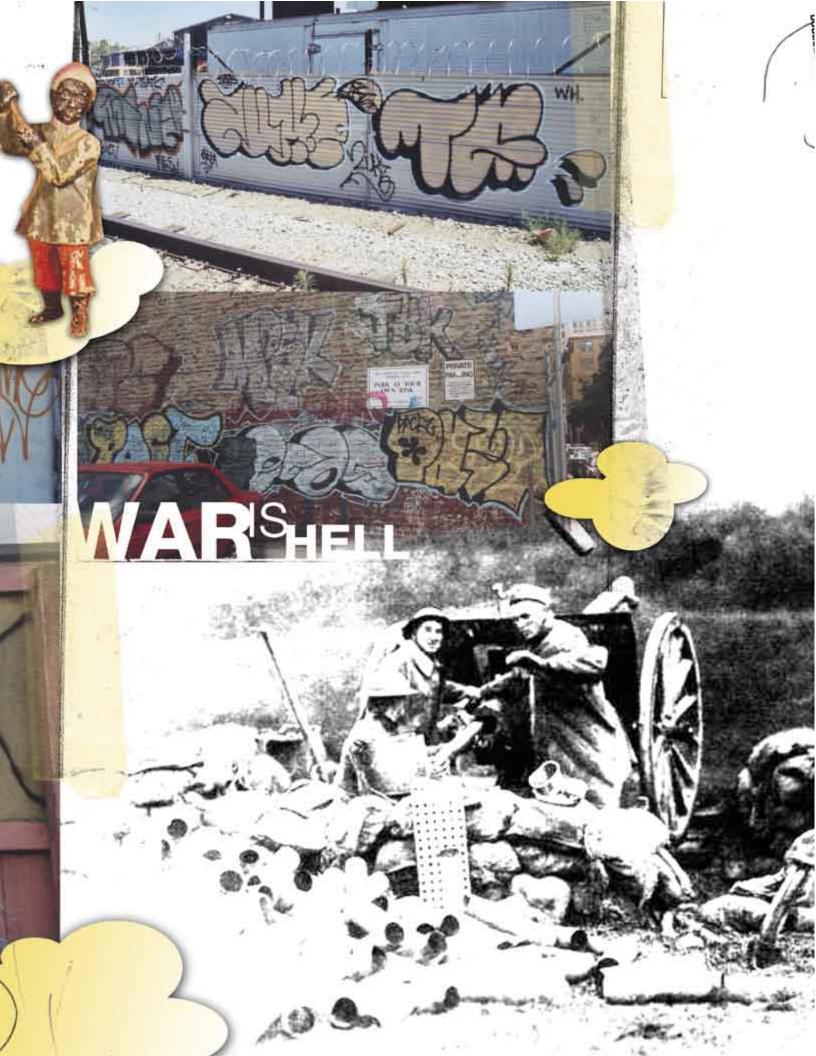
Fox says Caltrans employs a number of measures to deter freeway sign taggers, including re-

moving the catwalks around signs to foll easy access and installing sheet metal "hoods" with pointed projections around signs and "collars," or hoops, on posts.

A total of 120 incidents of freeway sign tagging were reported in Santa Clara County in 1997, according to Fox. Alameda County had 100. But San Francisco County reported only 18, and San Mateo County tallied 19, he said.

"Other areas do have the same problem; I hear about it when I go to area conferences," said Zulma Maciel, who works for the antigraffiti program. "Maybe people here are reporting it more, and maybe taggers in San Francisco don't have the easy access (to free-way signs) that they do down



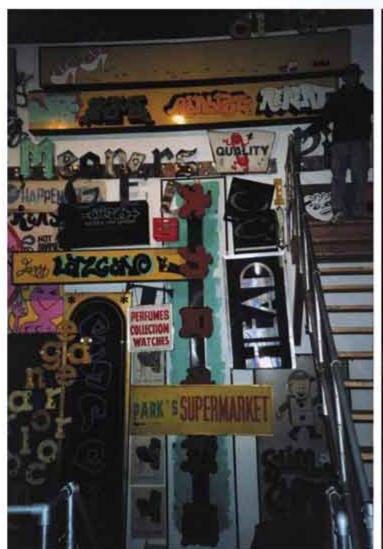


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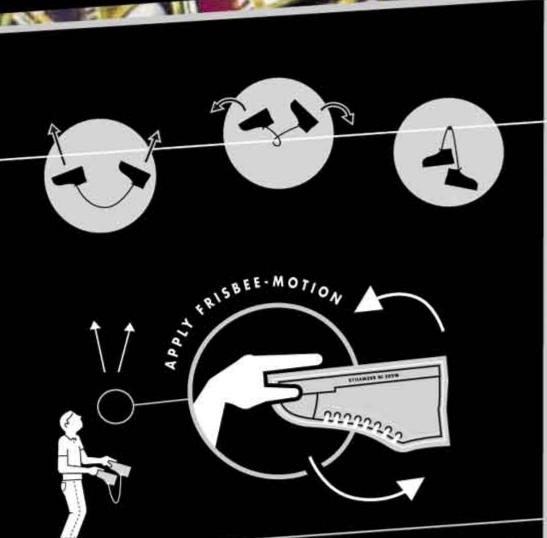








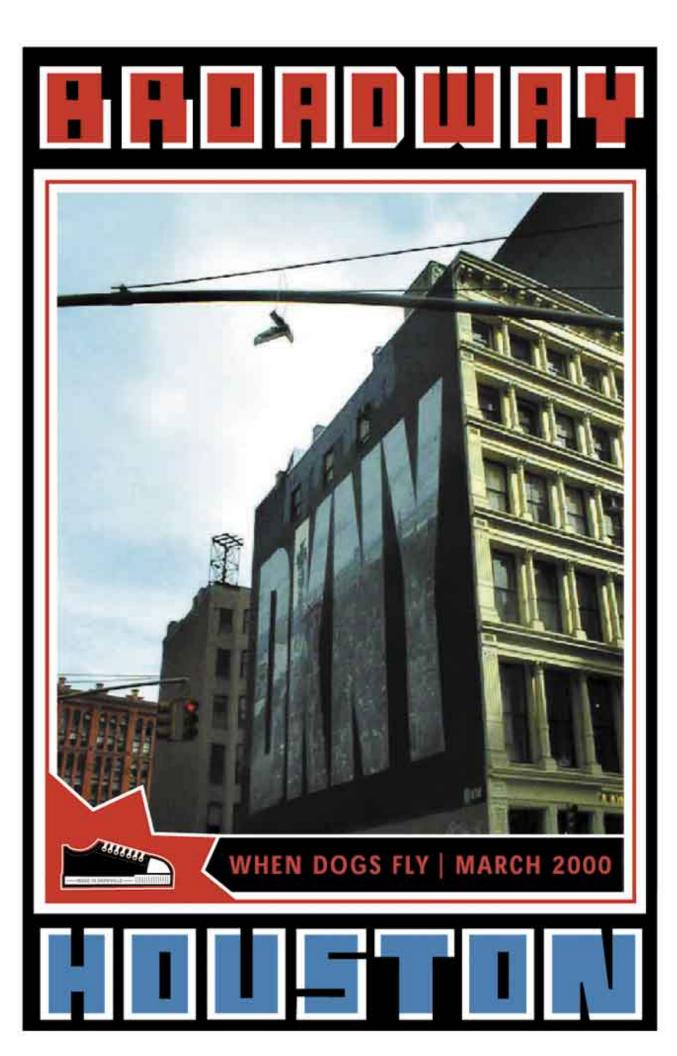




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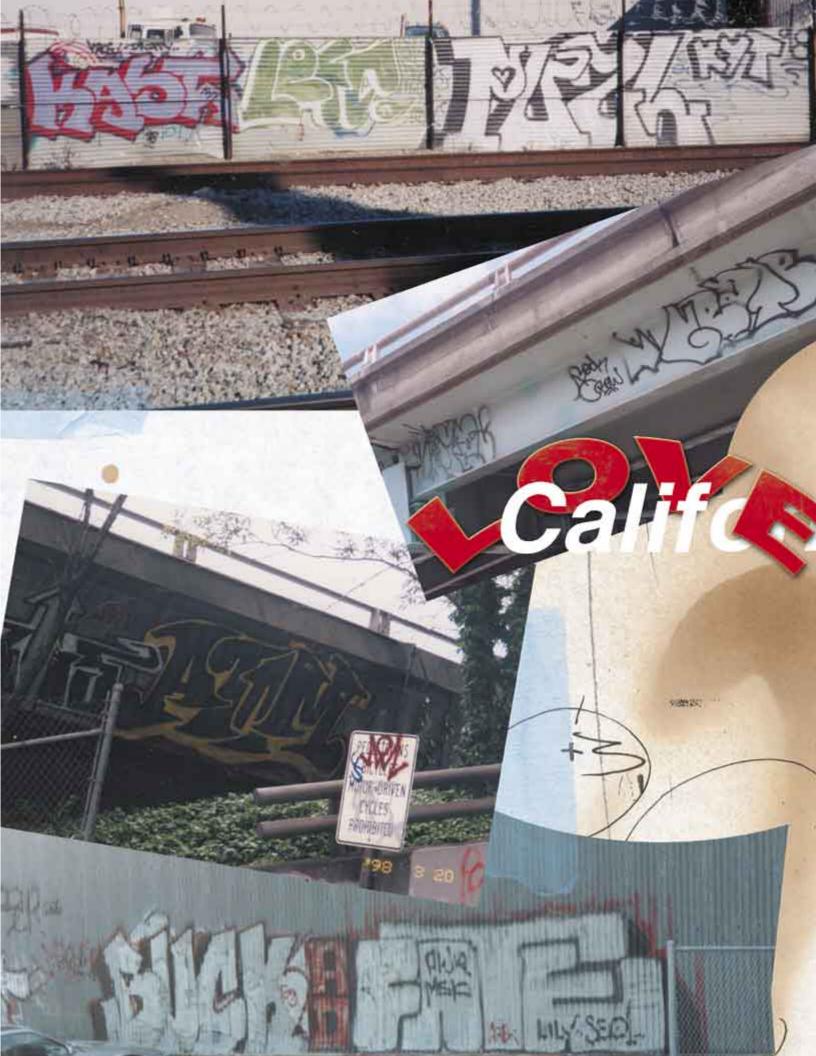


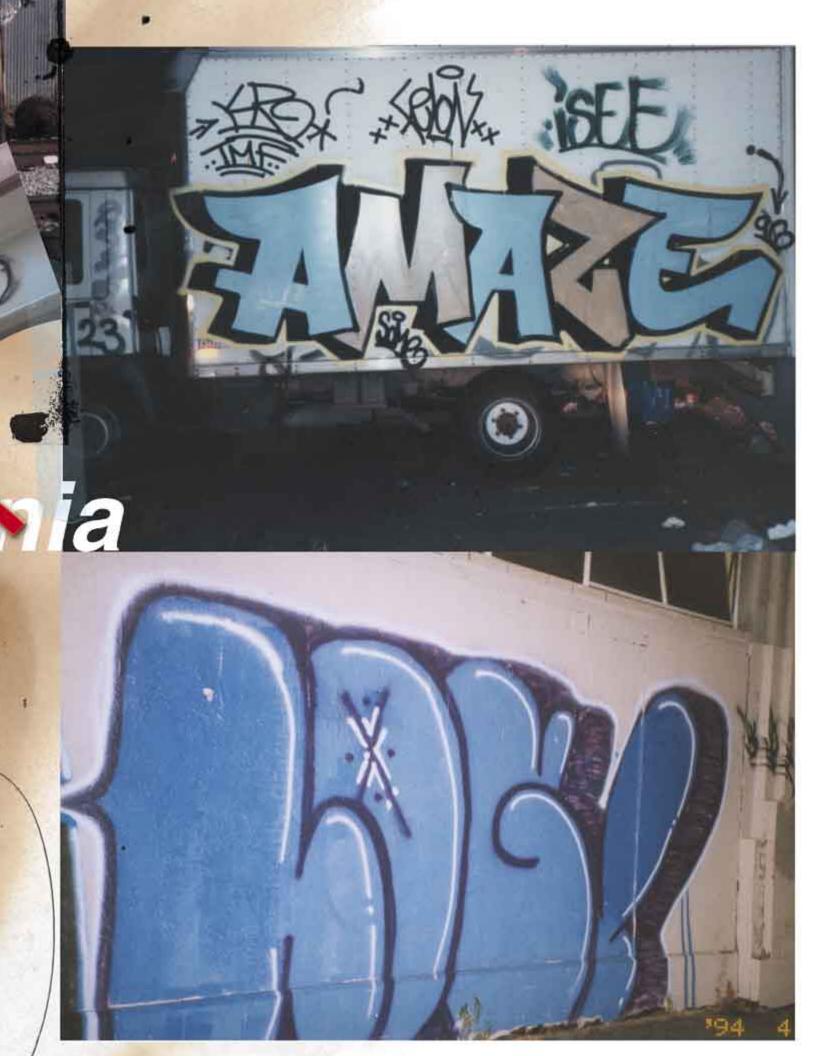
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You can't separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom.  $Malcolm\ X$ 











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