

INTERNET LIFE

must-see NET TV

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BROADBAND'S GROWING UP FAST, BUT LIKE A TEENAGER, it sometimes behaves in unexpected ways—and it still isn't quite sure what it wants to be when it grows up. But the rapid deployment of cable modems, DSL, and other forms of high-

speed connection means that maturity is coming soon for broadband entertainment. Here's a look at some of the sites offering a version of Net TV, spots vying for your eyeballs today and, more important, tomorrow.

ENTERTAINDOM [entertaindom.com] This giant destination pumps out fat multimedia festivities, including *The God & Devil Show*, which is a Net-only animation series created in the spirit of *South Park*, an episodic Kiss rock opera, and vintage *Looney Tunes* shorts.

MEDIAONTAP [www.mediaontap.com] From Vancouver, B.C., this anything-goes site falls somewhere between public-access vaudeville and a cable news channel. It streams audio and video throughout the day, on topics ranging from world events to sales techniques. Strangest Host Award: Frank Ogden, aka Dr. Tomorrow, a sci-fi minion who uploads his Art Bell-style show from his floating houseboat.

LOADTV [loadtv.com] Lots of video here, and it looks good. Not all of it is original, of course: The site definitely goes for familiarity over discovery. You'll get documentaries about Arnold Schwarzenegger, rap videos from Death Row Records, and promotional tie-ins with high-profile films such as *Gladiator* and *Road Trip*.

CAMERAPLANET.COM [cameraplanet.com] A multichannel site that encourages viewers to submit stories. If the site's producers like yours, they'll help you make a video to stream from the site. With channels catering to interests from extreme sports (Freefall)



to pets (Planet Pets), Camera Planet may appeal to a broad band of viewers.

MEDIUM4.COM [medium4.com] This sprawling site pumps out more than 50 channels of niche programming, from the worldly ForeignTV.com, with veteran international reporter Peter Arnett, to the woofy BarkTV.com, dedicated to all things canine. It might be too much of a supposedly good thing—fewer but higher-quality shows would be a better idea.

CENTERSEAT [centerseat.com] A cable network meets a strip mall meets *You Don't Know Jack*, this site offers a broad array of channels—from sports and music to technology and science to kids and cooking. Take in a kickboxing match, watch the Who perform "My Generation" (as trivia questions on the band buzz by on the bottom of your screen), and pick up aromatherapy candles from the store—all in under 10 minutes.

POP.COM Coming soon, they said. Just you wait, they said. We're still waiting, and we're going to keep waiting, because when it does arrive, POP.com will be big. Ron Howard big. Jeffrey Katzenberg big. Steven Spielberg big. Devoted to short videos, animations, and films, this impending media juggernaut has some of the most important names in entertainment attached to it—not to mention big bucks.