"I'll go to jail — says Graffiti Bill

Veteran billboard graffitist Bill Snow faces jail following his arrest while "spraying" an outdoor advertisement.

"This time I'll go to jail rather than pay the fine," he told City Express.

"The movement was formed in October 1979 to encourage members to protest against what they call unhealthy promotions."

A founder member of the phantom graffiti movement, Billboard-Utilising Graffitiists Against Unhealthy Promotions (B.U.G.A.U.P.), Snow faces three charges of defacing tobacco company advertisements.

"The powers they have the right to impose their opinions on the community at large," said a spokesman for Australian Posters, one of the largest billboard firms. "The trouble is we can only press charges when someone is caught in the act of defacing an advertisement."

Bill Snow accuses the tobacco companies of promoting a drug that's killing 40 people in Australia every day.

"I write on their ad how many people are dying from tobacco related diseases and I get charged with malicious injury."

B.U.G.A.U.P. have recently issued an Autumn catalogue which contains examples of the graffitists work and encourages others to defy the law in a similar way. "Posters firms are pressing for harsher penalties from the courts in a bid to halt the increase in graffiti."