

Anything two people know is not a secret

# CHEYENNE HERALD

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## Surrender!

Two downtown businessmen had had enough.

When one of them saw yet another piece of graffiti with the word NUKE!, together they mounted their own investigation.

While accepting that the police department was trying, the guys didn't think police officers could get the information they could. Seeing the obscenity on the wall of the Snyder Avenue c-store at 21<sup>st</sup> Street remain for weeks, if not months, those who detest graffiti of all types and sizes will have to combine their efforts to put a dent in the activity. The police need your help.

So, two guys are offering their help.

They learned that one young man - not a juvenile but a young adult who graduated from a local high school in 2006 - was responsible for the all too familiar NUKE! stencil plastered around town. Nobody seems to know what it means to the tagger, whether he's opposed or supportive of nuclear power or whether he has adopted the word as nickname. Maybe it has no meaning.

The stencil is small. Maybe 10" x 10" and it is painted in both black and white ink, often on public property like sidewalks but also on private property like power boxes and buildings.

The same "tagger" also paints open letters, sometimes presumably a word but generally unreadable to most. The photos on this page were taken on Thursday, April 28, 2011. The gray box the above stencil appears on is within one block of the police station. There are three similar paintings in that same immediate area. The underlying message seems to be that the tagger believes the police department is incapable of catching him and he can commit vandalism within sight of their office. With impunity.

The wall to the right was photographed during the same rounds that evening.

In black and white, it may be difficult to tell the distinction of letters but in color, it is easy (see the Cheyenne Herald website for that look). The word "NUKE" was first painted on the wall of a downtown bar/restaurant and another word was painted over the top of "NUKE." "NUKE" was in black paint, the covering graffiti is in red paint. The photo is cropped to eliminate a profanity leveled at the first tagger, the "NUKE" painter.

If you can read the smaller letters, let me know what it says and what it means, if you know. Some can read this stuff easily. I can't.



Here's where we're at, fella.

Your identity is known. You have told any number of people that you have done these paintings. Committed this vandalism. What you have done will probably add up to a felony. You have already cost the City a lot of money to clean up after you. Private businesses often paint over graffiti without even notifying the police or sheriff's department. That's often easier and quicker. Based on the lack of news reports, no one has been caught, arrested, charged, tried and sentenced for placing graffiti all over town.

We don't suspect you for the Lions Park graffiti. That is where the police department seems to have focused its efforts toward apprehension. Maybe you were a part of that vandalism and just used solid letters to throw off the authorities. But, the stencil is yours. And only yours.

It is time to stop. It is time to own up to your selfish acts of indiscriminate vandalism to properties of people who have never done anything to you or your friends.

Turn yourself in.

Surrender!

We know who you are and we know where you work. We have access to your Facebook account and you can change it every day and it won't protect you at this point. We know what you drive and a little police work will learn where you buy your supplies. You know that when police officers begin to interview your "friends," they'll give you up after the first question. Maybe you can make it easier on yourself. I won't act as a middle man between you and the police department but someone else might. You can contact me.

The guys have learned that it is your very own photo that was used for the stencil above. I'm asking any reader who recognizes the photo to call the

Cheyenne Herald or the Cheyenne Police Department (ask for the detective working graffiti crimes) and add further identification to what we already have.

I'm not expecting you to go to Rawlins or Torrington. This may be just a municipal crime and they know how to prosecute traffic violations only. This graffiti must end. Innocent property owners are being victimized and the public is tired of seeing it. It's not gang related. Are you crying out for attention? This is the wrong way to get it. Stop what you're doing and turn yourself in. You're not smart enough to avoid capture.



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