

FOUNDING MEMBER OF BUGAUP CONVICTED, FINED

Career graffitist Bill Snow, founding member of the BUGAUP crew which has been waging war on the inner city's tobacco and alcohol billboards, has been again convicted and fined for defacing a billboard.

Snow, 42, a self employed graphic artist of Central MacDonald via Windsor, pleaded not guilty in Balmain Court last week to spray painting a Public Transport Commission billboard in The Crescent (Annandale) in January this year.

He told magistrate Arthur Riedel he would not pay any fine and would go to gaol to further his campaign against "unhealthy promotions."

"I can work as well inside as out," he said.

After his conviction and \$200 fine Snow handed court officials copies of BUGAUP's "Autumn Catalogue" — a pictorial record of spray can attacks on billboards.

He ran down Darling Street after the police

prosecutor to give her one, too.

The magistrate said although Snow had three prior convictions for similar offences his act was not major and did not warrant gaol.

He ordered him to pay the PTC \$15 compensation to cover the cost of painting over the graffiti — the letters B.U.G.A.U.P.

Snow conducted his own lengthy defence and produced photographic evidence.

In summing up he said he didn't like being convicted for an alcohol graffiti because he specialised in tobacco.

"I've got my reputation to uphold," he said.

An extremely patient magistrate Riedel said, "You've been given more than a fair go...I accept you have certain views and I might well agree

with them but I can't condone defacing these posters."

Snow: "I hope the fine won't be too high because I want to spend as little time in gaol as possible.

"The billboard promoters should be up here.

"There are a lot of determined people will continue this work.

"If we have to break the law and go to gaol to change the advertising, I for one will."

Snow was arrested, said police prosecutor Sgt. Barbara Galvin, "red handed" with a spray can of black paint in front of a freshly touched up billboard at 12.10am on January 21.

Snow said he was having "a run" as he sometimes did at that time and had stopped to admire the graffiti when the police car arrived.

Constable David

O'Shea of Burwood station said Snow said, "Look fellas, you're not going to arrest me for that.

"I'm just trying to make people aware."

The BUGAUP (Billboard Utilising Graffitists Against Unhealthy Promotions) autumn catalogue says its "phantom sprayers" are trying to expose the devices advertisers use to exploit the public.

It says: "The advertisers promote a drug that's killing 40 people a day in Australia and the law protects them.

"I write on the ad how many people are dying and I get charged with malicious injury...to a billboard!"

The graffitists are opposing the advertisers

"right" to impose visual pollution on the public and drawing attention to the contradiction of the Public Transport Commission banning smoking on trains which daily roll by cigarette ads on PTC billboards.

The PTC earns \$2.5 million a year from the ads.

It spends up to \$50,000 a year recovering graffiti.