

## Canadian professor wronged by political correctness

By Eleanor Stiller

A university professor can't find work in Canada because he is not female.

The above sentence, translated into English, reads: A university professor can't find work in Canada because he is not female.

The language this phrase is translated from is Feminian Fairspeak. It is a tongue that modifies English to compensate women for the injustices they were subjected to by men for the past several centuries.

Who converses in Feminian Fairspeak and where might one hear it?

The answer is in Feminia, one

of three countries represented in the recently published satire titled *Fair New World*.

The author of the book, University of British Columbia applied ethicist Louis Marinoff who writes under the pseudonym Lou Tafler, has written this book in reaction to his experiences of reverse discrimination as a white male.

Marinoff has had an astoundingly difficult time landing a tenured position in North American and Australian universities.

In Canada, Marinoff was not even short-listed, as he was in the U.S. and Australia.

The reason for all this Marinoff

lament, is "the erosion of standards - merit has been redefined in terms of gender."

Marinoff cited an example of reverse discrimination hiring prejudices in Canada:

One Ontario university received 163 applications for a tenure-track position - 150 men and 13 women. No man was short-listed, although all 13 women were. A woman ultimately landed the job.

The Montreal-born philosophy professor admittedly agrees that women have been denied equal opportunity at many other times but insists not every female is a victim of male oppression.

Marinoff deplores extremism and he says he believes political correctness has gone too far in Canada.

"When extremists get involved in power struggles then innocent, rational people get caught in the crossfire," warns Marinoff.

*Fair New World* satirically demonstrates the power struggles between two nations with extreme viewpoints -- Feminia and Bruteland. However, in the third country, Melior promises some hope for humankind. Men and women co-exist in a society where equal opportunity is made possible. In Melior, job applicants' gender, age, ethnicity and religious beliefs are not revealed until the hiring is done.

The Canadian Philosophical Association does not share the same hiring practices as Melior.

In a report to the Canadian Philosophical Association from the

Committee to Study Hiring Policies Affecting Women passed in 1992, instructions are given that "If you are unable to find a suitably qualified woman, consider deferring the appointment for a year."

Another pointer in the report reads, "In a department with too few females to meet the needs of female students, being female is itself an academic asset in a job candidate."

Louis Marinoff recently left Canada to teach at City College in New York City.

His farewell answer to the politically correct movement in Canada is his Swiftian novel *Fair New World* which has been compared to 1984 and *Brave New World*.

It is available at Concordia and McGill university bookstores.