

ON TV THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, MAY 20

“The National Heads-Up Poker Championship”

Will poker on TV maintain its red-hot pace when people can't gamble online? This well-done Vegas event — with four players bluffing their way to the top spot — should be a good test. (NBC, noon)



◀ **“The Simpsons”** Their season ends with a long-in-the-works “24” parody (featuring Kiefer Sutherland). Unfortunately, “South Park” did a terrific parody just a few weeks ago. D’oh! (Fox, 8 p.m.)

■ **“Desperate Housewives”** Is “DH” fun again? Its third-season finale delivers not one but two weddings, as well as Polly Bergen and the always-welcome Mike Farrell (BJ from “M*A*S*H”) in guest turns. (ABC, 9 p.m.)

■ **“Brothers & Sisters”** It’s just been renewed for a second season, so you don’t have to fear committing to this soapy drama, which improved this season after a rocky start. Afghanistan war veteran Justin (Jason Annable) is called up for another tour of duty in the season finale. (ABC, 10 p.m.)

MONDAY, MAY 21

▶ **“24”** The sixth season (and another no-good, horrible, very bad day) ends with Jack Bauer fighting off the Russians and looking forward to a good night’s sleep. (Fox, 8 p.m.)

■ **“Heroes”** The bizarrely gifted heroes converge on Kirby Plaza in New York. Will we get satisfying answers or just more puzzles? (NBC, 9 p.m.)

■ **“Law & Order: Criminal Intent”** The quirkiest entry in the “L&O” franchise ends its sixth season and heads to basic cable. (NBC, 10 p.m.)



TUESDAY, MAY 22

■ **“American Idol”** And then there were two. This is the final performance night and the last chance to vote. Don’t waste it. (Fox, 8 p.m.)

■ **“Veronica Mars”** This postmodern Nancy Drew had a good three-year run (marred a tad by network meddling) but ends with two episodes and its head held high. Now, there’s always DVD. (CW, 8 p.m.)

■ **“On the Lot”** Steven Spielberg knows where the real money is: Reality TV. His latest stab at television is this reality show where directors compete for a \$1 million studio contract. Like “Project Greenlight” meets “American Idol.” (Fox, 9 p.m.)

■ **“Law & Order: Special Victims Unit”** Det. Lake (Adam Beach) officially joins the SVU team as the eighth season comes to an end. (NBC, 10 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

■ **“American Idol”** The top 12 are reunited (Hey, Sanjaya!), celebrity musical guests perform and the winner is announced in the two-hour season finale. (Fox, 8 p.m.)

■ **“The Blair Decade”** A look at Prime Minister Tony Blair’s years in office from an American point of view. Condoleezza Rice and others offer their thoughts. (PBS, 8 p.m.)

THURSDAY, MAY 24

■ **“City at War: London Calling”** They just aired a tribute to Walter Cronkite, but he ain’t done yet. The 90-year-old icon hosts this look at London’s finest hour. (PBS, 8 p.m.)

■ **“VH1 Rock Honors”** A tribute to the artists people actually loved (take that, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame!), including Ozzy Osbourne, Heart and ZZ Top. (VH1, 9 p.m.)

▼ **“Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip”** Now that it’s canceled, Aaron Sorkin’s sometimes-lauded drama gets a



final hurrah with new episodes, including this one with Allison Janney playing herself. (NBC, 10 p.m.)

FRIDAY, MAY 25

■ **“Friday Night Smackdown”** Wrestling was a TV staple in the ‘50s and it’s still a ratings grabber today. But Gorgeous George never had to learn any lines. (CW, 8 p.m.)

■ **“National Bingo Night”** Sure it’s fun, but don’t you feel a little silly jumping up and yelling “bingo!” when no one is around? (ABC, 9 p.m.)

SATURDAY, MAY 26

■ **“Robin Hood”** Season 1 of this playful spin on the Robin Hood myth ends with Robin distraught over possibly never being with Marian and being generally not-so-merry with his men. Welcome to Sherwood, 2007. (BBC America, 9 p.m.) Michael Giltz