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The New York Clone

The Official Newsletter of the NYLine
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TODAY

Sunset
5:30, 7:57

Weather
Frigid Temperatures
Favor Cold Entrées

NYLine **E** **3**

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nyclone@nyline.org

THE NEW YORK CLONE

NOVEMBER 2004
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Editor

STEVE LORENZO

Columns

JEWELS GREEN
AMIT SAXENA
TOM WEPPLER

Art

JOHN P. GREEN

Photography

JEWELS GREEN
KAREN GRENKE

Layout

DAVE CREIGHTON

VISIT THE NYLINE WEBSITE AT
www.nyline.org

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
contact@nyline.org

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS
nyclone@nyline.org

Pick Up Your Visual Scanning

By Steve Lorenzo

It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like "Star Wars"

What a summer it was for *Star Wars* fans – when George Lucas announced the long-anticipated title of *Episode III*, it more than lived up to fan expectations, and the DVD release has given

everybody a chance to see the second half of the saga in a whole new light.

So now that we're all sitting on our sofas, wearing our brand-spanking-new "Revenge of the Sith" T-shirts and watching Episodes IV through VI to our heart's content, it could be very easy to feel a tiny sense of let-down. After all, it's still six months until NYLine III begins, with a long Hoth-like winter between now and the big event.

Of course, the best way to make time fly is to keep busy. And the easiest way to keep the *Star Wars* on tap constantly between now and April is to have a series of mini-countdowns to all the *Revenge of the Sith* milestones that will occur between now and the movie's opening.

Never ones to let a *Star Wars* event pass without some

sort of Ewok Celebration, the more obsessive among us at NYLine have put together a list of these milestones, as well as a tentative timeline as to when they can be expected. As this compilation is based on rumors, news releases and the timeline of events leading to the releases of Episodes I and II, dates and actual events may vary (the Man in Plaid seems to have accelerated a bit as each movie has come out, and this list is mostly speculative), and who knows what other surprises the Ranch may have in store between now and May 19, 2005?

Episode III Teaser Trailer & Poster

(November 5, 2004)

Do you remember what you were doing on Nov. 20, 1998? Do the words "Meet Joe Black"



The teaser poster for "Star Wars: Episode III: Revenge of the Sith" (© Lucasfilm)

ring any bells? Did you pay your \$9, but leave the theater as the movie started? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes!!" then you were probably among those who rushed to theaters for a glimpse of the first new *Star Wars* film in 15 years, when the teaser trailer for *The Phantom Menace* made its national debut.

Three years later, the movie to see was *Monsters, Inc.* for the ominous "Breathing" trailer. As if that tantalizing look wasn't enough, Lucasfilm gave us two more trailers in November 2001 – "Forbidden Love" and the starwars.com-based "Mystery," which was only available to owners of the *Episode I* DVD and a DVD-ROM drive.

Another Pixar movie is opening the first weekend of November, and starwars.com has announced *The Incredibles* will be extra-incredible for *Star Wars* fans! Will the Original Trilogy DVDs also unlock

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A fan tries to decide which Jango Fett action figure to bring home from the *Episode II* Toy Night. (photo by Karen Grenke)

Visual Scanning

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additional trailers? Whatever the answer, it doesn't take a disturbance in the Force to realize we'll soon be seeing all sorts of new *Star Wars* footage on both the big and small screens.

Also invading movie theaters is the ominous *Episode III* teaser poster, which is now available for collectors to purchase on shop.starwars.com.

Vanity Fair Photo Spread

(January/February 2005)

In both 1999 and 2002, readers of *Vanity Fair* magazine who also happened to be big *Star Wars* fans got a treat and a shock. The treat was a sneak preview of the actors in their costumes from the upcoming films, as envisioned by iconic, award-winning photographer Annie Leibovitz; the shock was a spoiler – text from the opening crawl. Has Leibovitz once again infiltrated the fortress that is Lucasfilm to warm our winter months with some new jaw-dropping photos? Be on the lookout at area newsstands starting in late January for the answer.

Debut of Full *Episode III* Trailer & Release Poster

(March 2005)

Here's where the fun begins! In 1999, the full trailer hit theaters on Friday, March 12. In 2002, George Lucas shocked the industry by premiering the trailer not on the big screen, but on Fox TV, right between episodes of *Malcolm in the Middle* and *The X-Files* on Sunday, March 10. For many, it was as big a night as the Superbowl. Five days later, by the time everybody's videotapes had been played a couple thousand times, the trailer hit the big screen with the Fox film *Ice Age*. The same week, the final release posters were hanging in theaters and available for purchase on starwars.com.

Season III of the *Clone Wars* Micro-Series on Cartoon Network

(March 21-25, 2005)

As if the release of the trailers isn't enough to whip fans into a frenzy, March will also see the debut of the third season of Cartoon Network's Emmy Award winning *Clone Wars*

May the Cents be with you

By Jewels Green

More pennies for Darth Vader! PLEEEEAASE Mommy!

You read it right. That's what my two-year-old son has said to me nearly every day, several times a day, for the past 2 weeks. That's when my cousin graced our apartment (and saved himself from a black eye or two) by giving us his

1996 coin-operated talking Darth Vader bank instead of selling it at a family yard sale. (No, Chris, this does NOT mean you get a ticket for opening night. You can sleep on the sidewalk like everyone else. Sheesh...)

ANYway, where was I? Right. The bank. This bank, if you don't know, is cool as all get out. It's got a 9" tall figurine of Darth Vader atop a small, rectangular coin bank. When you put a coin in, Darth Vader's chest plate lights up and we hear the first musical phrase from the Imperial March, then it totally messes you up by playing the first phrase AGAIN instead of the second phrase, then... THEN... you hear it... the breathing... then...the voice... "Impressive, most impressive, but you are not a Jedi yet" Darth Vader's light saber suddenly glows red, raises, and he swings it back and forth menacingly at the hapless miser who dare save coins in his pedestal. Cue Imperial March again. Well, only the first phrase. Twice.

So this is now one of AJ's favorite games to play. "Pennies for Darth Vader" we call it. He now likes this bank much better than the bank we had been using to hoard coins for his bright future—my Mickey Mouse coin bank from the *ahem* early 1970s. Always looking for a way to make a game educational, I started by teaching him the different names of the American currency coins. He can now differentiate pennies from nickels from dimes (no quarters, we save those for the poor souls who drive long distances to come visit us and need



Photo by Jewels Green

to plug the parking meter). Since he learned that so quickly, I decided to take the game a step further.

"AJ, there are sick kids who need toys to play with while they're in the hospital."

"Kids toys in the hopital"

"That's right, the kids in the hospital need—"

"Kids play with Darth Vader?"

"Uh... well... maybe we can save money in your Darth Vader bank to buy toys for the kids in the hospital. How about that?"

"That's a good idea!"

"You're right. That is a good idea."

"More pennies for Darth Vader, Mommy? Pleeasseeel?"

"You got it, buddy."

AJ's current total of money raised for Starlight is \$4.26. He'll also be spending quite a bit of time on the sidewalk on West 54th Street next May. Your competition awaits...



Season 3 of "*Star Wars: Clone Wars*" premieres March 21, 2005.
(©2004 Lucasfilm / Cartoon Network)

micro-series. Whereas the first two seasons consisted of 10 three-minute segments, this final season will be shown in five 12-minute installments.

The action picks up from the conclusion of the story arc in the first two seasons, which are available for download to starwars.com's Hyperspace members. The season is

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The Force Is Strong With This One

A father-and-son analysis of the Episode III title

By Tom Wepler

The other day I finally received my new “Revenge of the Sith” t-shirt in the mail. I’d ordered it the day the title for *Episode III* was announced. I tugged open the box and pulled out the shirt, unfolding it and holding it up to get a better look at the logo, a visual throwback to the old *Revenge/Return of the*

Jedi logo of 1983, the last time I was looking forward to the last film of a *Star Wars* trilogy.

As I held the shirt against myself and looked in the mirror, I heard my son Jackson asking, “What’s that about?” I dropped the shirt and ran over to his bouncy seat to check on him, seeing as he’s not even two months old yet and had previously only managed a loud “MEHH!” in our conversations. He pointed past me to the shirt.

“What did that say? Revenge of the What?”

“You can talk?!”

“Look, Mom’s not around, right? I’ll let you in on a little secret. We can all talk when we’re born; we just like the goofy sounds you guys make thinking we can’t understand you.”

“I’m gonna get the video camera!”

“You do that and I’ll clam up until I’m 14. Get back here. Show me that shirt again.”

I picked up the shirt and uneasily sat on the couch.

“Red on black, nice. Black can be slimming, Pop. You could use it, that sympathy belly you put on while Mom was pregnant isn’t going anywhere fast. So what’s this ‘Star Wars’ thing?”

I rubbed my eyes and gave in. “You remember the movies I showed you? Luke and Leia, Chewbacca, the Jedi? The last movie is coming out next year; this is the title.”

“Sounds kind of pulpy, like the rest of them. Works for me.”

“Are you sure I can’t get the camera?”

“You want to wear tapioca every day for two years straight? Be cool, Pop. You love movies about heroes using a mystical life force to move objects and throw lightning, but a talking kid wigs you out? What do you think of the title?”

“I think it’s great. Lucasfilm said it ‘harkens back to the sense of pure fun, imagination and excitement that characterized the classic movie serials and pulp space fantasy adventures that inspired the *Star Wars* saga.’ I agree. I think some fans wanted some mention of the Empire or Vader specifically, but I like the feel of ‘Revenge of the Sith.’”

“How about the other fans, what do they think?”

“*Star Wars* fans are funny, even if you aren’t a rubber dog hand puppet. Three years ago, all you had to do to generate eye rolling in some circles was mention four little words: ‘Attack of the Clones.’ A lot of people didn’t like the title. Some called it cheesy, some called it disappointing.”

“But that’s what happens in the movie, the clones attack. What’s the problem?”

“That was my point, too. The Clone Wars were referenced back in the very first *Star Wars* movie; you’d think people would have expected it.”

“So do the fans like this title?”

“So far so good. This shirt was back-ordered for weeks; that’s a pretty good sign they’ve embraced the title.”

“Why don’t you put it on and pick me up, Pop? I think I’ve got a gas bubble.”

I pulled on the shirt. Jackson nodded with approval as I let him loose from the seat and held

him to my shoulder. A few pats on the back and he burped.

“Boy, that’s a relief. Oh, I’m sorry, Pop.”

I looked down to find he’d spit up a little on my new shirt.

“That’s all right, pal. Now it feels like it’s your shirt too.”

“Bite your tongue. You think I want to be seen in that geek wear? It’s football jerseys for me, Pop. Charming the ladies is hard enough without wearing that as a handicap.”

“But the title rocks, at least, right Jax?”

He was trailing off to sleep in my arms. “Yeah, Pop, *Revenge* rocks.” We sat there for a minute as he dozed. Suddenly, his head popped up, his eyes wide open.

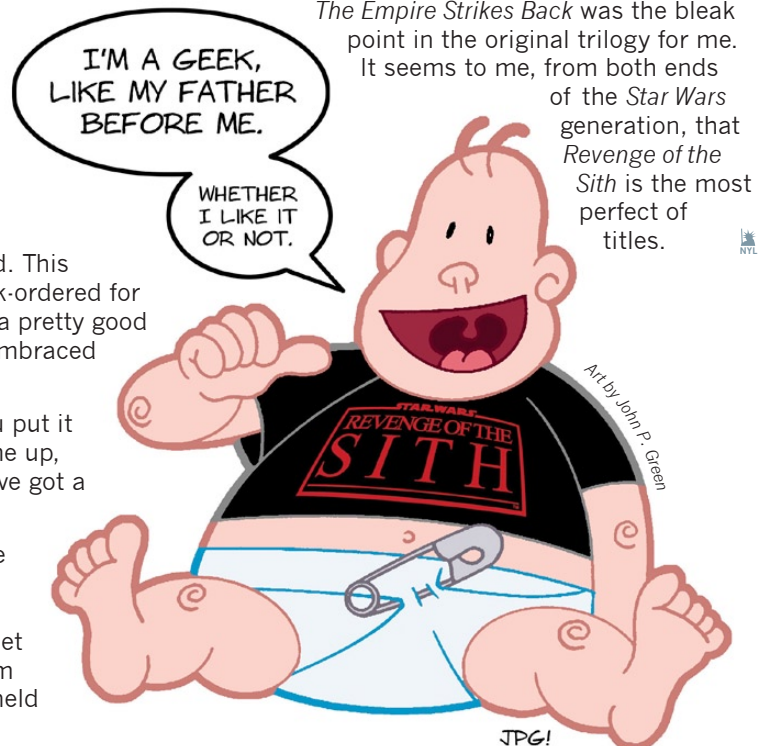
“You’re not going to drag me down to that sidewalk line-up, are you?”

“Maybe I will.”

“Well... just make sure it’s a day when that dog puppet isn’t there. He’s brutal.”

He fell back to sleep as I thought of him popping in the DVDs himself one day, watching the films in episodic order, seeing them in a way I wish I could have. *Episode III* will be right in the middle then, the dark climax before a new hope arrives, just as *The Empire Strikes Back* was the bleak point in the original trilogy for me.

It seems to me, from both ends of the *Star Wars* generation, that *Revenge of the Sith* is the most perfect of titles.



Visual Scanning

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reported to end where the opening crawl of *Episode III* begins, which may be an issue for those among us who are trying to stay spoiler-free – but that's a debate for another time.

Toy Night

(April 2, 2005)

And speaking of spoilers, Toy Night is where the real challenge begins. Who can forget innocently picking up a copy of the *Episode I* soundtrack CD, only to see the track listing and the title "Qui Gon's Funeral"? Or picking up the Count Dooku action figure, when the name on the package was Darth Tyrannus? Honestly, though, is that enough of a reason to miss the excitement of Toy Night? Anybody who was at F.A.O. Schwarz on May 3, 1999, or at the Times Square Toys 'R' Us on April 23, 2002, will let out a resounding "NO!" This is the night where stores open at midnight to the glut of toys, books, CDs, board games, trading cards and video games, pumping up the frenzy over the movie's opening. With 47 days of toys and books floating around before the movie actually opens, though, avoiding spoilers may be more difficult than the Jedi Trials.

Episode III Music Video

(April 2005)

Even if you didn't pick up the soundtracks to the first two prequels on the dates they were released, if you were watching MTV that day, you got a chance to hear John Williams' themes from the new films. Both *Duel of the Fates* and *Across the Stars* premiered as videos incorporating shots from the trailers with behind-the-scenes footage. If the release follows the pattern established by Episodes I and II, the premiere of the music video will be the final event before...

NYLine III

(April 30 – May 19, 2005)

The Line Starts Here...

STAR WARS
EPISODE III
REVENGE OF THE SITH

April 30, 2005–May 19, 2005
New York, NY

Statue of Liberty icon and NYLine logo.

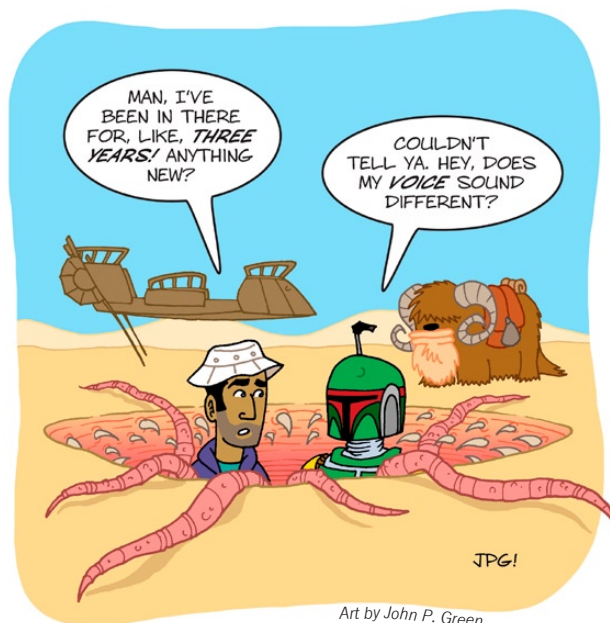
Ya gotta amit...

By Amit Saxena

It's beginning to look a lot like *Star Wars*. Everywhere I go. Not since *Pi* have I so looked forward to a movie with the number 3 in the title, and I think it's beginning to show. With the recent title announcement, and the DVDs on the horizon, things are beginning to heat up like a superlaser after some guys

on a Death Star have pulled some levers and pushed some buttons. Of course these flicks will always be with us, but as we crawl out of the metaphorical Sarlaac pit of no news and hype over the past two years, and in to the metaphorical twin sunlight of, yes, news and hype, I realize that perhaps I should have brought along some metaphorical SPF 1138. At least I should have a floppy hat or something to protect my head, because it's getting to the point that when I look around the room, everything becomes something out of that *Galaxy Far, Far Away*. I see my spherical webcam as a Sith probe droid, telling Darth Maul that I'm quietly sitting in front of my computer eating a Hot Pocket. That curvy hourglass lamp turns into some shapely alien female that fanboys probably shouldn't be so excited about. This action figure looks like Mace Windu.

But I can keep thoughts like that locked up in my homestead, and unless I do something idiotic like write about it in some column, nobody will ever know. The problem I'm having is that this is starting to follow me into the real world. And by "Real World," I'm not talking about the reality show I've played out in my head a few times in which seven strangers from the central systems and outer rim territories alike are picked to live in an apartment on Coruscant to find out what happens when they stop being polite and start getting real. No, I'm referring to my issues with the fact that I stop and stare at dumpsters that remind me of Jawa sandcrawlers and wonder what kind of deals I can get from the cat sleeping inside. I'm alluding to the difficulties I've run into because my wet shoe prints look like the Millennium Falcon and/or Zam Wessel's targeting grid, which have led me to disintegrate unsuspecting



Art by John P. Green

pedestrians with my Blastech DL-44 heavy blaster, or as other people call it, my "finger."

I must acknowledge that much of my self assessment and doubt is due to the fact that I have recently spent some time working on a psychiatric ward of a local hospital, and I often wondered which side of the table I belonged on. Some of these patients seemed much more normal than me. On one occasion, I was sitting in an office when I swore that I heard Princess Leia's theme. My first reaction was to shake my head, tap my helmet and figure I was simply hearing things again. However, I noted that such excellent sound design and foley effects do not usually accompany my hallucinations. To my amazement when I entered the day area, indeed some people were watching *Star Wars* on television. Of course I continued my work right there, but upon finishing I picked my head up from the papers to find that everyone else had vacated the area. After my initial shock, I took comfort in knowing that these patients were in fact more impaired than I, given that they could not appreciate fine cinema as I could. Later, I found out that they left because they were weirded out by the Nien Nunb costume I was wearing, but I think that's beside the point.