

# Hot dogs, beer, and Trotsky

By PAULANISK GARDENOV

Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky never actually thought of entering politics in his younger days, reveals York historian Yuri Vastamaterwitu, in his latest book.

"He was a damn good second basemen," Vastamaterwitu states in his controversial *Leon Trotsky — Three Strikes and You're Icepicked*.

"He hit around .280 and had a .595 slugging average in the Siberian League. As far as I'm concerned, Trotsky can also be considered the father of the pivot in the double play."

Vastamaterwitu based his research on interviews with 118-year-old Anton Notgoodenaf, an all-star Tbilisi extreme left-fielder (in Soviet baseball there are no right fielders).

According to Notgoodenaf, Trotsky could have been the "best second baseman in the game if it

weren't for his career-ending groin injury during Winter Ball in Mexico in 1916.

Ironically, Vastamaterwitu discovered that despite Trotsky's exceptional skill and knowledge of baseball he was often a detriment to his team.

"He had this annoying habit of lecturing in the middle of games," writes Vastamaterwitu. "He would often scream about how the poor could not afford bread, and that the proletariat did not have good enough reception to get *Love Boat* reruns on TV. During these diatribes, the opposition kept stealing base."

Trotsky's antics often lead to team dissention. "In one pre-game warm-up Trotsky lectured the pitching staff on how they shouldn't throw curveballs and sliders because this deceives the opposition and would ultimately harm Soviet society," Vastamaterwitu states. "Pitching

ace Lefty Smirnoff got so upset with him that he told the press about Trotsky's drunken affair with some barnyard animals late one night in Gorky.

"Team morale hit an all-time low after this."

Trotsky fell in love with politics after he was traded to Moscow in spring 1916. He had a rough season that year, likely as a result of being preoccupied with Lenin's writings and Bucharin's pool table. He hit .205 with only 26 CBIs (Comrades Batted In). Rookie infielder Bourboniski Vodka, said "He couldn't hit himself out of Czar Nicholas' long underwear."

Trotsky called it quits late that summer in Mexico and turned his attention to the proletarian cause.

"Baseball was a good experience for me," Trotsky wrote in his private memoirs. "But revolutionary upheaval is really where it's at."

## Insecurity Beat

A York student was allegedly abducted by a herd of moose early Monday morning and is in stable condition at York-Finch hospital.

The victim was returning to his tent in the arboretum at about 2:30 a.m. Monday when he heard giggling from behind some shrubbery. Curiously, he approached the source of the noise and was confronted by six 500-pound masked moose.

The victim was then held behind the bushes where the moose allegedly forced him to drink tequila shots and

play Spin the Bottle until 7:00 a.m.

Police would not speculate on whether these are the same six moose who set fire to a series of laundromats in Scarborough earlier this year.

The matter has been turned over to the Humane Society

An armed student held his creative writing class hostage for over three hours yesterday in a bid to gain recognition from York's print media.

The second-year fine arts major was apparently agitated by the weekly criticism of his writing and the heckling of classmates. Two weeks ago he stormed out of class

shouting, "I'll show you, you illiterates . . . I'll show you all!" He returned to the class yesterday armed with three sticks of dynamite taped to a copy of *The Elements of Style*, demanding the publication of one of his pieces in return for the safe release of the hostages.

O'kneelontheground quickly called *Excalibur*. "They'll print anything," he assured the kidnapper. When O'kneelontheground called the paper, editor Adam Kardash replied, "Forget it, man. If that place blows, we got a great front-page story — not to mention the photo."


The student released the hostages when his professor promised him a B-minus in the course.

**STUDENT, GO HOME. CHEAP.** (Face it: you're not going to get any serious studying done around here anyway.)

Gray Coach



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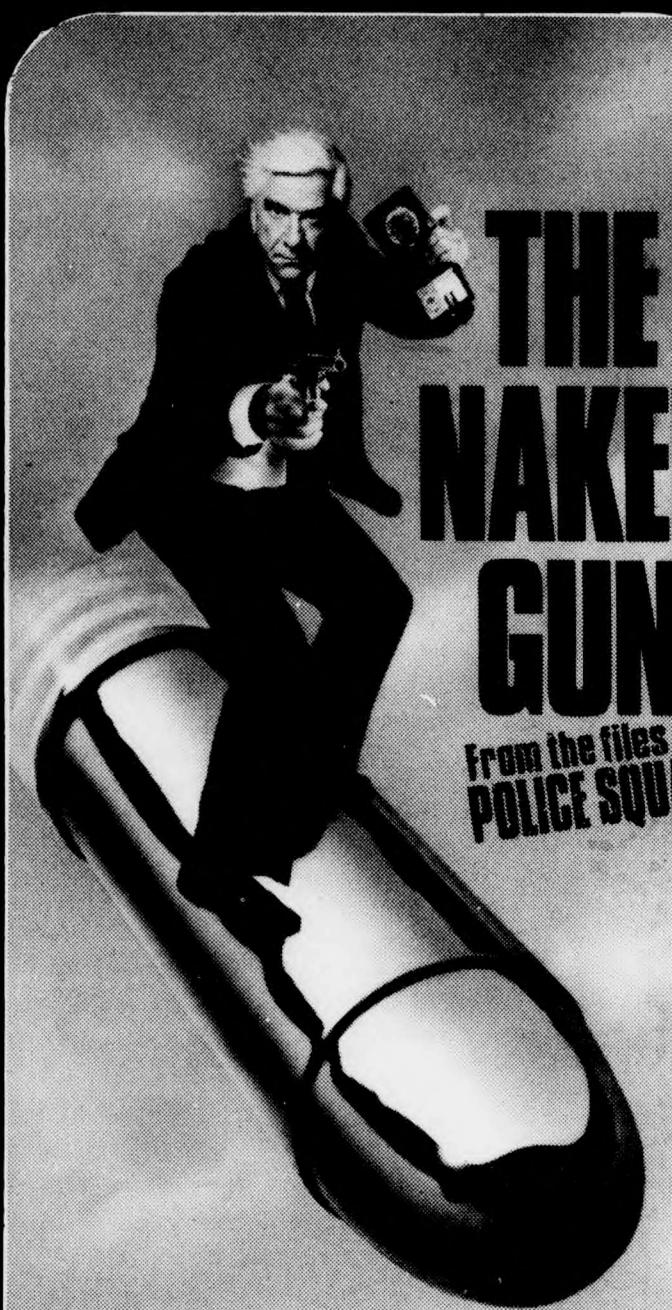
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