

## POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

# Irate professor quits Canada

□ Man frustrated by hiring practices that favor women

By Dave Pommer

Calgary Herald

Fed up with what he terms politically correct hiring practices, University of British Columbia philosopher Louis Marinoff is bidding Canadian academia farewell with a satirical slap.

He's in Calgary at the Learned Societies Conference, promoting an acerbic novel about the battle of the sexes called Fair New World, published by his own firm, Backlash Press and under his pen name, Lou Tafler.

"This is my farewell present to Canada. This is where we could end up if we're not careful," said Marinoff of the extreme battle of the sexes he paints in his third novel, set in the year 2084.

After 180 rejections over the past three years for tenured positions at universities in Canada, the U.S. and Australia, the bilingual 42-year-old who grew up in Montreal and has a doctorate in philosophy from University College in London, England, is heading to an assistant professor's post at New York's City College.

He was shortlisted for eight jobs in the U.S. and Australia, but none in Canada.

"I have not succeeded in being seriously considered for any position in Canada. I attribute that to the political

correctness movement and gender wars. It is more marked here."

Marinoff said he's not the only white male Canadian academic frustrated by hiring policies they believe favor women.

He cites examples:

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

■ Another Canadian university has three philosophy positions open. Administrators have directed the department, which wants the best candidates possible, to hire two women first, and then the sex of the person for the final job will be discussed.

"I like to call it employment inequity. It's a direct consequence of the 'empowerment' of certain interest groups that are able to sell the idea that they're under-represented," he said.

New hiring targets calling for 40 per cent of all faculty positions to go to women by the year 2010 were set in 1991 at a heated meeting of the Canadian Philosophical Association.

Women now hold about 13

per cent of these jobs.

Marinoff recently quit the CPA, citing "hiring policies which are both racist and sexist," because they discriminate against white males.

"Does this mean a jury is unfair if it doesn't have six men and six women on it? Does this mean a symphony orchestra can't be any good unless it has the same number of male and female musicians? Where do you draw the line?"

Marinoff said he isn't sexist and acknowledges that women have been discriminated against in the past.

But he said enforced equality will fail because it is not natural.