



# Aussie anarchy rules, OK

*The London Sunday Times* warned its readers yesterday of an invasion by a senior aspect of Australian culture. This was their report:

Subversives from an anarchist organisation in Australia have been sent to Britain. They have set up a cell in Bristol, and are now moving to London.

The organisation, which is dedicated to defacing billboards advertising cigarettes and alcoholic drinks, calls itself BUGA UP, which stands for Billboard Utilising Graffitists Against Unhealthy Promotions.

The subversives have BUGA'd up hundreds of billboards in Australia since they started in 1979. About 100 men and women are now involved, including teachers, civil servants and pensioners. There have been 21 arrests, and 13 people have been convicted of "wilfully defacing" or "malicious injury" to billboards.

Six have taken the advice of an anonymous graffitist: "Go directly to jail. Do not pass the buck. Do not pay \$200."

BUGA UP has a creative department, which provides artful advice on how to reverse the messages of the ad-men. They also provide technical advice on how to attach sprayers to extension poles so that high billboards can be defaced with ease.

On a billboard advertising Camel cigarettes, showing an Arab on a camel silhouetted against the setting sun, the graffitists have written: "Sun sets on burnt lungs." Another target — New Mild, and Marlboro — has been altered to read: "New Vile, and a bore." A bubble from the Marlboro cowboy's mouth says: "Cough, Cough." And the horse says: "Poo, this macho stinks." Each item of graffiti is signed: Buga Up.

BUGA UP have also attacked billboards advertising alcoholic drinks. Favourite slogans, alluding to Aussie life are: "Pickle your liver. Puke on your lover." And referring to a new weak beer: "Pay more, piss more, spew the same."

In Bristol, a city with strong connections with the tobacco company W. D. and H. O. Wills, agents are operating under the more polite code name, COUGH UP (Citizens' Organisation Using Graffiti to Halt Unhealthy Promotions). On the ads for Rothmans luxury length, they have written: "Longer cig — shorter life." Dunhill they change to "Lung ill," and on a billboard that says: "Lambert and Butler style — make a note of it," they have added: "A suicide note."

● A spokesman for BUGA UP in Sydney denied last night any "formal connection" with COUGH UP.

"We do not have any formal connection with the group in the UK, even though we have known about their activities for some time and have corresponded with them regularly," the spokesman said.