

LAZARBETWEEN OURSELVES
(TSVISHN LINZ ALEIN)... Lazar writes again soon, *Kinderlach!*

Louis Marinoff bids adieu to Canada with satirical novel

By LYNDA ROSENBERG

Louis Marinoff has had enough.

After applying for more than 180 university teaching jobs over a three year period, Marinoff has left his native land and headed south to an assistant professorship at City University in New York.

In what he calls his "farewell gift to Canada," Marinoff got in a final dig at a Canadian university hiring system he believes has gone awry. His recently-published novel *Fair New World* (Backlash Books), written under his pen name of Lou Tafler, is an acerbic look at the battle of the sexes and political correctness.

Before leaving for his tenure-track position in the Big Apple, Marinoff talked to *The Bulletin* about his book and his frustrations in finding suitable employment.

The son of a miner, Marinoff was born in Noranda, Quebec but grew up in Montreal. He took a bachelor of science degree in theoretical physics from Concordia University and a PhD in philosophy from University College in London, England. Marinoff also did post-doctoral work at Hebrew University where he met his artist-sculptor wife Liv Thorland.

But as the academic's curriculum-vitae got stronger, he found "less acceptance" of his applications for teaching positions. Of the 180 positions applied for, Marinoff was short-listed six times in the U.S., twice in Australia, but not once in Canada.

Marinoff attributes the

dilemma to "reverse discrimination as a direct result of the radical feminism that has swept university campuses."

To back up his claim, he cited an Ontario college that



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advertised a tenure-track philosophy department position. Of the 150 men and 13 women who applied, all 13 women were shortlisted but not one male candidate made the list.

Not one to mince words, Marinoff said he believes Marc Lepine's 1989 massacre of women students at Montreal's L'Ecole Polytechnique was the pretext for a feminist coup in university hiring policies.

"It's retribution, pure and simple. To empower women, we punish men," he stated. "And we have been brainwashed into equating gender with merit."

For the last three years, the 42-year-old Marinoff worked as a sessional lecturer in UBC's philosophy

of science and applied ethics department. When the Canadian Philosophical Association in 1991 called for 40 percent of all faculty positions to be held by women by the year 2010, Marinoff began to see the writing on the wall.

Women now hold 13 percent of the jobs in philosophy departments at Canadian universities, and given the academic world's slow attrition rate, "it became obvious real soon that the vast majority of any hirings were going to go to women," Marinoff said.

Fair New World, the author said, is "a warning" of possible consequences if current hiring practices "are not revealed for what they really are — discrimination, pure and simple."

The futuristic book, a cross between Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, is set in the year 2084. The world is divided into three lands: the ultra-radical feminists of Feminania, the vicious macho louts of Bruteland and the philosopher-kings of Melior (as in amelioration, or to make better).

When Feminania and Bruteland wage war against each other, Melior judiciously intervenes. But even then, Marinoff noted, the world isn't perfect.

"The problem is that there is no such thing as a perfect world," Marinoff stressed, emphasizing his words with slaps on the desk. "That's one of the reasons we're in this mess now. We are searching for something that doesn't exist."

Marinoff is quick to

acknowledge that women have indeed faced discrimination in the past. But is it any fairer, he asked, to discriminate against men to better the lot of women?

And what women, he demanded, would accept lofty academic positions knowing they were hired as a result of quotas?

"If anyone has one shred of self-esteem, they would want to be welcomed in because of what they can contribute," Marinoff said. "One should be insulted by a job offer given on gender-based hiring."

The bilingual academic argued that some jobs are more suited to men than to women. For example, firefighting is a position that is more suitable for males than most females because of the strength needed to haul equipment.

"You can't put people's lives in jeopardy for the sake of a quota system," Marinoff stated. "A major problem society is grappling with is mistaking equality for sameness."

Though his move to the U.S. is likely permanent, Marinoff admits he would rather have stayed in Canada.

"I'm looking forward to working out of one office and being able to devote more time to research," Marinoff smiled. "I needed to practice my vocation and I had to become a refugee from political correctness in order to do so."

Fair New World is available at local bookstores or by writing to Backlash Books, P.O. Box 18178, 2225 West 41st Ave., Vanc. V6M 4L3.