

SITE REVIEWS

visit steamtunnels.net for links to all these sites and more.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Live web casts

Can't make it to the Phish concert in Milwaukee? Your computer is here to help.

By Kathryn Yu and Adam Baldwin

You've exhausted your CD collection, and if you hear one more song by an "artist" still in the throes of puberty you're going to hang yourself from a Backstreet Boys banner. The notion of buying a ticket to a concert entered your mind, but you'd have to hock the watch your grandfather gave you for graduation to pay for it.

With broadband connections becoming common, it's easier to watch live concert performances on your computer. Most video sites offer clips in a streaming format—there is no download time because you watch the video from the site's servers. Quality depends on your Internet connection speed and the amount of traffic on the site.

RealPlayer, Windows Media Player and Apple's Quicktime are the heavy-weight apps for video on the Net. For best results, make sure you have the latest versions of each and a high-speed connection, like DSL, cable or T-1.

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"the home of live music on the Internet," you will find a wide range of musical varieties, highlighted by well-known acts like Bela Fleck, the B-52's, Stone Temple Pilots and Lit. HOB offers

at least one web cast every day; most are pay-per-view.

Check the far right column on the Rollingstone.com home page to access their web cast selection. They just list the upcoming web casts for the week (while HOB lists them a month in advance). The selections on RS vary in popularity and variety, but they're all free.

The music section at mtv.com houses listening parties for new releases and exclusive interviews.

VH1.com, like MTV, offers concerts and full-length streaming audio and video of many artists (check the Sounds+Visions department under VH1.0).

Make sure to visit Real.com's Guide to Live Music Events, a consolidated listing of upcoming video web casts. Also check out About.com's Guide to Streaming Video Networks. Yahoo.com has concert and broadband sections that feature full-length music videos and live concerts, optimized for high-speed connections.

At Launch.com you select genres or specific bands and the site lists upcoming web casts at the top of the screen. Channelfly.com features exclusively pre-recorded web casts—nothing live. (This site specializes in upstart UK bands that few of us have ever heard of.) MuchMusic.com is a Canadian music video network specializes in (what else?) Canadian bands. Ampcast.com boasts live and archived web casts, prominently featured on the home page. •

To see a complete guide to online web casts, go to steamtunnels.net

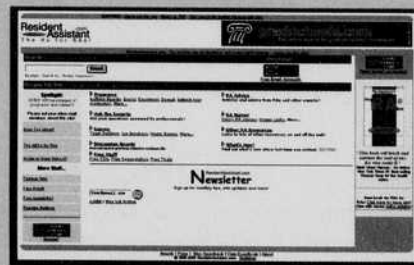


Editor's Pick

COLLEGE LIFE

Resident Assistant
Residentassistant.com

In the cops and robbers world of dormitory life, resident assistants straddle the line between the rebel students and evil-empire administrators. Sometimes they look the other way. Other times they bust you like they're paid on commission. But regardless of how they respond to their students' misanthropy, RAs see everything that goes down on their floors. And residentassistant.com is the best RA information source on the web. From its archive of wacky dormitory stunts to its list of cool awareness-raising floor events, you can steal some great ideas and trade them to your RA for a Get Out of Jail Free card. *JLowenthal*



FREE STUFF

Freepalace
Freepalace.com

Free. Few words evoke as many feelings, passions or Internet traffic as the word Free. The new self-styled Camelot of Free is Freepalace.com. With page categories such as Free Stuff, Free Jokes, Free Pics and links to other freebie sites, it is—as its motto suggests—a place "where everything is free." The concept is great and the design is nice, but unfortunately the site loads very slowly, and many of the links and pages were down or did not load (free often means poorly funded). However, look for these problems to be fixed quickly as traffic and demand for the site increases, and it surely will—after all who could turn down something that is free? *MDougherty*

RANDOM

Black-Ops
Cruzio.com/~blackops

Is the truth out there, and can you handle it? Was JFK shot by his driver? Could your profes-