

A VISIT FROM GRAHAM

Intered into the Feb. 1948 FAPA mailing by Rick Sneary of 2962 Santa Ana st., South Gate, Calif. A one-shot, maybe.

As I write the first draft of this, the smoke of Roger Phillip Graham's cigarette still hangs in the air. So with my mind unable to think of anything elce, I start this report.

First of all I might explain the reason I agrees to the visit. Rex Ward wrote me, asking if I would be willing for Graham to visit me. There being some doubt in his mind in view of my past action. I decided that I would let them come, for after all, why not. I disagreed with him, but I had not been personally insulted as Ackerman had, therefore it was nearly a mater of different ideals. And I doubted that he could change mine. (And before anyone says I'm pig-headed, I might add that I am sure he had no idea of letting me chage his mind. Which indeed, I neaver tryed.)

So on Feb. 4, 1948 Rex and Graham arived. I found Graham a reather likeable person. Friendly enough, and hardly insulting. In fact I can not remember that he said anything openly against fandom. But then he would hardly be expected to give bullets to some one who might use them to shoot at him. / I also decided that he would make a wonderfull lawyer. I am sure that after only 15 minutes he would be able to make a jury belive the judge had confessed. He put enough words in my mouth to fill a book. And most of his replys started with, So you think----- . And it was seldom anyways near what I thought at all.

He seemed quite unable to grasp my reasons for being against AS, Palmer and the column. So seeing he will read this, I'll go over them, for him, and anyone elce. It will save a letter which probable wouldn't be answered. He failed to answer the last one, after I had told him I didn't like some og his stories. (He had asked me to read and point out what was wrong with them, and I did.)

Reason for not liking AMAZING. I do not read it because it does not print stories I like. Of all the stories I have read in it, only four have been good. (I admitadly have not read a lot of the ones people talk about.) #2. It's low grade of stories detrack from the good work done by other pro-zines to improve the feild. #3. The Shaver stories, which beside being bad as stories, make the magazine equal to any cheep occult rag that is printed to bring in the money of weak minded people.

Reason for not liking PALMER. Becouse of contenuual attacks against fandom, and attempts to keep his readers from joining. And his stupidey (from my standpoint) in ptinting the Shaver stories as the truth. (Graham asked me if it were not fans who had started the attacks. The answer tho I didn't think of it at the time was 'it take to to start a fight.' The other pro's get letters blasting just as hard, yet they can laugh it off. RAP get mad.)

Reason for not liking the COLUMN. None other than it apears in AS. And because of the above, I feel that I am atwar with AS, and do noy want my name linked with it in any way, even in a review. The column tho lacking in true understanding of fandom, is not so bad. I am not against Graham, but I do dissagree with him. It is up to others if they support the column, I will not. Not unless AS and Palmer change.

I got very little out of Graham in the way of straight answers. But what I did were interesting. (Oh yes, he said I could not quote him. I am not. I will only say what I think was ment.)

We were discussing the "hoax", and I said I thought RAP had rather pulled the hoax to make fandom look bad, or had been really crazy and was # lying to say he wasn't. At first I thought I would get anything out of him, as he started to say I had said RAP should have admitted he was crazy, and was a liar for not doing it. I finally got him to say that Hamling had written the letter to Ackerman, and that he believed it was Palmer's idea. He blamed me for his action, yet said he did what fans had expected. He there for admits it was a hoax cooked up to make fans look bad. And yet we are to look up to and believe a man that is that deceitful. Ha! And they talk about the deCourcy's. Double Ha!

Another point I got out that amused me was his saying, or implying, that the reason why AS stories were not being reprinted in books like stories from other mags, was that the publishers of these books were all old fans. He thus implies that these publishers would not print a good story from AS, merely because they hate AS. Graham also repeated charges we have heard from Palmer. Like, the only reason fans vote ASF stories so high is they hate AS, and therefore will not vote for it. And thus have nothing worth wild to vote for. Thus as much as saying fans do not have enough brains to vote for a really good story if they saw one. He and Rex also compared the two mags editorials. They said were as RAP talks about the stories and authors, (and blast fans) Campbell writes articles that no one can understand. Well personally I'd lot rather read two of Campbell's than half of one of Palmers. (Too forgive me for using those two names in the same line.)

One of the most startling remarks was to the effect that Palmer had O-K the column in the hopes that Ackerman or some one would stir up such a fuss that no fans would support it. That then he (RAP) could go ahead and blast fans all the more. This sounds like the reasoning of the Senator that has said he believed Stalin was pretending to be against the Marshal Plan because he knew that we would pass it, and then go broke making it work. Well I personally don't think we can give Palmer credit for that much brains.

Graham later said that we were going to hear more from him, as he was going to write more articles for fanzines, and gave the impression he would do a little blasting on his own. All in fun of course. But then he thinks what Rap has said has been all in fun. I expect this will draw some comment. So be it. But if you do Mr. G, try and keep it as impersonal as I have. And don't say what you said I said.

I told him that if he did write such articles it would only prolong the war. I told him that if Palmer would stop calling fans dirty names half the dirty remarks about him would stop that there were a number of fans that were doubtful as to supporting the column because of the continued attacks by Palmer. He seemed unimpressed.

But he did tell me that if I went out and wrote letters to every one, telling them that I thought Graham was a ----- (he used words I'd never use.) that no one would be interested, because it was old stuff. Yet he assumes you don't find Palmer or his remarks old stuff.

Before his visit I was about through with the fight, but I am now ready to carry it to the bitter end. No matter who's. RS.