UKIP poster offended me – so I just painted over it

EX-POP STAR FACES POLICE PROBE OVER 'MINDLESS VANDALISM'

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Artist Bill Drummond painted over the UKIP billboard (before, above) after finding it 'offensive'

A FORMER pop star is facing a police probe after being accused of 'mindless vandalism' for defacing a UKIP election billboard with grey paint.

Ex-KLF frontman Bill Drummond, who had a No.1 hit with The Timelords, said he had been "morally and aesthetically" offended by the advert in Montague Street, Digbeth.

The musician turned artist donned a pair of white overalls and covered the entire poster with his own brand of paint, so that only the word "grey" – his graffiti tag – could be read.

Writing about the stunt in our sister paper the Birmingham Post, Drummond said: "By the time you read this I may have been arrested."

UKIP last night confirmed it was making a formal complaint to police and the party put up a new replacement poster at the site. West Midlands spokesman Bill Etheridge said: "We don't find it humorous, we don't think it is valid comment. We are not impressed.

"We are reporting it to police and hope they will take appropriate action, to the full extent of the law, to deter other people from such mindless vandalism. If someone wants to argue or disagree with us they should use their own resources and do it in the democratic way."

The European election advert claimed British workers were being "hit hard by unlimited cheap labour".

But the former pop star said it offended him in "so many ways", adding it was "very cynically trying to pander to us at our most vulnerable and negative and not to our better selves".

Drummond added: "This billboard not only offended me morally and aesthetically, it also went against everything that I feel political discourse should be about."

The Birmingham-based artist said he had 1,000 litres of paint made up a decade ago so those who bought it could deface "anything you found to be morally or aesthetically offensive". "Basically I was in the business of promoting vandalism," he admitted.

He said he planned to paint over a Birmingham billboard during a three-month exhibition of his work, being held at Digbeth-based Eastside Projects until June.

"I had in mind a billboard advertising one of the big chain of bookies or one for the modern crop of loan shark companies," he wrote.

"But when I started to work in Birmingham, I was almost disappointed to find there were no current billboard campaigns for these companies, thus nothing to truly offend me.

"That was until last week."

Drummond and fellow KLF musician Jimmy Cauty went to No.1 in 1991 with Doctorin' The Tardis, under the name of The Timelords.

They famously burned £1 million – the bulk of their earnings – on the Scottish island of Jura in August 1994.

The pair said they wanted to create artwork with the cash but struggled to attract interest.

West Midlands Police said no complaint had yet been made when contacted by the Mail yesterday.

OAP, 82, jailed for sex attacks

A PENSIONER who carried out a string of sickening sex attacks on a young boy more than 30 years ago has been locked up for three years.

Judge Michael Challinor told 82-year-old Joseph Horney it was serious offending because it was clear he had groomed his young victim.

He said the harm caused by Horney was "very significant" adding, "Your victim has carried the burden of your abuse for many years and you are directly responsible for that."

The judge said it was accepted Horney was ashamed of his actions and he went on, "I accept prison for you will be life limiting and very damaging."

Horney, of Glastonbury Crescent, Bloxwich, admitted six charges of indecent assault committed between October 1981 and October 1984.

He was further told by the Judge he must register as a Sex Offender for the rest of his life and has been barred from ever working with children.

Mr Steven Bailey defending said Horney was ashamed.

Man with cue drank 17 pints

A MAN who had downed 17 pints was caught on CCTV carrying a pool cue after a violent incident at a pub.

Leon Oliveri, 20, armed himself with the weapon because he feared he might be in danger after the earlier trouble, said Miss Jabeen Akhtar defending. She stressed to Wolverhampton Crown Court that Oliveri had not been brandishing the pool cue and he had not used it to threaten anyone at the Starting Gate public house.

Oliveri, of Hogarth Close, Willenhall, admitted possessing an offensive weapon and he was placed on Supervision for a year and ordered to carry out 80 hours unpaid work in the community.

Judge Michael Challinor told unemployed Oliveri it was clear he had been found at the scene of "significant public disorder" and there were suspicions he had been involved in a fight.

"Your alcohol abuse is clearly at the root of this particular offending," said the Judge who further ordered Oliveri to pay £100 costs.

More women added to Trojan Horse probe team

BIRMINGHAM City Council has revealed the line-up for its Trojan Horse inquiry team – adding three more women to the panel after criticism it was too male dominated.

Previously the 15 strong review group, chaired by former Home Office director general Stephen Rimmer, had just one woman among its number, Labour cabinet member for education Brigid Jones.

But that provoked criticism from the council's education watchdog committee as segregation in schools is a key concern of the inquiry.

Now Amra Bone, from Birmingham Central Mosque, Christine Mitchell the head of Clifton Primary School, and Fran Stevens, who leads the Birmingham school governors group, have been added to the group.

BIRMINGHAM MAIL TROJAN HORSE INVESTIGATION

At least 25 schools are under investigation following claims hard-line Islamists were looking to takeover some city schools through dirty tricks campaigns.

The review group has been set up with a mix of representatives from the city council, schools, religious organisations and national agencies.

It will oversee the Trojan Horse inquiry by the council-appointed independent chief adviser Ian Kershaw. The Department for Education and Ofsted are conducting their own separate inquiries, with the DoE probe conducted by a former counter-terrorism cop Peter Clarke.

Once Mr Kershaw, and the other inquiries release their findings, the council review group will draw up recommendations. It is due to issue an early report within the next month, with a full report due in July.

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