

EXTRA!

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KATHERINE EVE #16

Vol. 3, No. 4

26 Jun 64

being the unprecedented Scoop STAR-SPINKLE Issue of Dave Van Arnam's composed-on-stencil fmz for passing out at FISTFA

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I don't know how a guy can be so calm when he mentions the birth of a daughter as Dick Lupoff was when he called me this afternoon.

"Hey," he said to me calmly over the phone, "how would you like to scoop STARSPINKLE?"

Then he continued, telling me the details of the first birthday of his daughter. Born about 5 pm on the 25th of June, otherwise known as yesterday, weighing six pounds, everybody doing fine, etc.

Repeating this to Lillian (my beautiful blonde boss) and Helen (the other typist in the office here), I added, as Dick had mentioned, "And it only took an hour!"

"Wonderful!" said Helen, smiling guilelessly. "It usually takes nine months!"

I must admit, it seems like the fannish thing to have said...

Anyway, the arrival of Katherine Eve Lupoff seems like a Wonderful Thing as far as I'm concerned, and my warmest congratulations to Pat & Dick.

Coincidentally with my inability at this moment to think of anything more to say, it happens that I have a letter from that very same Dick Lupoff Who. And by an even greater coincidence, that which follows is that very same letter!

A LETTER FROM DICK LUPOFF

23 Jun 64

Dear Dave,

Some readers of "First Draft" (or whatever you call your fan "zine") [] - Hmmm...keep your eye on issue #17... - [] may think it's a little bit silly, the way you keep mentioning Calvin Demmon all the time. As a sort of preventive of your dropping the habit, let me say that I'm glad you do it. Calvin mentioned that he may return to New York in the autumn, and I hope he does. Maybe your mentions will encourage him to do so. You are sending him each issue, aren't you?

[] - Actually, he will be kidnapped at the Copcon and brought back to New York by main force; Andy has promised to help us. No, I haven't gotten around to sending FD to him yet, but with this letter I guess I better get on the schtick. - []

I feel as if his welcome spirit hovers over New York fandom, even after his brief time here, and I think all New York fans will join me in expressing a wish for his return. Except maybe those who [] - Hey, there,

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no feuding in my amateur publication! - [] shoot Calvin's parents.

Seriously, here is a guy who virtually singlehanded set a new trend in fandom. I'm not just "referring" to his curious use of quotation "marks," although that of course is a part of it. But Calvin restored the sadly lost freshness of "fannishness" after it seemed wholly to have run its course.

Hooray for fun!

Seriously, I think that Calvin is very, very funny. "Almost" as funny as Gary Deindorfer.

I guess that Calvin is now beyond the stage of Neofandom, although far from the old-and-tired category, or the retreads, like you. But for a while he was the brightest neofan around. One might suggest that he be used as an example by some of the younger (albeit cocky) neo's. Arnie Katz, for instance, is probably a nice Jewish boy beneath his thin veneer of wisdom ("") and is a pretty good neofan. I think he could be a better neofan if he imitated Calvin a little. Not in the sense of slavishly imitating his shticks, but in the sense of emulating a good neofan.

I think too many people are eager to cease being neo's. Certainly Katz is a neo, and will probably continue to be regarded as a neofan for at least the next three to five years. That's about how long it takes for a neofan to get to know the ropes, become friendly with older fans, learn the traditions and background of fandom, etc. [] - Perhaps getting in a feud is the watershed. Or, maybe "not." - [] Then he's no longer a neo. But if he tries to jump too fast, you get an unfortunate case like Earl Evers. Better luck post-army, Earl, you're a good kid at heart, but not the kind of neo Arnie Katz is.

Warmest good wishes to you, Dave, from

Dick Lupoff

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There was also, incidentally,
JOE PILATI (c/o Perry, 4018 Laurel Ave., Omaha 11, Nebraska)

Dear Dave,

This note is merely to tell you how much I dig First Draft.

I dig First Draft lots.

This note is also to ask you to send me First Draft whenever possible over the summer. I'd meant to make this request at Friday's meeting, but I forgot. You may recall a SatEvePost advertising campaign of a few years ago built around the theme, "The Influentials Read The Post!" And you may remember, too, Harvey Kurtzman's parody of one of the Post ads, published in the short-lived but brilliant little mag he was publishing at the time: "The Inconsequential's Read Humbug!" Well, influential or inconsequential, I think any good Fanoclast-in-Absentia should read First Draft, or whatever you're calling it now (did you say Old Laundry?).
 Best, Joe.

[]

Joe now has a lifetime irrevocable sub; way to go, Joe! -- dgv