

Website Review

By Kelly Preiser

www.HomestarRunner.com
Entertainment
(Grade: A)

A procrastinator's heaven — this is HomestarRunner.com.

HomestarRunner.com is an interactive Website for anyone who still feels like a kid at heart. With cartoon characters and cartoon-like music to greet the user when the site opens, any fun-loving visitor will be hooked.

HomestarRunner.com features characters that any true procrastinator will spend lots of time getting to know and growing to love. Homestar is the main character and the way he talks will have users giggling like a child.

The site has several links with a broad range of activities including full-length cartoons that are funny and interesting to watch. The animation on the site and of the cartoon graphics are professional looking and run very smoothly. They are also extremely quick; the site user will never have to wait long for it to load.

Another link where visitors will

likely spend most of their time is the link to games. This is where the real time-wasting comes in.

First, there is the game "Marzipan's answering machine." Marzipan is the love interest of Homestar who closely resembles a feather duster. Visitors can listen to the prank calls from other characters and nervous phone calls from Homestar.

A favorite game on HomestarRunner.com is "Dancing Bub." This is much more of an interactive game than the answering machine. There is a silly, monster-looking cartoon man on a black screen and the user can control his movements and make him dance by pressing the buttons on the screen. The user also can pick the place at which he will dance (like a bar versus a graveyard) and what music plays in the background. This game can easily provide hours of laughs and entertainment, as there are thousands of combinations for making Bub move, plus, the movements look very realistic even though Bub is a cartoon.

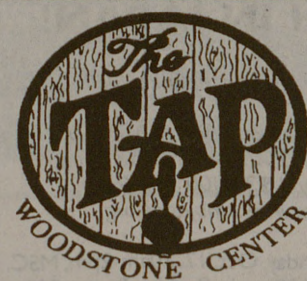
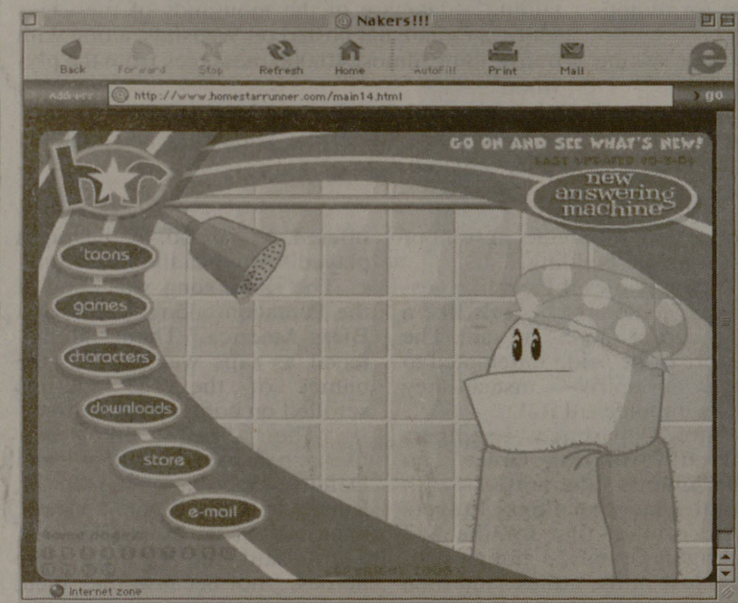
Second to "Dancing Bub" is the game, "Strong Libs." Most students have played around with Mad Libs sometime in their life. This is when there is a paragraph with words missing and someone is asked to fill in the blanks with different parts of speech, like a verb or plural noun or with a person's name, and when the final story is read aloud, it is usually very silly and funny. Well, this is what "Strong Libs" are. Participants are asked for different parts of speech and names of males, females and movie stars and the results are hilarious.

Other games include Homestar Talker where users can make Homestar or other characters say any combination of a given set of words, Spin 'n Say, Hairstyle Runner, Fortune Cookies, Bronco Trolley and audition with Marzipan. All the games are interactive and can keep a person busy for hours.

Beyond the cartoons and games, links on the site include characters, where a visitor can read a biography on each main character and downloads, where users can get things like desktop themes and wallpapers from a download engine that looks extremely similar to the former Napster site. There is also a store where Homestar fans can buy things like T-shirts, stickers or pins and there is a link for users to be added to the HomestarRunner.com mailing list.

Other features that make the HomestarRunner.com Website worth visiting and saving is the fact that users can choose what they want the page to look like while they are visiting the site. There are 12 different themes, each with different graphics and animation.

HomestarRunner.com is extremely entertaining and if students have nothing better to do, or something important to do for that matter, spending hours getting to know this site will be a great way use their time.



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