



Author Louis Marinoff: "We should bring down all the barriers to have a level playing field for everyone..."

UBC prof lashes out at PC hiring quotas

Novel pits Feminianian brown skirts against violent Bruteland hooligans

By FIONA HUGHES

In a couple of days, Louis Marinoff will flee a politically correct Canada to teach at City College in New York City.

He's not departing without offering a literary present to his native country, however.

Exasperated by Canadian post-secondary hiring policies, the University of British Columbia applied ethicist has written a novel titled *Fair New World*. Set in the year 2084, the novel describes a world divided up among the Feminianian brown skirts, Bruteland's violent hooligans and Melior's philosopher-kings.

In Feminania, the English language has been bastardized to the degree that all words containing men, man, his, son and so on have been altered to reflect a more acceptable Fairspeak. Political correctness is taken to an absurd extreme, but Marinoff warns that if we're not careful it's where we might end up.

Marinoff, who writes under the name Lou Taffler, wrote the novel in response to 180 rejections he received over three years after applying for tenured positions at institutions in North America and Australia.

He was short-listed six times for jobs in the U.S. and twice in Australia. He wasn't short listed in Canada.

He blames discrimination against males and quota hiring. What happened to merit, he asks?

The Montreal-born Marinoff, 42, holds a doctorate in philosophy from University College in London, England, but it hasn't helped him find secure work in Canada in his chosen profession.

"Within the first year at UBC I

started to see what was going on," he recalled in an interview. "As I was writing the book you see more of what's going on. What was happening was ongoing stimulus."

The idea behind the book was to take political correctness and radical feminism to its logical conclusion to illustrate how absurd it can get, he explained.

Remarking on hiring practices in this country, he said: "Canada is losing able people. We're losing good people to a process that people think is creating social justice."

"I'm not biased or prejudiced in any way. We should bring down all the barriers to have a level playing field for everyone... but we shouldn't discriminate to make past injustices fair."

Marinoff describes the exodus from Canada as a gene drain of the first order, and offers examples:

- Administration of the University of Victoria philosophy department demands that two of three available positions go to women.

"The administration refuses to higher the best qualified (person)," he said. "They're basically saying merit is not important and gender is."

- An Ontario institution had 150 men and 13 women apply for a tenure-track philosophy department position. All 13 women were short listed. Not one man made the list. A woman was hired.

Marinoff quit the Canadian Philosophical Association over its 1991 hiring targets that call for 40 per cent of all faculty positions to go to women by the year 2010. Women currently hold 13 per cent of these jobs.

"You have to recognize that there has to be a discussion about merit," he said.