



A PARTING SHOT is fired by F. M. Dickey, assistant professor of English, at his Afghan hound Rupert. Dickey will be studying in Europe for six months and Rupert is scheduled for a new home, much to Dickey's regret. Rupert seems to be accepting his fate. (Photo by Base).

## Rupert Needs New Home; Is Well-mannered, Quiet

By PAT TREECE  
Emerald Staff Writer

Are you lonely? Do you ever long for some magic key that would open up the barrier that blocks off your cold world from adventure, excitement, and romance.

If so, meet Rupert. If not—meet Rupert anyway!

You probably already know him at least by sight. But just for formalities sake, Rupert is a coal black, shaggy, spectre thin, poetic eyed Afghan. His owner, Assistant Professor of English F. M. Dickey refers to him as "a buffalo robe on stilts." Other less imaginative viewers have been content, however, to compare him to a "longhair" musician or a very Bohemian artist.

How can a dog that looks like these things add excitement or gaiety to life? Easy. Not by his looks, although these help more than detract, but by his actions.

Rupert stories are legion. The fact that Afghans have very limited smelling facilities accounts for some of the zanier ones.

The following, as related by Dickey, is a sample. "One day we had drawn up to a curb when Rupert began to whine and howl in such a way that we thought it was quite urgent that he get out. So as quickly as possible we let him out, whereupon he ran frantically to a poster of a cat which occupied a nearby fence. By the time he realized that it was not a real cat he had run head on into the fence."

Another time Dickey took

Rupert to visit an old professor of the English prof's. Normally well behaved, Rupert barked and leapt wildly about the room. The cause: a china cat.

"You know," Dickey stated, "Afghan hair is just like cashmere. Some people save it after the daily combings and make articles from it."

"No, my family doesn't," he grinned. "I can't get my wife to knit it."

Dickey has had Rupert for two years. Now, however, he is unable to keep the dog any longer, as he and his family will be leaving soon for a six months stay in Europe.

Dickey will be working on a fellowship, studying 16th and 17th century poetry. A poet himself, he has recently completed a book on Shakespeare's sonnets entitled, "Not Wisely But Too Well." This volume will appear, he noted, "whenever I get the index done."

Rupert, like most Afghans, is a great runner. In their native country the dogs are used to hunt leopards and deer. To imagine such speed in Rupert is easy, but to imagine such ferocity is literally impossible. Rupert, who loves everyone, is equally sociable with all people.

He has chased deer, however—until he got tangled up in a thicket of blackberry bushes.

Around cars he cannot be set free from his leash. Not that he chases them. He doesn't. He runs in front of them at about fifteen miles per hour. He could do much better of course, but he likes to

just pace them.

"There is an ugly rumon floating around that Rupert grades all my papers," said Dickey.

"Does he?" the professor was asked.

"No—not all of them," he replied.

After interviewing Dickey, this reporter accepted an invitation to take Rupert for a walk "to get to know his personality." The story would probably be funnier if it were said that he ran away or dragged the reporter into the millrace when they were in that vicinity. But it wouldn't be true. Rupert had perfectly beautiful manners. He is rather quiet it's true. But when he does make a comment, it's the kind that makes you sit up and listen.

"I would like to sell him to someone," said Dickey, "who is fond of noble beasts." "Rupert," he added "is really a noble beast." And with that remark the reporter could only concur.

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(Continued from page one)

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