



MARCH 2005 • ISSUE 7
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The New York Clone

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

TODAY

Sunset
4:15, 8:37

Weather
Dark, expect lava.

NYLine **E** **3**

IN THIS ISSUE

NYLine Events

PAGE 1

Here We Go Again...

PAGE 2

Priority Seating

PAGE 2

NYLine... from a certain point of view
FROM CASUAL FAN TO
FANATIC AFTER ONLY 12
HOURS ON 54TH STREET!

PAGE 5

I Walk the Line

I AIN'T IN THIS FOR YOUR
CHARITY, PRINCESS – I'M IN
IT FOR THE TICKETS...

PAGE 6

You Gotta Amit...

JOSEPH CAMPBELL
AND THE
WIND BENEATH
OUR X-WINGS

PAGE 7

Stay current on
the NYLineup for
Episode III in
New York City!

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and information on
how to line up!

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Hello...What have we here?

It's A Date! NYLine Events You Won't Want to Miss

Nineteen days can be a very long time, especially when the end of that 19th day involves the premiere of a new "Star Wars" movie. But what's the cliché? Something about time flying when fun's involved? Come May, the temporal dimension outside the Ziegfeld is going to be roaring through hyperspace. Thanks to

the early agreement NYLine reached with Clearview Cinemas, we've been able to do something that was not possible for the first two installments of NYLine – we've scheduled an event or activity for every one of the 79 shifts between April 30 and May 18!

Some of these events, such as the viewing of the "Star Wars Holiday Special" (Shift 61), have become NYLine traditions. Others, such as Beggar's Canyon (starting with Shift 7) are new events designed to help reinforce the link between the NYLine and our charity, the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation. Still others, such as the NYLine Jedi Master of Trivia Championship (Shift 75), are just for fun and exciting prizes! But all the events have one thing in common – each is a chance to make new friends and create enduring memories of this last-of-its-kind celebration.

Help kick off NYLine in style with **The Outlander Club Party** (Shift 3). As darkness falls on the first night of the line, our West 54th Street home will be the site of a jammin' get-together where line members can get their groove on and prove that "Star Wars" fans are able to socialize without the presence of a movie screen, a video game console or a set of 20-sided dice. Renowned NYC DJ/Performance Artist SuperGenius (of "Star Wars Breakbeats" fame) will be spinning the music.

One of our biggest events on the Line will be the **Padawan Picnic** (Shift 24), a "Star Wars"-themed street fair, with games and prizes, all aimed at the under-12 set. We'll be entertaining guest children from the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation as well as opening the event to the public. It's sure to be one of our big media days, as families come to enjoy

appears or is spoken in every film? Are you ready for the one chance you'll have to put all that knowledge to the test? The **Jedi Archives Trivia Challenge** (starting in Shift 9) will prove once and for all who is New York City's undisputed Chosen One. Eight qualifying rounds will be held during shifts between May 2 and May 14; the winner and runner-up from each match will be invited to compete for the title in the **Jedi Master of Trivia Championship** (Shift 75). Win this, and not only will you take home exciting prizes, but you'll have the sat-



Photo by Lauren Kent

You say it's your birthday? Let us know in advance, and the cake will be waiting! George Lucas and our own P.R. Princess Suzanne Sousa are just two of the people whose Life Days will be celebrated on the line.

a bit of "Star Wars" fun for all ages. There will be "Star Wars" drawing classes for children, taught by "Star Wars" comic book artists, and storytelling, a costume contest for kids and lots of chances for the little ones to "Use the Force."

Do all your friends run away when you break out the "Star Wars" Trivial Pursuit? Can you recount the circumstances under which the number 1138

isfaction of knowing that only George Lucas himself has a greater familiarity with the saga than you do!

You know you want to be on the line as much as possible, but the second Sunday is Mother's Day, so you have to see Mom. Well, here's your chance to do both! Bring your Mom to NYLine for **Tea with Shmi** (Shift 29). We'll be welcoming all the "Star Wars" moms for

(Continued on page 3)

Here We Go Again...

What Know You of Ready? Registration for NYLine III Coming Soon

By Ryan McKenna

OK, gang...lock S-foils in attack position.

Life's gonna move pretty quickly in the coming days and if you want in at midnight, *do not*, I repeat, *not stop* to pick up your visual scanning. In this case, if you do you *will* miss it! Registration will soon open for what promises to be the biggest "Star Wars" event of the year not in Indianapolis

or Coruscant. You've seen the trailers, avoided the spoilers and your patience will be rewarded when Episode III launches onto the Ziegfeld's behemoth screen-of-paradise on May 19.

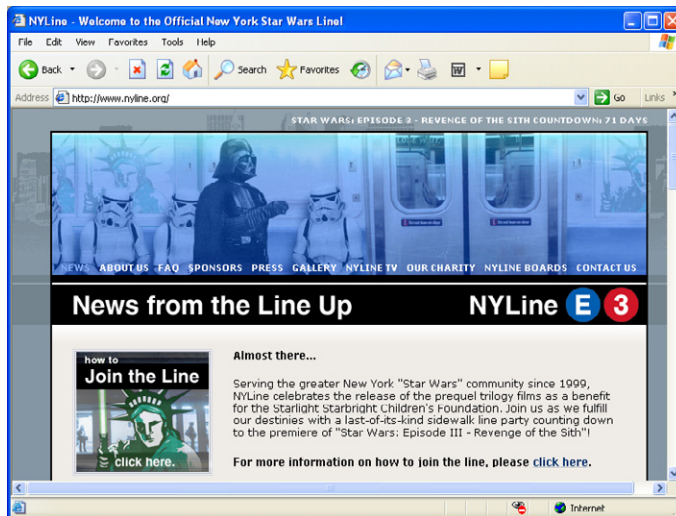
First things first, you have to register as a member of NYLine. When registration opens, you can sign up at www.nyline.org for a one-time fee of \$15. This covers your ticket cost for the premiere and gets you started on the road to Sithville. After that, it's off to 54th Street with you for the April 30 kick-off of NYLine III! The premiere will be special, but it's the new friends and memories that will make the 19 days leading up to "Revenge of the Sith" a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

The staff at NYLine has come up with a democratic way to make sure that efforts are rewarded when the Ziegfeld doors open. You must earn a *minimum* of 60 points to guarantee your place in the theater. It should also be noted, for members who are traveling from outside the tri-state area and those coming in from abroad, the minimum point requirement will be adjusted according to the distance traveled to participate.

The line schedule has been broken down into shifts, which have different point values based on how difficult it will be to fill them. Saturday afternoon? Five points. Weeknight from 1 a.m. to 8 a.m.? 30 points. Earn enough points and you earn your seat. Sounds simple, right? Well.... It really is. You can see the schedule and the point table at

www.nyline.org/line_schedule.asp.

Use it to plot your game plan, see which events you want to attend, coordinate with your friends and maximize the amount of fun time on 54th Street.



The line really starts here – not at the Ziegfeld! Registration for NYLine III will begin on www.nyline.org in just a few days!

In addition, NYLine members are strongly encouraged to use their time on the line to raise money and awareness for the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation by participating in the Stand-A-Thon. Using the [pledge form](#), try to get friends, family and co-workers to sponsor you for every hour you spend at the line. The money raised will go to the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation [Fun Center Program](#), and the top fund-raisers will receive a commemorative t-shirt designed and printed exclusively for Stand-A-Thon Participants. This is a chance for us to use our geek powers for a common good!

If this will be your first time on the line, please keep in mind what you are preparing to do in the coming weeks. It is not for the faint of heart and will test you to your very core – especially if you are there for a rainy overnight or the ritual showing of the Star Wars Holiday Special. But don't take my word on this – for "Attack of the Clones" I was a mere contest winner who earned his ticket with a minimal amount of effort. But I learned my lesson in 2002 – it is best to not leave anything to chance.

(Continued on page 4)

Priority Seating

Shift Points, Starlight Money Determine Priority Seating for Episode III Premiere

By Steve Lorenzo

NYLine participants who earn their 60 shift points are guaranteed a ticket for the opening-night screening of "Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith." Where you sit once you're inside the Ziegfeld Theatre depends on two figures – the number of shift points you earn during the line, and the money you raise

for the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation.

As in 2002, we will be let into the Ziegfeld at least 90 minutes prior to the general public. Between 7 and 9 p.m. on May 18, you will be lined up outside the theater based on your cumulative point total, which will be calculated by adding your total number of shift points to the number of dollars you raised for Starlight Starbright during the Stand-A-Thon – one point for each dollar turned in to NYLine by 9 p.m. Tuesday, May

17. The top point earner will head the line, with everybody else lined up in descending point order. This is how you will enter the Ziegfeld to select your seat for the premiere – the NYLine members with the highest totals will get the best seats in the house.

International members will automatically be awarded the 60 points necessary to earn their tickets, and people coming from outside the tri-state area will also receive a boost – 5 points for those coming from other

(Continued on page 4)

NYLine Events

(Continued from page 1)

afternoon tea and holding a Mother's Day contest specifically for those who attend. Entrants will recount their favorite "Star Wars" Mom memories to the group. Tell us about the time your mom took you to the drive-in 1983 so you could view "Return of the Jedi" from the back of the station wagon. Or the time she brought home that impossible-to-find action figure, just because she'd seen it at the store, and it wasn't even close to Christmas. Line members will vote on the #1 "Star Wars" Mom, who'll be treated to a prize that would make even a moisture farmer's wife feel like the Queen of Naboo.

Need a boost to move yourself closer to the front of the line on opening night? As a way of generating donations for the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation, NYLine will be turning 54th Street into our own **Beggar's Canyon**. Starting with Shift 7, we will set a fund-raising goal for each installment of Beggar's Canyon. If line members raise enough money on 54th Street during the shift to meet the goal, everybody signed in for that shift will earn a three-point bump for their shift point total.

During NYLine, each shift will be filled with people who are veterans of at least one line, and others who are experiencing the line phenomenon for the very first time. In a way, it's a bit like one of those reality shows, where people are stranded on an island and forced to create a new society. Just as these shows have "confessionals," starting with Shift 2 and continuing throughout the first week of the line, we will offer the **NYLine Video Diary**, in which all participants are invited to share a few facts about themselves and answer some random questions about their love of "Star Wars." People's responses will be edited together, and the final product will be a part of the **NYLine TV Showcase** during Shift 26.

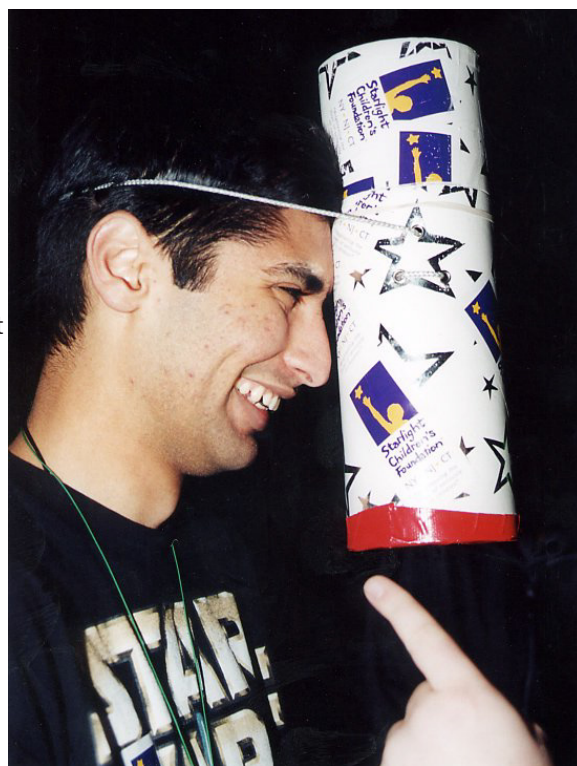
After his chores were done, Luke Skywalker would waste time with his idle friends at **Tosche Station** (starting Shift 8). Now you'll have the chance to do the same. This is a shift for playing board or video games, or reading comic books from our magazine rack. Or you can break out your Trading Card Game deck (if you have one) and

see how it stacks up against the competition – as long as your cards are Episode III spoiler-free. Or, of course, you can always talk about "Star Wars."

Remember waking up on the weekend to a new installment of "Star Wars" in the newspaper's color comics? Or jumping out of bed and running downstairs to watch animated adventures of R2-D2 and Wicket? Relive those memories by showing up for the **Sunday "Star Wars" Funnies** (Shifts 28 and 63) and the **Saturday Morning "Star Wars" Cartoons** (Shift 58). We'll be cuddled up under blankets, watching everything from the new Cartoon Network "Clone Wars" episodes, to kitschy vintage favorites like old episodes of "the Muppet Show" and "Donny and Marie" with our favorite "Star Wars" guests. And of course, the "Ewoks" and "Droids" cartoons will rear their '80s heads in measured doses. So, have a big bowl of "Star Wars: Episode III" cereal and hope it makes the milk turn blue!

After sleeping in on the sidewalk, join us for a relaxing and most cosmopolitan of events, the **Nubian Brunch** (Shift 64). We'll wake up late, and after the kiddies are done watching their cartoons, we'll enjoy a leisurely brunch al fresco. We can't guarantee you'll be able to float pears across the table to each other, as that would make Master Obi-Wan very grumpy. But bagels and cream cheese and the Sunday papers will most certainly make an appearance, along with a good cup of coffee. Linger over them and wile away the afternoon in front of the Ziegfeld.

It's early morning on West 54th Street. You crawl out of your tauntaun carcass after a cold night, to meet the urban day. New York's right there to meet you back. **Scum & Villainy Bingo** (Starting Shift 33) makes a mellow morning activity of watching the ceaseless parade of Midtown Manhattanites march past the line. Much like travel bingo, our prepared cards will feature an array of relatively common



Amit Saxena demonstrates one way to stop pedestrian traffic and earn money for the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation when 54th Street turns into Beggar's Canyon

Photo by Lauren Kent

NYC flora, fauna, scum and villainy for you to spot and call. The first person to find five in a row horizontally, vertically or diagonally on their card wins the round. It's a nice way to start the morning from your folding chair, sipping some coffee and enjoying a "Lava Berry Explosion" Pop Tart.

Many high schools have a tradition in which students sign each other's yearbooks so they'll have a lasting memory of their final days before graduation. That will be the spirit of the **Yearbook Shift** (78) – a celebration of the final moments of NYLine before we break camp and head into the Ziegfeld for the last time as an organization. This will provide a chance for you to swap email addresses and phone numbers with the friends you've made over the past three weeks before the opening night madness begins.

Nobody really knows (or is able to remember) the full story of what went on during P.R. Princess Suzanne Sousa's birthday celebration during the first NYLine in 1999, but all you need to do is mention the phrase "Shift 29," during which the party was held, and anybody who was there will start giggling. Once again, we'll be celebrating **Suzanne's birthday** (Shift 31); maybe this time we'll finally piece together the full story of what happened all those years ago. Every

(Continued on page 4)

NYLine Events

(Continued from page 3)

birthday that occurs during NYLine is a reason to celebrate on the line, so if yours falls between April 30 and May 18, be sure to let us know!

After honing your skills playing favorite Star Wars Board games on the Line during other shifts, you'll be ready for **Watto's Chance Cube Board Game Tournament** (Shift 40). We'll be playing various "Star Wars" board games in simultaneous tournaments. New versions of "Star Wars" Trivial Pursuit (now in DVD variety) and "Star Wars" Monopoly will be played alongside "Star Wars" Risk as well as old favorites like "Star Wars" Stratego and Epic Duels (a big hit from the AOTC line). This is your opportunity to finally play those games that have sat unopened in your closet, because you've never found anyone else who's willing, and possibly take home a prize for doing it.

The Final Saturday night of the line has emerged as the traditional time when we get together to watch our rapidly decaying tape of the infamous 1978 **"Star Wars" Holiday Special** (Shift 61). And like all beloved family traditions, it's turned into something that's painful and fundamentally embarrassing a lot of the time, but that one wouldn't miss for the world. This must-attend shift is always one of the most memorable of the entire line. This year it's bound to be extra-special since it falls on **George Lucas' birthday** (celebrated during Shift 60). Think it isn't as bad as everybody says it is? Prepare to be dumbfounded. Aside from a cartoon that marks the first appearance of everybody's favorite armored bounty hunter, the program will leave you shaking your head and wondering what the executives at CBS-TV could have possibly been thinking. Or smoking.

Always in motion the future is, so these and other scheduled events are subject to change. For the latest updates, and to ask questions about all announced events, be sure to check our message boards at www.nylineboards.org. The complete list of shifts, with links to descriptions of all the events, can be found at www.nyline.org. 🌟

Here We Go Again...

(Continued from page 2)

So there you have it... what you need to ready yourself for registration, NYLine and Episode III. If you thinking about taking part but still on the fence, keep this in mind: George Lucas has stated on many occasions that this indeed will be the final "Star Wars" film to be released on the big screen. Re-releases and special editions are sure to appear, but this is your last chance to live the excitement of a true "Star Wars" premiere. If you find yourself in a multiplex 20 years from now for "Revenge of the Sith: Special Edition," what memories do you want to be able to share with your friends and family about its original opening night?

Mind what you have learned. Save you it can. 🌟

Priority Seating

(Continued from page 2)

locations within the Eastern time zone, 10 points for Central, 15 points for Mountain and 20 points for Pacific. If you are an outlander and let us know in advance, your Starlight Starbright donations will count toward priority seating as long as you turn them in by 5 p.m. on May 18.

NYLine members may also increase their final point total by donating a high-end "Star Wars" collectable to the online auction benefiting Starlight Starbright. If you have an unusual or rare item valued in the \$150 to \$200 range that you'd like to donate, please email donate@nyline.org by March 20. If your item is chosen for the auction, the dollar amount of the winning bid will be added to your final point total, which could be enough to bump you to the front of the line!

In another NYLine first, we will be holding special fund-raising shifts during the line itself, identified as "Beggar's Canyon" on the shift schedule. During each Beggar's Canyon shift, a fund-raising goal will be set; if line members raise enough money on 54th Street during the shift to meet the goal, everybody signed in for

that shift will earn a three-point boost for their shift point total. While three points may not seem like a lot, it may be enough to break ties, especially for members whose ability to raise funds or spend time on the line is limited.

The best way to ensure a spot at the front of the line is download some Stand-A-Thon sponsor forms, raise an astronomical amount of money for the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation and plan to spend as much time with us on 54th Street as your schedule allows. With as many as 350 participants expected for this final installment of NYLine, the competition is bound to be fierce! 🌟



You don't need a platoon of stormtroopers to be first in line at the Ziegfeld – just spend plenty of time on 54th Street and earn lots of money for the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation!

Photo by Vince Hardy

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Editor

STEVE LORENZO

Columns

AMIT SAXENA
JEDI ROB
RYAN MCKENNA

Art

JOHN P. GREEN

Photography

LAUREN KENT
VINCE HARDY

Layout

DAVE CREIGHTON

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

NYLine... from a certain point of view

From Casual Fan to Fanatic After Only 12 Hours on 54th Street!

By Ryan McKenna

"Hey, that's a funky looking hat that girl is wearing."

"Where?"

"Over there. It kinda looks like Twi'lek's head. Wait a sec, it *is* a Twi'lek's head!"

"No way! She has her own costume? I bet nobody else thought of making their own costume for this, right?"

Boy, were we naïve! That exchange, which I had with my friend Ken Morris, happened as we rounded the corner onto 54th Street and were introduced to the wild, wild world that is NYLine. On May 12, 2002, I entered a contest on UGO.com for two tickets to the midnight premiere of "Attack of The Clones" at the Ziegfeld Theatre. Two days later I got a response in my email saying I had won.

I had no idea, none whatsoever, of what I might experience during the 12 hours I was going to spend on 54th Street.

Basically, I am your typical "Star Wars" fan. I know the lines, I always plunked down the \$25-45 bucks for any kind of VHS/DVD release of the trilogy, I attended the premiere for each of the Special Editions, and, starting with "Return of the Jedi," I tried to see the new films on opening night at midnight.

I own no costumes, nor do I have a website dedicated to my favorite character (Wedge, in my case). I do form opinions about the movies, both positive (Han's laser-facial to TK-My-Face-Is-Burned-Off on Endor) and negative (midichlorians) and absolutely love having debates with people who share different views. My point is, until I walked down 54th Street on May 15, 2002, I thought I was a hardcore fan.

You guys killed all that noise real quick.

"Wait, that guy looks just like Qui-Gon, right?"

"That dude is dressed as that guy that has the death sentence on twelve systems!"

"These guys are *old school* hardcore!"

"There's an actual regiment of people who go around dressed up as Imperial

Stormtroopers and Officers?"

"The five-oh-*what*?"

My good friend Ken, who accompanied me on the trek (bad choice of words, I know), agreed with my take.

"I never even knew that it was possible to like Star Wars *that* much," Ken said. "They have absolutely shown me a whole new level of devotion. My personal favorite was the guy that was dressed as Count Dooku, he took it up a notch."

The level of excitement that the people on the line have for the saga is what strikes most outsiders the first time they are part of this kind of experience.

"It was a lot of fun to see how excited the hardcore fans get and to see, first hand, how they kept the line lively outside," Ken said. "Even once we were inside, they were still every bit as excited. That sort of thing is contagious."

I agree. What is more is the way that you view yourselves. Without a doubt, seeing you guys take Triumph's bashing and laugh off Spock and that Dragon Master guy dispelled the notion that "Star Wars" fans take themselves too seriously. It was very refreshing to see.

What was just as impressive was seeing the unfaltering devotion you have for helping out the Starlight Children's Foundation. "Star Wars" will have its own legacy but you have guaranteed that NYLine will have one as well because of what you have done (and continue to do) for Starlight. The fruits of your labor will remain long after the final credits roll on May 19th.

It should also be noted that in the two-plus years since "Attack of the Clones," Ken has purchased four Master Replica lightsabers and numerous t-shirts, and he is going through the delicate

process of deciding exactly which kind of trooper he wants to be when he applies to join the 501st.

Me? I picked up "Vector Prime" and polished off the New Jedi Order series, purchased my first lightsaber since I was eight and gave stormtrooper key chains to all of my groomsmen (Vader for me, because I was the groom). I've joined a number of discussion boards, (trying my best to remain spoiler-free) and I even got my wife to say "May the force be with you." Once. Baby steps to be sure.

Ken and I were just two outsiders who were lucky enough to be a part of what you have put together in 2002. So here it is, three years later. As soon as the calendar turned to '05, I immediately began thinking of ways I could help out and be a part of the Episode III celebration in New York City. That is what NYLine has done. And that's only me. How many others have you inspired along the way?

It's not just the staff that's an inspiration; it's everyone who's spent time on the line creating memories, friendships and, for me, the idea that something positive can be made out of anything. It's the ingenuity and creativity of a dedicated group of people who don't mind it when they get crooked looks by New York City socialites. Plus, c'mon... just knowing you guys sit through the Holiday Special *on purpose* shows it's a unique group that is not afraid of a little sacrifice in the name of the Force.

I want to be a part of that! 🌟



After a week or so in front of the Ziegfeld, appearances by Twi'lek Jedi, Sith Lords and even gonk droids become as much a part of the daily routine as the 6 a.m. appearance of the bagel cart.

I Walk The Line

I Ain't In This For Your Charity, Princess – I'm In It For The Tickets...

By JediRob

I couldn't care less about charities. It's true. I'm not just being mean; I'm being honest. I don't have anything against them; I appreciate what they do, but never really motivated myself to do anything to further any charitable causes. When the 1999 NYLine for Episode I started, I showed up those first few days, and between the Stormtrooper sightings and lightsaber battles, people would mention a charity. I thought it was the line's way of gaining

some legitimacy, which is something I've never really needed. Then and now, I don't make excuses for what I do, but I did understand the why others do. Still, I had no intention of hawking for any charity. I was in it for one reason, and that was to get me some "Star Wars" tickets.


I ended up spending quite a bit of time on the line, much more than required. And when you spend that much time sitting on the streets of New York, people are bound to come along and poke their nose into what you're doing. So from sitting there watching the others, I started to pick up the spiel: NYLine was a group of "Star Wars" fans who came together to organize a "Stand-A-Thon" to raise money for the Starlight Children's Foundation. I'd toss out this prepared statement just to keep people moving along, and sometimes they'd toss a buck into our bucket.

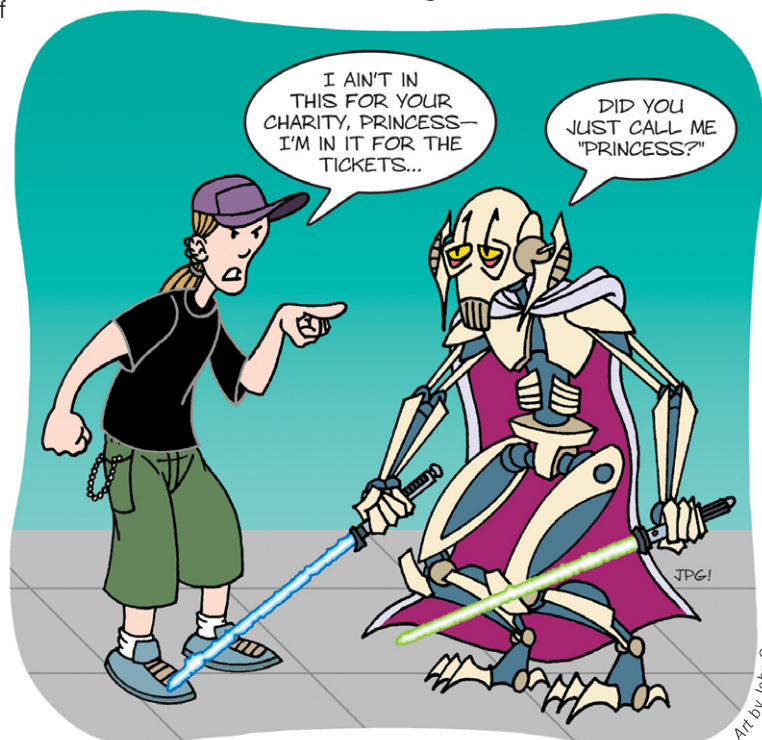
When the overnight shifts started it was pretty rough. There wasn't much interest in spending cold overnights outside the Ziegfeld a couple weeks before the film's premiere. I had nothing better to do, so I was there 'round the clock, and those late night shifts got fairly lonely. The one or two others on the shift would usually hit the sack relatively early. Many a night was spent pacing up and down the sidewalk, my yo-yo in one hand and a lightsaber in the other, trying to stay awake and keeping an eye on our campsite. It was one of these first nights that a couple came by. They were an older couple, well dressed, most likely coming back from a show up the block. Smiling and laughing, they strolled down the street. She was holding his arm, and as they reached me, she tugged him a little to get him to look over. They stopped and began questioning me, and I looked around and realized there was no

one to step up if I deflected the line of questioning. So I gave them the prepared statement. They were both fascinated. The woman was familiar with Starlight and the man was a bit of a "Star Wars" fan. The three of us bounced between the two topics and as the conversation drew to a close I tossed my lightsaber in the corner and picked up the donation box. Without missing a beat, the man reached in his wallet, pulled out a \$100 bill, dropped it in and walked away.

I had just made a hundred bucks. A hundred bucks that would be put towards something...good, from just the slightest effort, not really an effort at all, just from talking to some nice people. As the line progressed, I became more and more outgoing with the passersby. And three years later, when the line for Episode II rolled around, I was fully ready for them. I was armed with different points I would play up for different types of people, making sure I was never pushy. I just kept remembering all the times people shoved some cause in my face, and the contempt I would feel towards them. So I treated the people with the respect I would want myself. Why was I doing all this? What was the point? What was I getting out of it? Nothing, really.

I wasn't in the running for some prize. No recognition, no thanks – nothing other than some kind of feeling that I'd heard someone mention on TV or something... selflessness? I was hitting up my friends and family, my co-workers, anyone I could to drum up some money for the Starlight Children's Foundation.

Three more years have passed, and when I tell people about what I'm doing these days, I tell them about Starlight. I talk about our upcoming fundraiser, and then I'll mention the "Star Wars" connection, or...sometimes I may even forget to mention the movie at all. How did that happen? Is this what Han felt like when he decided to volunteer for that mission down on Endor? I'm not really sure, but it does feel natural. So I'm going to make sure to do everything in my power to up the dollar amount on that giant check we hand Starlight on opening night. And you know what? When the crawl begins to roll on Episode III, and the NYLine experience comes to an end, I'm actually going to miss harassing people on the street to get some really cool toys for sick kids. But I still couldn't care less about charities. Right? 



Art by John Green

Ya gotta amit...

Joseph Campbell and the Wind Beneath Our X-Wings

By Amit Saxena

Did you ever know that you're my hero? That's right, I'm talking to you, Joe or Jocasta Line Member – you are everything that I want to be. The reason for that is you are the one who, as Joseph Campbell said, is about to “set forth from your commonday hut or castle, lured, carried away, or else voluntarily

proceeding, to the threshold of adventure.” And for that you should be commended.

Now I cannot say with 157 percent validity that Professor Campbell was using a 19-day campout in anticipation of a major motion picture as a source when he composed his works. But he pretty well nailed the NYLine adventure when he said, “Beyond the threshold, then, you will journey through a world of unfamiliar yet strangely intimate forces, some of which will severely threaten you, some of which give magical aid. And when you arrive at the nadir of the mythological round, you will undergo a supreme ordeal and gain your reward.”

So brace yourselves, for you have just taken your first step into a larger world.

On April 30, it will be time to step out of your innocent world, pack your things, and say a teary goodbye to your mother, as you accept the call to adventure. You can't stop the change, and there's not much of a greater change then moving from your cozy bed to the cold, hard concrete along 54th Street. But once you arrive, you will not be alone, and can look forward to some supernatural aid from the likes of a wise old man, such as myself. And I'm sure you'll find some symbolic talisman that will give you strength, perhaps a lightsaber, plastic or otherwise. I found in 1999 that ancient weapons and hokey religions were no match for a Yomega Yo-Yo at my side, but that's a story for a different day.

Finally you will be ready to enter the void, joining forces with your fellow

line members, and making your way past the threshold guardians (staff members checking your ID and making sure we've received your payment and waiver). At that point, it will be time to find your way into the belly of the whale, where you will be transitioning between worlds and selves. This experience is often symbolized by something dark, unknown and frightening. In our case, the whale is a big sleeping bag


But the truest trials will be the ones that can get you the most credit and reward – trivia contests big and small, epic duels of...Epic Duels, and melodic quizzes of your soundtrack knowledge.

Some trials will not be so threatening, such as quiet nights watching movies, eating cereal with your Saturday Morning “Star Wars” cartoons and raising skiff loads of money for the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation. Your nadir and symbolic death will occur with the much-anticipated Holiday Special viewing.

Having learned about yourself throughout your adventures, the rest will be easy as you approach the ultimate boon – the midnight premiere of “Revenge of the Sith.” Every previous step will have prepared you for this moment, and we'll confer on you the level of someone who is ready for this movie.

As the Ziegfeld's velvet curtain falls on May 19, it will be time to return to your original world. Refusal is often the first reaction, for who would want to go back home after experiencing all this magic? Hours go by as the movie is discussed and dissected outside the theater. But the key is to bring that newfound knowledge and wisdom

back with you to your world, and find a way to bridge both levels, walking the line every time you can to join us for repeat viewings of “Episode III” throughout the summer.

Your journey will now be complete, and the saga will be written in stone and composed into opera. Your face will adorn the walls of young children's bedrooms. Pictures of you will be posted on our website. It's going to be pretty wizard... Just remember to thank Mom for letting you go out and do all this stuff in the first place. 



Art by John Green

used to hide from the tauntaun-tipping cold during your first overnight, from which you will emerge the following morning as a changed person.

After finding your true self, the trials begin as your new path is placed before you. Brother-battles with fellow line members as you argue the weapons range of the Millennium Falcon, meeting the goddess as you notice that fine “Star Wars” chick or dude, and battling the dragon as we put you in a little room with a big Rancor (read the line rules carefully).