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Liquor stores the next on B.U.G.A.U.P list

A large group of vandals defacing billboards and other advertising signs in Sydney are about to turn their attention to liquor stores, according to investigations by the Australian Liquor Retailer.

B.U.G.A.U.P, (Billboard Utilising Graffitiists Against Unhealthy Promotions) recently circularised many Sydney households and universities soliciting funds for further acts of vandalism.

It is understood the group plans to deface signs displayed on liquor stores promoting certain products.

Such a campaign would undoubtedly involve all sections of the industry, particularly liquor store owners, in considerable expense.

In its 'open letter' the organisers of BUGAUP said they needed funds to print an annual report and assist with the payment of fines imposed on vandals apprehended and charged by police.

"To fill you in on some of our activities, BUGAUP graffitiists have been prosecuted in five court cases recently, and some of our members have been prepared to go to jail rather than pay fines," the letter said.

"However, others of us, for various reasons, are unable or unwilling to go to jail in lieu of paying fines. For this reason, we are establishing the BUGAUP Fighting Fund Appeal. People sending donations exceeding \$9.99 will receive a copy of our national annual report. So far we have been sent more than \$1300 in donations which is just a drop in the bucket when you consider the resources of the corporation we are taking on.

"The money from the appeal will not be used to pay compensation to these companies for 'damage' to billboards.

"This is in keeping with our belief that ordinary people should confront and challenge, through the legal system as well as outside of it, the 'right' of corporations to promote unhealthy products and the laws that protect such corporations.

"We have been compiling our own 'defend yourself' kit in association with a legal aid centre, and this will be helpful in making us more familiar with the very intimidating processes of law and enable us to defend ourselves more successfully in court," the letter said.