

Women oppose sexist engineers

VANCOUVER (CUP)—The student society's women's committee at the University of British Columbia picketed the campus engineers' annual Lady Godiva ride because of sexist attitudes displayed during engineering week on the campus.

About 25 placard-carrying protesters confronted the engineers at the student union building Jan. 10 as the engineers marched with a nude woman on a horse.

At least one fist-fight broke out as the two groups merged with several hundred students in the

noon-hour rush.

The protest came in the wake of an attack on the women's office the previous morning, in which magazine photographs of nude women were taped to the walls, committee posters were stolen and masking tape was strung throughout the room.

RCMP and Vancouver city police investigating the break-in said the door to the office was forced open and there was little chance the vandals would be caught. Damage is estimated at \$100.

The women's office had launched a poster campaign to protest the annual event, during which the engineers parade a nude woman on a horse through the campus and publish a crudely sexist newspaper, the **Red Rag**.

Sheila Lidwill, spokesperson for the committee, said she was shocked and disappointed by the break-in. "I didn't think anyone would want to descend to this level."

Lidwill said the women's committee was not blaming any specific group, and added a member of the engineering undergraduate society phoned the women's office to deny any society involvement in the break-in. But committee members

noticed shortly after the break-in that posters around the campus protesting the ride had been torn down.

UBC administration president Doug Kenny, who last year criticized the engineers' vandalism and discrimination, has said he plans no concrete action to combat the engineers' actions.

Kenny termed the break-in "regrettable and deplorable," but added that "until we know who it is, I really can't make any statements."

The women's committee has planned further actions aimed at the Lady Godiva ride and the **Red Rag**, including laying charges against the individuals responsible for producing the **Red Rag**.

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