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A graffiti war with pol

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DAILY NEWS WRITERS

GRAFFITI FANS threatened to tag buildings with Councilman Peter Vallone Jr.'s name after the politician called a notorious graffiti artist a "punk."

Vallone's criticism was prompted by a Time magazine publicity stunt that paid graffitist Fernando Carlo — aka Cope2 — \$20,000 to tag up a SoHo advertising billboard.

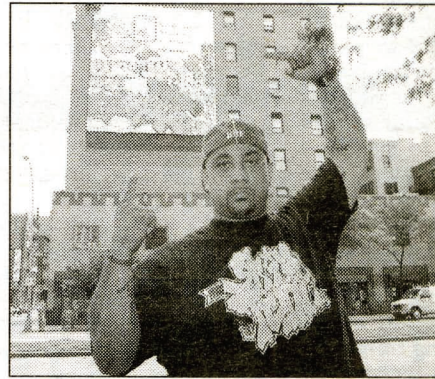
"Time magazine should have spent its money rewarding legitimate artists, not some punk who's been defacing our city," Vallone (D-Queens) said Wednesday.

Since then, several Carlo allies have called Vallone's office, demanding an apology and threatening to spray-paint Vallone's name around the city as retaliation.

"You'll see some anti-Vallone tags," said Bucky Turco, 30, founder of counter-culture mag Animal.

The Animal's Web site declared: "Vallone . . . is the punk" and listed his office number, encouraging like-minded graffiti fans to call him and complain.

Though disturbed at the idea of his name marring buildings or bridges, Vallone said the controversy might shed light on the damage done by graffiti.



MATTHEW ROBERTS

Fernando Carlo (Cope2) with sign.

"Whenever people involved in criminal activity start calling me a punk, that means I'm doing something right," he said Friday. "It's not art. It's crime."

For his part, Cope2, whose work graces magazines and clothing, said he doesn't want his supporters to "do anything stupid." But he said he was offended by Vallone's comments.

"People respect me," Carlo said. "I'll retaliate my own way, by being a good artist."
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