

Television shows already on Web



of tiny little video clips from some of the favorite episodes.

You'll have to squint. The video plays in an inch by inch window, but contains almost all of the classic scenes from recent episodes.

The site is filled with trivia from the show, including an interactive quiz about silly moments from past shows or bizarre relationships between characters. But where most of the action is these days is on the "Say it isn't So!" section that details the latest news about the final episode and what may or may not happen to the stars.

Also found here is bogus synopses of the yet-to-be-filmed final episode called "The End." While the online script is not bad and indeed did fool a lot of Seinfeld fans for a couple weeks, it is, insist show producers a fake.

Think this is a bit much? You haven't seen anything yet. There's a whole web ring (<http://www.seinfeldest.com/ring/ring.html>) of related sites devoted to the sitcom. At last count, there were links to no less than 49 other sites. Among some of the more unusual:

■ A fan's online "Shrine to Seinfeld" (<http://www.geocities.com/TelevisionCity/Se/18747/>), proving that some people really do need to get a life.

■ Episode guides (<http://www.auburn.edu/~hollas/seinfeld.html>) that synopses every single show.

Jerry's sayings (<http://www.seinfeldest.com/temp/sos.html>), offering Seinfeld-isms that have crept into our vocabulary, like "Not that there's anything wrong with that," or "Get out!" and "Yama hama."

■ A collection of Kramer Sounds (<http://www.angelfire.com/ny/bliney/kramer.html>), devoted to the clumsy neighbor's best one-liners.

But the vast array of Seinfeld sites are just only a part of these fun pages set up on the Internet.

There are even more sites devoted to The X-Files. My count with the Alta Vista search engine returned almost 300 sites devoted to that show of the bizarre. There were X-Files pages from Japan, Chile, all over Europe, South America and Australia. Try Fox's site (<http://www.fox.com/x-files.com/>) for the official line — just do a search on "X-Files" using any popular web browser.

Another show with an amazing cult following



PCMike: <http://www.seinfeldest.com> is just one of the Seinfeld sites.

on the Internet is Mystery Science Theatre 3000, or MST 3K as it's referred to on the Net. This wacky take off of bad science fiction flicks airs on the Sci-Fi Channel on cable and has over 200 sites. The official site can be found at <http://mst3k.com/mst3k000/>.

The multimedia capabilities of the Web are also heavily utilized by these TV sites. My favorite online source for audio files and sound clips is called The Sound Archive (<http://www.betabase.com/sound/>).

And if you want to capture your own sounds, there's a Web site (<http://www.dancepub.com/x-files/howto.htm>) that shows you how to do that, too.

Here are some of the more specialized and unusual. Sites devoted to television shows.

■ Cop TV Shows from the Mining Company (<http://www.copstvmining.com/>). And you thought COPS was all there was? This site chronicles dozens of them, offers mailing lists and online bulletin boards and an e-zine.

■ LinxNet television Index (<http://www.linxnet.com/tv.html>). Where! This is the most extensive program guide you'll find, linking you to detailed information about almost every program out there, as well as news about ratings, pilots and schedule changes.

■ TV Game Shows of the World (<http://www.dcs.qmw.ac.uk/~childgey/Humour/GameShows.html>). This is a British site that describes mythical game show offerings from other countries and manages to spoof all game shows everywhere.

■ Freshwater Fishing Shows (<http://fishing.miningco.com/library/weekly/ao060997.htm>). I had to include this because, well, I had absolutely no idea that there are currently more than a dozen shows devoted to... fishing. My favorite name? "Go Fish," which airs in Georgia.

There was a survey that came out in this week's edition of Advertising Age magazine that measured the dramatic effect the Internet was having on television viewing. Nearly 22 percent of the 100,000 Web users surveyed by investment bank Hambrecht & Quist and ad network LinkExchange said they regularly sacrifice TV for surfing time.

Another survey I read last fall said the average Net surfer cuts their weekly TV viewing by six hours. I wonder how many of them are scrolling through TV sites on the Web.

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has no other retirement plan and who during the preceding year has 100 or fewer employees earning at least \$6000. Employees may elect to defer a specified percentage of their pay to the plan but no more than \$6000 per year.

Employees covered by 401(k) retirement plans at work and barred from also having a deductible IRA can contribute up to \$9500 in this tax deductible plan. The

money can be subtracted from the salary automatically, and put in the plan to grow income tax-deferred, except that, if applicable, Social Security taxes must be fully paid. The employer frequently contributes additional money, which raises the yield even more.

If you are employed by a state or local government public school, or by a tax-exempt religious, charitable, scientific, or educational organization, or are on the civilian staff or faculty of the Uniformed Services of the Health Sciences (Department of Defense), you may be able to arrange for the purchase of a non-forefeitable tax-sheltered annuity.

Another name for such a tax-sheltered annuity is a 403(b) plan.

A 403(b) plan may be funded in a mutual funds share.

The purchase of the annuity is generally made through a reduction of salary which is used to pay for the contract. The amount of the salary reduction used to buy the contract is not taxable if it comes within specified limits.

Deferral with after-tax dollars

Insurance contracts purchased with after-tax dollars provide an excellent vehicle for after-tax accumulation of earnings as long as these earnings accumulate within the poli-

cy contract. The types of insurance contracts which qualify include single premium deferred annuity, single premium whole life, single premium universal life, and variable annuities.

In general, at the time of withdrawal, that part of the annuity payment which is allocated to the cost of the initial investment is treated as a nontaxable return of principal; when withdrawn, the remaining balance is taxed as ordinary income.

A second choice consists of nondeductible IRAs. These contributions can be made by those taxpayers with earned income who do not qualify for a deduction.

The reason to make nondeductible IRA contributions is that earnings on such deposits, like earnings on deductible deposits, accumulate without being immediately taxed.

Incidentally, unlike deductible IRAs which cannot be withdrawn before age 59-1/2, without penalty, nondeductible IRA deposits (but not the related earnings) can be withdrawn at any time without incurring a tax on principal or tax penalty for early withdrawal.

For this reason, it is a good idea to segregate nondeductible IRAs from their deductible counterparts.

It should be mentioned here that under the new law, taxpayers can non contribute to a Roth IRA with nondeductible dollars up to \$2,000 per person per year. From this account, principal and earnings can be withdrawn tax free, if age 50 1/2 has been attained and the account is at least five years old.

Also, if the money is used to buy a first home or pay college bills, up to \$10,000 may be distributed tax free.

Deposits are limited when income exceeds \$150,000 for couples or \$95,000 for singles.

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