



JUNE 2004 • ISSUE 3
9 WUPLUP

The New York Clone

The Official Newsletter of the NYLine
Visit us at www.nyline.org

TODAY

Sunset
6:58, 9:35

Weather
Tatooine: Sun
Kamino: Rain

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NYLINE III TEASER FLYER
PRINT IT, COPY IT,
LET 'EM KNOW
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Stay current on
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Episode III in
New York City!

Visit www.nyline.org
for news, updates,
and information on
how to line up!

SUBMISSIONS!

Submit stories and
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editions of
The New York Clone
nyclone@nyline.org

Welcome Back

By Steve Lorenzo

A Remote Probe From the Far Reaches of Cyberspace...

The line for Episode II sure seems like a long time ago; fortunately for most of us, 54th Street isn't so far, far away. And neither is opening night of "Star Wars: Episode III" – 335 days and counting

(as of the release of this newsletter). Which is why, after two years of much-needed hibernation (without the benefit of carbonite, we might add), NYLine is back up and running, and already preparing for what we hope will be the social event of 2005.

NYLine staff started meeting at the end of February, and one of the resulting projects was an overhaul of our Web site, <http://www.nyline.org>, by Mike Spellacy and Chris Holoka. If you haven't yet checked it out, you're in for a treat! Old-school New Yorkers will remember the BMT and the IRT; now's your chance to hop aboard the NY Line. What's more, we've expanded the archives to allow people to relive the 1999 and 2002 lines, in both words and pictures.

While you're going through the new site, there's one page in particular we'd like you to look at – the NYLine survey, which can be found at <http://www.nyline.org/survey.asp>.

As you probably realize, a lot of time and effort goes into planning an event like NYLine, from ironing out logistics with the police, theater management and property owners, to wrangling sponsors, designing and producing line-related paraphernalia and planning events to make the line something memorable for participants and staff alike.

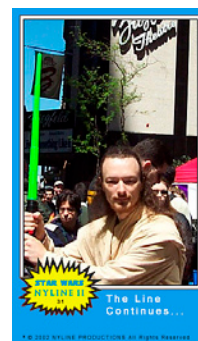
In both 1999 and 2002, we set a lot of goals; many we realized – it's still something of a wonder that we were allowed to have such a high-profile event on the streets of New York City less than eight months after the 2001 terrorist attacks. Other

goals washed out – literally, in the case of what we lost to the rain and bitter cold that plagued the 2002 line, and figuratively, because we lacked the necessary sponsorship and human resources to execute them.

We've given a lot of thought as to what worked, and what didn't. Ultimately, though, it's your opinions that matter, and the survey is your chance to voice them. The form is short; you only have to give seven responses, and the first three can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no." And we even have an incentive for participation: People who complete the survey and provide their email address will be allowed to register for NYLine shifts 72 hours before we open registration to the general public. Not only does that mean you'll have a better chance at securing the shifts you want, but it will guarantee your participation in the Episode III NYLine should an onslaught of "Star Wars" fans decide they want to celebrate the final film in the saga.

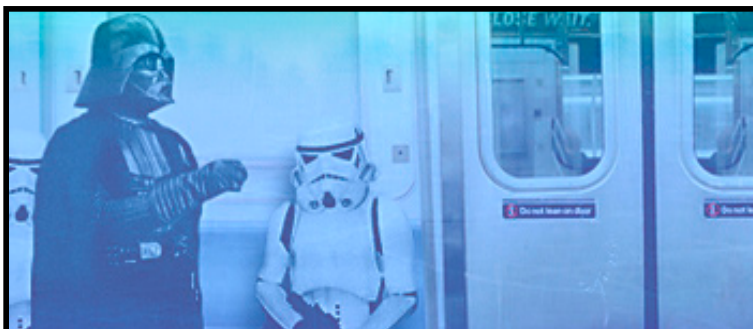
As this is the end of an era,

Relive the excitement of lining up for Episodes I and II with the NYLine trading cards, available only on nyline.org!



Web illustration: Mike Spellacy

we want the line to befit the occasion. While Darth Vader had thousands of remote probes at his disposal, we're going to rely on your innovation and generosity. Ultimately, we'd like to have enough events to plan something special for every one of the 19 or so days we're going to be lining up. We'd also like to schedule activities that allow the participation of everybody who shows up, not just the handful who can gather around a board game or a TV. So if you have any ideas to improve the line, or if you have access to any resources that can help us make the line an unforgettable experience for all concerned, now is your opportunity to speak up. All reasonable requests will be considered, and all offers will be greatly appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you, and can't wait to see you back on the sidewalk in 2005!



NYLine **E** **3**

NYLine website illustrations: Chris Holoka (www.toshistation.com)

A Thank You from the Starlight Children's Foundation To NYLine Participants



Dear Friends:

Thank you for your hard work and incredible dedication as a NYLine participant.

Thanks to your generosity in collecting donations for the Starlight Children Foundation NY*NJ*CT during the "Line-A-Thon" for Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones, we will be able to place Fun Centers in several area hospitals, bringing smiles to the faces of many more sick children.

Starlight Fun Centers are mobile entertainment units containing a TV monitor, VCR and Nintendo 64 game system. They roll right up to a child's bedside, providing much needed fun and distraction from the pain and isolation that often accompany a hospital stay. Starlight Fun Centers entertain more than 100,000 hospitalized children each year in the tri-state area.

We would also like to recognize the efforts of NYLine coordinators, David Creighton, John Green, Jewels Shana Green, Alan Ginsberg, Karen Grenke, Michele Hadlow, Steve Lorenzo, Jason Narvaez, Christina Romo, Amit Saxena, Matt Simantov, Suzanne Sousa, Michael Spellacy, and Vinny Terrasi. Their outstanding enthusiasm and commitment to Starlight is extraordinary.

To all of you very special Star Wars fans from all of us at Starlight and most of all the children whose lives you have brightened with your generosity, heartfelt thanks.

Looking forward to Episode III!

Jodi Doherty
Director of Events and Special Projects
The NY*NJ*CT chapter of the Starlight Children's Foundation

NYLine was one of the leading Starlight Children's Foundation Fun Center sponsors for 2002, placing Fun Centers in four New York City hospitals. In addition to the console, each donated Fun Center included enough games and movies to keep children entertained during their hospital stays.



**Starlight
Children's
Foundation®**

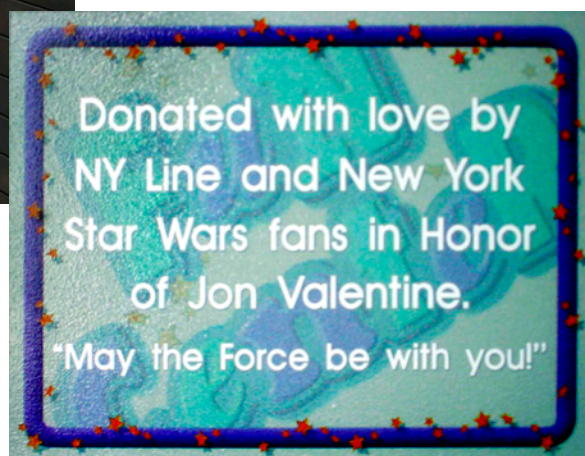
NY ★ NJ ★ CT



Photos: Louis B. Chang

"I would like to thank Starlight. We just received our Fun Center, which was donated by fans that waited on line for Star Wars."

***Stephanie Paladino
Child Life Specialist
Hospital for Joint Diseases
New York, New York***



Women & Star Wars

“Star Wars” For Men Only? Fuggedaboutit!

Suzanne Sousa

Both in NYLine 1999 and 2002, one question the press would ask always bothered me like a bunch of Tatooine flies: “What does it mean to be a female ‘Star Wars’ fan in light of the fact that most fans are men and boys?” Fighting the urge to roll my eyes and utter something that my mother thinks is “unladylike,” I always took a deep breath, smiled and said, “I never

considered that being a woman disqualifies me from being a fan. There’s enough in the ‘Star Wars’ Universe for everyone to enjoy.” Whatever you like - space battles, romance, light sabers, Ewoks, mythology, syrupy space language - you’ll find them all in the “Star Wars” films.

During the 1999 NYLine, 12 of the 350 line participants were women - a measly .03 percent. In 2002, 41 of 250 participants were ladies - a whopping 16 percent. Now I am no statistician, and this is not a column for The Economist, but these numbers prove that female “Star Wars” fans are not a rare and endangered species!

I grew up with “Star Wars” - I looked up to Princess Leia, swooned over

Han Solo, loved Luke Skywalker like I love my brothers, and spent hours imagining how Darth Vader got into his black metal strait-jacket. With Episodes I and II, I am in awe, once again, of Lucas’s visual imagination and how he’s linking the “Star Wars” saga together with fresh characters and past favorites. I also admire George Lucas because he is an independent, self-made entrepreneur who owns numerous companies. He has been noted by several prestigious organizations for his charity efforts and his progressive employment policies. In fact, half of the senior management at Lucasfilm are women.

“That’s what happens when you treat people equally,” Lucas said at one awards ceremony last year. “I’ve just hired people who were good at their jobs.” Still, Lucas allowed that,

growing up, his mother and three sisters, “made me understand that women are a little bit more than equal.”

My fellow “Star Wars” fans who happen to be female...Need we say more? I don’t think so.

Photo: Jozeph M. Salhab



A candid photo of some costumed fans at the “Attack of the Clones” opening shows the increased presence of women in the 2002 NYLine

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Editor

STEVE LORENZO

Columns

AMIT SAXENA
SUZANNE SOUSA

Art

JOHN P. GREEN
JASON NARVAEZ

Photography

LOUIS CHANG
JOSEPH M. SALHAB

Web Design & Illustrations

MIKE SPELLACY (WWW.SPELLACY.NET)
CHRIS HOLOKA (WWW.TOSHISTATION.COM)

Layout

DAVE CREIGHTON

VISIT THE NYLINE WEBSITE AT www.nyline.org
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT contact@nyline.org
NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS nyclone@nyline.org

HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUTURE EDITIONS OF The New York Clone?

SEND YOUR STORIES, NEWS AND ARTWORK TO: NYCLONE@NYLINE.ORG

Ya gotta amit...

Episode III: The Phantom Column (Special Edition)

By Amit Saxena

I am George Lucas. There, I said it.

For the past few months, I have been holed up in my meditation chamber, studying for various tests (or "trials", if you will), drinking buckets of Jawa juice, and attempting to ominously spin my chair around when somebody enters the room behind me. What great truths have I uncovered during this period of erudition you might ask? No, it has not been the secrets of how to use my Microsoft Word thesaurus; I've been familiar with that for quite some long time. What HAS become painfully clear to me though is the fact that somehow I have been

living my entire life without realizing that I was, in fact, George Lucas - esteemed filmmaker, pioneer of special effects, and father of three. I hear you (or one of the other voices in my head) saying "I want proof, not leads!" Well, I feel it's pretty obvious. I haven't shaved in a while, which means I have a beard. Some days I don't change out of my pajamas, and thus I keep myself adorned in flannel more than your average Joh Yowza. Also, I love "Star Wars." If that's not enough, I am about to present to you a lost column that has been scraped up from the cutting room floor - NOT because we wanted it there, but because we didn't have the technology to put it out in the way it was intended, and what with the studio breathing down our necks, and the supply problems of every kind, the labor difficulties...oh it was a pain. In other words, we didn't get a chance to release that last newsletter, because we got caught up in the madness and merriment of the AOTC line. But now with this issue of the Clone, I have the opportunity to present the article in the way it was intended. If you had seen the original version, you might notice several changes and updates I made for this release. But you didn't, so you won't. I doubt there will be much demand for the original version of this, however; it would be as if George released his experimental first cut of "More American Graffiti". I mean, if I released MY experimental cut of MAG, because I am George Lucas, lest we forget.

In order to discriminate the old column from this new section, I've implemented a computer graphic technique known as italicization. You can read more about in the forthcoming "Making of" book by Laurent Bouzereau. In addition, the soundtrack has been remastered in Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround EX, so turn up your speakers.

The following story is real. Some names and most facts have been changed because I don't really remember it all too well. During the night of these events, I was quite tired and one might say I had picked up a slight flutter. In retrospect, if a character is described as "the guy riding the mynock", that is probably my friend Alex. The "thirsty elephant" refers to the bike rack in front of the Ziegfeld Theater. "Cheetara" is Line-Mom Lynne Lipton.

It was May 11, 1999 - the day before advanced tickets went on sale for "The Phantom Menace." I was a spry young chap of 19 years, the veritable "Wormie" of the group, being somewhat naïve to the realities of old age. Ah, if only I was aware that I was legally required to cancel my subscription to Tiger Beat when I hit 20, I would have cherished childhood more. [ha! If only '02 Amit knew what '04 Amit knows!] But alas, that's one lesson that TV's "Friends" neglected to mention in their otherwise impeccable depiction of twentysomething life in New York. ["Friends" was a sitcom that, since the original writing, has gone off the air, in case you were unsure

the hundreds of fans behind us who might not have understood what we were doing at the front of the line. Like Jar-Jar steadying his troops, I tried to put on an air of authority, but my success in doing so was somewhat questionable.

There is a short list of things that I actually do remember about that eventful night. I remember being asked by someone if they could steal a wheelchair for some purpose, and me giving the OK to do so. I remember a group of Vampires sitting next to us, who actually turned out to be rather pleasant. I remember giving an interview to a CNN reporter, although I can't exactly recall what I said to him. Hopefully I plugged our charity, but I must say that odds are approximately 3.27 to 1 that at some point I said I was the illegitimate offspring of Jimmy Carter and Mon Mothma. Overall I remember having a lot of fun, and basking in the glow of the friendship of a whole garrison of "Star Wars" fans who were seeing a day that would be long remembered come into view. I also recall that I stopped caring about that glow some time around 6:30 when my body realized that I hadn't slept in a long time...a long time. I collapsed to the ground just as PR Princess Suzanne appeared through the haze and hallucinations, riding up 54th Street on her tauntaun, in time to rescue me by stuffing me into the innards of a sleeping bag. When I awoke, it was to a box of Krispy Kreme donuts, a stereo playing the "Return of the Jedi" soundtrack, a helicopter hovering high in the air, and the realization that instead of taking an optional Organic Chemistry II final (that in all honesty I had no business missing), I was a few feet away from the box office where I'd be purchasing tickets to a new "Star Wars" movie in a few hours.

Even though everything worked out on ticket day, and I came away with a story that kills at parties - the "Attack of the Clones" themed ones anyway (which are also known as the "Enchantment Under Kamino" shindigs [updated line matches better with the water reference!]), this situation should not present itself again during our AOTC line...

Except that it kinda did! But that's ok, we still had a blast on ticket day for Episode II, what with the madness and the confusion and the Acklay claw to the groin-type pain of the bitter cold! The rest of the original column went on about joining as a shift boss to help out during the line, which is something that I'm sure we'll be revisiting in the not-too-distant future! But there's still much to do before that, yada yada future, horizon, blah blah here and now, and all that other Jedi stuff I came up with (me being George Lucas).



Art: John P. Green

of the reference] (I still manage to check out StarWarsKids.com every once in a while though...and don't pretend you don't do it either. Sometimes I wonder if all of the people posting on their "Padawan Viewscreen" are actually 34 years old. But I'm straying from the topic...) [This was before SWK.com was welded together with the official site and lost the viewscreen feature, but I'm straying even further...]

Something happened on that cawazy springtime evening that was rather...odd. Amongst all of the press coverage, pay phone calls from tipsy Scottish fans, and visits from orange-haired aliens from Mars 2112, I did not realize that when time came for the overnight shift into the 12th, I was the only organizer ("Pink Badger", or sometimes "Pinkie" as we were so lovingly called) who was left on the line. So basically, a 19 year old, 150 pound student who hadn't slept in two days and wasn't exactly known for pulling people's arms out of their sockets was "in charge" (I use that term lightly) of 25 line members, thousands of dollars of Voila.com equipment, getting the word out for the Starlight Children's Foundation, and hoping to avoid riots started by

**THERE IS
ANOTHER...**



Waiting for the release of *Star Wars: Episode III* in 2005?
So are we. Join us on the sidewalk.

STAR WARS.

NYLINE III

www.nyline.org