

# Former local man's book hits bias against white males

By Joel Goldenberg  
Suburban Staff

A philosophy professor's encounters with political correctness in Canada's academic world has prompted him to teach in New York City and to write a book against discrimination against white males.

Prof. Louis Marinoff, who wrote *Fair New World* and two other novels using the pseudonym Lou Tafler, grew up in Côte St. Luc and taught at the University of British Columbia until his move to New York University.

The book, inspired by George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, takes place in 2084 at a time when "the new tyranny" of feminism rules.

In his world of Feminania, men lose almost all rights related to their masculine identities and can be jailed for such "politically unfair" offences as hunting, fishing, football and urinating while standing up.

In Feminania, the language has been changed to reflect gender rule. Gender becomes "gendher," mister becomes "person" which becomes "pherdaughter," women become "womben" and so on.

A male backlash leads to the creation of two other societies, one called Bruteland and the other called Mellior, the latter made up of "disaffected



Professor Louis Marinoff

elements from the other two" societies.

Prof. Marinoff said that in his writing identity as Lou Tafler, the author of the autobiographical *Return To Eden: A Fantasy of Redemption* and *Eloquent Sinking: A Gaspesian Tragicomedy*, "I've tried to do for Côte St. Luc what Mordecai Richler has done for St. Urbain St."

In British Columbia, he had a half-time position at UBC and built up his academic credentials, "but I found it increasingly difficult to find or even be considered for work in this country, owing to the excesses of political correctness in preferential hiring policies.

"My professional association, the Canadian Philosophical Association, is in the vanguard of this movement," Prof. Marinoff said. "They've set hiring policies which are quota based, and they suggest that all hiring be done in philosophy

in institutions anyway. This is merely an endorsement of what's already been done in a very broadly based way."

The result has been that he was short-listed six times for tenured positions in the United States, but for none in Canada. "Not once. We're not talking about a playing field that's not level, we're talking about a playing field in which some people aren't even allowed to play."

The professor, whose book is available at university book stores here, said this policy amounts to "active and open discrimination against white males.

"Now, I'm not a racist or a sexist," he emphasized. "I believe there should be no barriers against anyone, but we have to hire on the basis of merit. Given two candidates who are equally meritorious, I would say give the nod to someone who may belong to a historically disadvantaged group, but I think you rarely find two candidates of equal merit."

Not surprisingly, reaction to the book among colleagues has been mixed, with reviews from colleagues comparing *Fair New World* favourably to *Nineteen Eight-Four* and *Brave New World*, as well as the satire of Jonathan Swift.

"This book just may wake some people up, if anything can," wrote Vancouver Community College professor Kurt Preinsperg.

Said Prof. Marinoff: "A minority of my colleagues share my beliefs. Some are extremely angry with me for having gone public in this way, because the debate is not an open one. The politically correct certainly don't like me and like this novel even less, because it ridicules the things they most stand for which are, in my view, reverse discrimination.

"They offend me and I offend them, so we're equal in some way," he added.