

3-12-09

**For Immediate Release:**

PIO Lieutenant Murl Harpham (707) 441-4068 [mharpham@ci.eureka.ca.gov](mailto:mharpham@ci.eureka.ca.gov)

3-12-09

**GRAFITTI SUSPECT ARRESTED**

“When I get out of jail I’m going to spray paint my town again,” boasted 28-year old Eric Scott Howe after being caught red-handed spray painting around old town and causing thousands of dollars worth of damage.

Howe was caught in the area of Third and H Streets shortly after midnight. He was observed by Sgt. Rodrigo Reyna-Sanchez spraying a building at 731 Third Street.

The Sergeant had responded to the area after a citizen called to report hearing the rattle of a spray can and seeing a subject in dark clothing in the alley with a backpack.

The suspect was arrested for felony vandalism and carrying a concealed weapon, also a felony. He had a hunting type knife with a 6 inch blade concealed on his person. He also had two spray paint cans in his possession.

It was determined by officers at the scene that he had spray painted at least a dozen commercial buildings, PG&E power poles, City of Eureka signs and city garbage dumpsters.

The areas that were painted covered four blocks from Second and F Streets to Second and I Street and from Third and F Streets to Third and I Streets.

The suspect is not know to belong to a gang and the police describe the graffiti as “tagger” or “crew” type.

When questioned why he was causing damage he stated, “What you consider illegal, I consider art.” The owners of the buildings who called to report the vandalism did not consider it art. In fact, real art was damaged by the suspect when he spray painted on a mural on the Times Printing building on Third Street.

# # #

Scroll down for picture.....

