

THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

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BIG BROTHER: VOTE-RIGGING SCANDAL

HOUSEMATE SLAMS CHEATS

Big Brother's Simone Spice slams fellow residents for underhand tactics and cheating. Full story p. 8

2,000,000 RESIDENTS - ANALYSIS AND OPINION see pages 4-5

RENT SCAM HITS TRADERS

- INNOCENT SHOP OWNERS EVICTED
- RESIDENTS LEFT OUT OF POCKET



BY DEEEEP WITTE

RENT SCAM VICTIMS

are counting their losses after being evicted from their stores - having fallen prey to a con man.

Full story - Page Three

INSIDE OPINION

"Is the population of SL growing too fast, or is it bad management by Linden Lab? In fact, it is part of a strategy which is more sensible than many critics would like to admit."



Pham Neutra
See page 5

"In many ways SL can be seen as the next step in the fulfillment of the internet, in which people create and interact with content and each other in a 3D environment. You could envisage SL as a type of 3D internet browser."



Catherine Linden
See page 4

WRITE FOR THE AVASTAR

HAVE a story? Got an exclusive? Want to work for The AvaStar and earn big Linden bucks? Come visit us at The AvaStar Island 107.210.81, send an email to newsdesk@avastar.com, or visit www.avastar.com

E-MAIL OF THE WEEK

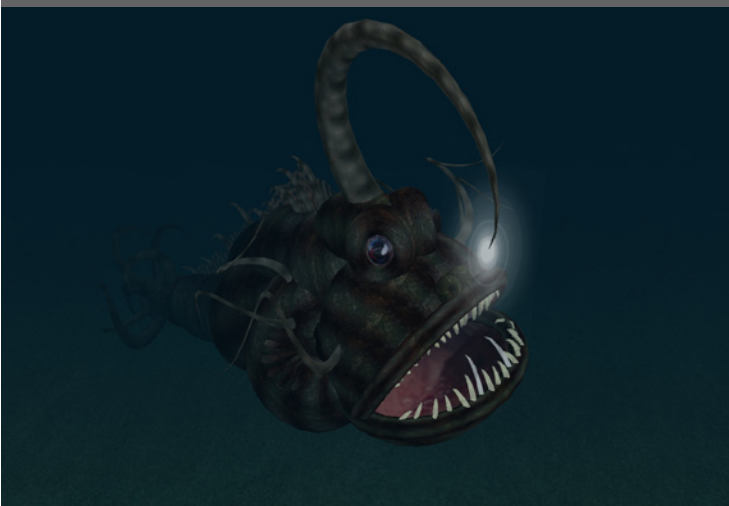
500 LINDEN DOLLARS

your mail

yourmail@the-avastar.com

Do you have something you want to tell our readers? Is there an issue that angers or moves you? We want to hear from you. Send us an email with your views, comments and opinion. The best emails will be printed in the newspaper. You can also earn L\$500 - each week one email will be picked as the .email of the week' and featured in the paper.

THE BIG PICTURE



An underwater monster, created by Forseti Svarog, at one of the 12 brand new IBM sims.

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RENT SCAM HITS SHOP OWNERS

BY DEEEP WITTE

RESIDENTS LEFT TO PICK UP THE PIECES AS RENT CON MAN ESCAPES PUNISHMENT



AID: YeoChris Bentham offered help

INNOCENT shopkeepers have been evicted from their stores after becoming victims of the latest real estate scam.

Two months rent totalling US\$1,400 paid by the store owners to North Shores real estates was siphoned off by one of the company's partners, Dirk Newcomb rather than being paid to sim owners Dreamland. As a result Dreamland was forced to evict at least five renters.

Gorean scribe Adrianna Marquez was one of the most affected by the swindle. She said: "He stole our money and we all lost our land. He was simply pocketing our rent and using it to buy his own sim. He has refused to return our money."

YeoChris Bentham of

North Shores and Dreamland's Master Quatro have come to the aid of some of the affected shopkeepers by offering land and free rent on their sims.

YeoChris said: "I talk to the people on his sims trying to help them get their investment back, but I just don't have the land available to move them all."

He added he had also been scammed and was planning to take legal action against Gorean master Dirk Newcomb. "How do you think he got his last sim? That sim should be mine. He took US\$800 cash from me."

Master Quatro said real estate scams are a part of daily life in SL: "I see it every day, yet there isn't much we can do."

Shameless con man Newcomb has since set up his own company called Second Estate Realty. Although he has been reported to Linden Labs, no action has yet to be taken. Neither party were available for comment this week.



VICTIM: Adrianna Marquez hit by scam



ATTACK: Sim disappears in cloud of pictures

CORPORATE NOOBS HIT BY GRIEFER ATTACK

A 'NEW Publics' discussion held at Text 100 Island on Wednesday was cut short by a griever. The discussion on the fundamental changes in society, business and technology lasted fifty minutes before the attack hit. The mindless yob, identified later as '2010 Ah', bombarded the meeting with distorted pictures of a cartoon character whilst shouting "Love me". 2010 Ah said that he did it "to make you smile." Residents who had attended the interesting discussion were dismayed that once again appropriate measures were not taken to prevent such disruptions. Catherine Omega said: "I don't want to sound like a smartass here, but you really need to have someone with management of a sim at these events". Spectator Nite Zelmanov, branded the PR Agency Text 100, which was hosting the event, "corporate noobs."

THE SECOND LIFE BANDWAGON SPEEDS ON

By GAVIN PERTWEE and LEIDER STEPANOV

IT took little less than two months for the population of Second Life to double from one to two million residents. Speculation is now rife as to how long it will take to reach the three million mark.

The rate of population growth of SL is difficult to predict. The virtual world logged its one millionth resident on October 16 2006 at exactly 8:05:45AM SL time, according to Wikipedia. It took nearly three years to reach that milestone from the launch of SL in 2003, yet it doubled in just 60 days.

At the current rate of growth, resident number three million will hop off the production line sometime around February 13 next year. The problem with that date is that the rate of increase will almost certainly go up itself.

There is every possibility it could even be early January when that particular milestone is reached. The population by the end of 2007 is nigh on impossible to predict, but it is certainly within the realms of possibility to hit eight figures.

TWO MILLION... AND RISING FAST

CATHERINE LINDEN ON THE GROWTH OF SECOND LIFE

THE official population of Second Life soared over the two million mark on Friday 15 December, provoking debate among residents. The validity of such figures, increasingly made up of SL tourists who log in only once, have been disputed. Estimates for the real number of regular users lie between 240,000

to 300,000. Yet the virtual world is clearly expanding rapidly and this has both good and bad consequences for the residents. So how much can SL expand? Catherin Linden says: "We are only at the beginning and the market will determine where this is going." As for the future: "In many ways SL can be seen as

the next step in the fulfillment of the internet, in which people create and interact with content and each other in a 3D environment. You could envisage SL as a type of 3D internet browser. Maintaining a virtual presence may become ubiquitous in a few years. We would like to be there to facilitate that transition."

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

"I'D like to see more people in here as long as the grid could handle them. I think the population is going to keep increasing at the pace it is now."



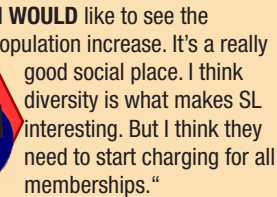
"THE population has to keep increasing to keep this place interesting, but it's not going to work if LL don't care about its community."



"BACK in the day there were no problems. Due to the sudden influx of new users there were many problems. LL was unprepared as it happened so quickly."



"I WOULD like to see the population increase. It's a really good social place. I think diversity is what makes SL interesting. But I think they need to start charging for all memberships."



"NEW ideas, concepts and fresh input - people are the fabric of this social network and object oriented world. Bring it on."



"SECOND Life has a very fluid population. The ones who stay are the ones who are looking for a sexual relationship. Look around you... it is all a means to an end. Fantasy fulfilment."



THE GRAND SL STRATEGY

BY PHAM NEUTRA

PHAM NEUTRA ANALYSES THE LINDEN LAB STRATEGY - AND THE GROWING PAINS THAT COME WITH IT

A POPULATION of two million might be cause for celebration for some Second Life residents but there are many others who are dissatisfied with Linden Lab. Living in SL can be very frustrating at times. There are days when

its rapid growth keeping the platform robust remains our most pressing issue." So is the population of SL growing too fast, or is it bad management by Linden Lab? In fact, it is part of a strategy which is more sensible than many critics would like to admit and which, despite hav-

want to make sure SL remains the most attractive of these worlds, and to do so it needs to grow as quickly as possible because nearly everything in SL is created by its citizens, from land and houses to cars and furniture. New residents are attracted to a beautiful, rich and vast world with lots to offer. The more residents SL has, the more popular it will become and the harder it will be for other worlds to compete. There is no such thing as too much creativity.

it is impossible to tel- eport with much suc- cess, and even rezzing an object or chang- ing your shoes can be impossible when the number of residents online exceeds 14,000. Catherine Linden ad- mits, "as with any grow- ing community, there can be the occasional sticking point. As the population continues

ing some unfortu- nate consequences for resi- dents, will help ensure the continued success of SL. Other virtual worlds exist and many more will be cre- ated in the coming months. Linden Lab

In as little as a year, SL may be big enough to confirm its permanent position as the big- gest virtual world, hence the Linden gamble to grow as quickly as pos- sible and not listen to the funny sounds com- ing from the engine room.

Logged-in Users (Updated: Mon, Dec 18, 2006)	
Residents Logged-In During Last 7 Days	233,536
Residents Logged-In During Last 14 Days	338,946
Residents Logged-In During Last 30 Days	541,827
Residents Logged-In During Last 60 Days	832,134

Source: www.secondlife.com

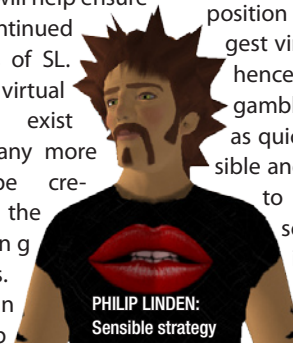
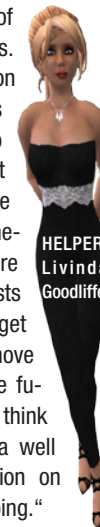
SL NEEDS FAR MORE HELPERS

Livinda Goodliffe has been well placed to witness the effects of the influx of newbies whilst working as an unpaid official mentor and Help Island volunteer over the last six months.

The body and accessori- es designer spends 10-12 hours a week helping newbies find their feet in SL. Despite „a fair share of grieving“ she remains eager „to do what we can for those that want help..“ The pretty helper said „LL needs far more helpers than at present.“ But she is unsure whether professionalizing the sys- tem is the way forward.

„That would open a can of worms that brings it's own problems.“ The most painful part of the transi- tion is the grow ing „immaturity“ of new residents.

„No verification encourages teenagers to be dishonest about their age at signup.“ There are also more virtual tourists – „when they get bored, they move on“. As for the fu- ture – „I don't think even LL has a well defined direction on where SL is going.“





REGIS BRAATHENS

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A GRIEFER.

"We are having problems with the audio" says Italian rock star Luca Nesti. Impatient from waiting so long, I look around the stage clicking on objects. An info message appears: 'BoxedGuitar - Animate your Avatar?' Out of curiosity I press 'yes' and suddenly I am playing. A beautiful melody rings out across the square. "MUSICAI!" shouts one spectator gleefully, "Un applauso!" I try to click on the guitar to stop it, yet it keeps on playing. "Who's playing now?" shout confused Italians. My laughter disappears as I discover that despite pressing 'Stop all animations' the music still goes on. "Whoever just opened some music from their PC please close it" says an agitated Luca. Damn it, it won't switch off! As a last resort I log off and on again. And to my and Luca's relief the music is gone and the show can go on.



TECHNICAL PROBLEMS: Luca Nesti

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

TABLOID NEWSPAPER SET TO LIGHT UP SL MEDIA SCENE

THE AvaStar has landed. And as you read this column, the debates in the blog sphere are heating up. What is the motivation behind the AvaStar? This paper is backed by Bild.T-Online.de, a top news and entertainment website and subsidiary of Axel Springer AG, the publisher of Europe's largest tabloid newspaper, BILD. And we are here to produce a top class professional tabloid for the residents of SL. We aim to

establish the AvaStar at the forefront of SL media. Our slogan is 'Your World. Your Voice.' And we take that literally. The AvaStar will inform, surprise, entertain and guide you through this mindblowing world. To do this we have put together a professional editorial staff of excellent journalists, SL veterans and experts who live and breath

the virtual world. And to help us in our quest to uncover, investigate and bring the very best stories to the pages of the AvaStar, we need you. Our readers are the virtual eyes and ears of the AvaStar. We want you to make this your paper about your world. If you have an exclusive story, an excellent photo, or you want to give your feedback then get in touch with us. We look forward to talking to you.

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO: regis@the-avastar.com

SECURITY BREACH

PERSONAL INFORMATION DISCLOSED

Whilst conducting an interview at Help Island I was shocked to read someone listing the names of many of my friends in the chat box. Due to the grid playing up my friends list had been bizarrely project-

ed on my back making the names visible to everyone around me. Private details being made public is a massive breach of privacy and something that LL should urgently address.



HALF-BAKED: Grid problems at fault



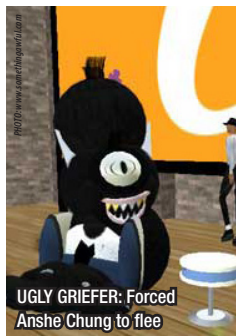
We are proud to have been a part of it and wish The AvaStar a successful start!

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ANSHE CHUNG FLEES GRIEFERS AT CNET EVENT

LAND baron Anshe Chung's interview with real life news giant CNET turned into a farce as it became the latest high-profile event subject to intense grieving. SL Millionaire Chung was set to talk about her get-rich-quick feat of turning a US\$ 10 investment in SL into a million US dollars in around two and a half years. Shortly after getting under way, griefers named as Room 101 bombarded the proceedings in the CNET amphitheatre with pink male genitalia, forcing Anshe to flee to her own land for safety. However, even there the thugs succeeded once again in further disrupting the event. It is the latest in a string of attacks on real life company events and raises questions about the necessity of increased security measures at such events.

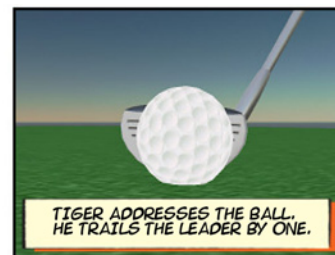


BIG BROTHER RESIDENTS ACCUSE EACH OTHER OVER UNDERHAND TACTICS AND SELLING VOTES FOR CASH

AS the reality show approaches its fourth week a furore is erupting over the underhand methods which some housemates use to obtain votes. Honest contestants are being cheated out of their chance to secure the prize of an SL island, says BB resident Simone Spicer. She said: "Most housemates cheat, the ones who don't bribe or pay for votes don't stand a chance". Rencius Herber, currently awaiting a final verdict after being removed from the house to Outcast Island last week, is hailed as the chief offender. Emilie Enke is one of many Second lifers to be offered L\$100 by Rencius for her vote. The BB

fan revealed: "He has been spamming lucky chair groups offering money." Other housemates are also playing dirty, explains Emilie. The desperation of the housemates is clearly rising as the eviction day looms, when one resident will return from Outcast Island and three more are set to leave. "Girls are using their bodies to entice men into voting for them. Some have been

riding dildos on a yak, others promise to flash." When the AvaStar confronted Rencius Herber he disputed the cheat claims: "Giving a shirt or giving L\$50-100 is the same in my book. I have seen everyone do that. Golda is - just click her signs. It is all campaigning either way." Evicted housemate Gideon Television added: "If there's one thing I wish, it's that the elimination system allows the bad guy to manipulate the vote more than it does".





YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
ASKBIZ@THE-AVASTAR.COM

from
Deeep Witte

ask BIZ!

PRESENTATION IS KEY TO SALES SUCCESS

My clothes shop has loads of great stuff for sale, but business is not as good as I would like. What can I do to improve sales?

BIZ! says:

THERE may be plenty of reasons why residents aren't rushing out to buy your ware.

The way you present your clothes could make all the difference. The customer's first impression is all important. A few rules must be followed:

- 1 Ensure your shop is bright and airy to give the shopper a appealing look.
- 2 Get rid of the clutter, to focus the customer on the products.
- 3 Location is very important. Buy or rent the best you can, in an area which is suitable for your business. Remember, SL is all about being creative.

SHOP AROUND FOR LINDENS

WHERE can I buy my Lindens at the best price?

BIZ! says:

WHILST the Lindex (<https://secondlife.com/currency/>) is the official Linden Dollar



I want to get a small shop – but should I rent or buy?

BIZ! says:

There are three main factors to be considered when deciding to rent or buy:

- 1 The premium account membership fee
- 2 The one-off purchase price of the land.
- 3 The monthly tier or rent costs.

write to: ASKBIZ@THE-AVASTAR.COM

exchange of Second Life, it does not automatically mean that it offers the best rates of exchange. Better options open to you include Anshe Chung's Dreamland, where you can buy Lindens

in USD and EUR generated by her numerous businesses across the grid ([http://www.anshechung.com/index.php?fc=BUY_L\\$](http://www.anshechung.com/index.php?fc=BUY_L$)). However, make sure you check out SLExchange, where you can

find very competitive rates (<http://www.slexchange.com/modules.php?name=Currency>) It is wise to compare all three exchanges before you take the plunge, in order to make the most out of your money.

You should also consider the current exchange rate of the L\$ when buying as buying at the right time can save you precious Lindens.

However, more than anything you must be clear about what you want to do with the land. As a rule of thumb it is better to rent if you need less than 8,192 m²

as the cost per square meter is the most cost effective. Renting allows you to reduce your overheads and expand as and when you need. And there is no reason why you should give up your dreams of becoming the next Anshe Chung – you can also try your hand at being a landlord by renting your land out.

AVASTAR
Analysis

Inflation fears totally unfounded

BY PHAM NEUTRA



MANY SECOND LIFERS MONITOR THE EXCHANGE RATE BETWEEN THE LINDEN AND US VERSIONS OF THE DOLLAR, BUT PHAM NEUTRA ARGUES THAT WHERE THE BUCK STOPS IS OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE.

THE US dollar has been stable in recent weeks, hovering around the L\$275 mark. There have been, however, wild fluctuations in the exchange rate. So what does it all mean to the average Second Lifer? Nothing.

Or, rather, nearly nothing. The exchange rate is often mistaken for the value of the L\$, whereas it is simply what the name says: an exchange rate. Even when the value of the L\$ goes up, in-world prices rarely go in the opposite direction. Likewise, when the L\$ dropped rapidly last spring, hardly any shops increased their prices.

That was partly because it is extremely tedious for merchants with many vendors spread across Second Life to change prices. For small business owners, meanwhile,

the L\$ is the only relevant currency; they use it to buy everything they need and pay their bills. So why nervously watch the exchange rate? Healthy competition between merchants makes it impossible for large business owners to raise their prices on a whim.

All this explains why SL enjoys such a stable currency and little inflation, regardless of the exchange rate. That fact is only true, of course, as long as Linden Lab doesn't flood SL with L\$, which would lead to inflation like in any other economy.

But that is something our sovereign is very careful not to do. Maintaining a stable economy is one of the paramount concerns of Philip Linden himself.



US Dollars spent per 24 hours in Second Life over last 5 days
Source: Reuters

SL MONEY NEARS L\$700M

THE amount of money circulating around Second Life is approaching L\$700m, according to a report by Linden Lab's chief financial officer John Zdanowski.

Nearly every dollar is spent around 2.2 times each month, a figure which has remained constant all year despite a dramatic upswing in spending in recent months.

In total, residents spent more than L\$4.5 billion in November.

POSER-7 SOFTWARE LAUNCH

POSER-7, the latest version of the advanced beauty and movement animation software from "efrontier", was unveiled this week at 12 different SL locations. The new product, on sale for US\$ 249, allows you to create any pose you like and includes details like lip syncing to replace standard typing.



POSER-7: The latest in animation software

WHO'S WHO?

Creators of the AvaStar Uniforms

BY FREDERIC PREVOST

Top SL designers and scriptors produced the stylish uniforms for the AvaStar promoters and reporters.



JUNE DION:

The designer of Bare Rose (HQ Store Bare Rose 146, 11, 30) is known for the intricate textures on her clothings. The efficient creator introduces outfits and merchandise almost daily.



AKIRA DULCE:

The Designer owns Akira Designs (Monterey dAlliez 29, 144, 22) and two other locations, also on SL exchange and SL boutique. Akira designs mainly shoes and accessories.



MIKO OMEGAMU:

The scriptor designed the camera and notepad for AvaStar reporters. Her current project is the development of The Mischief Makers, Mischief (147, 138, 30).

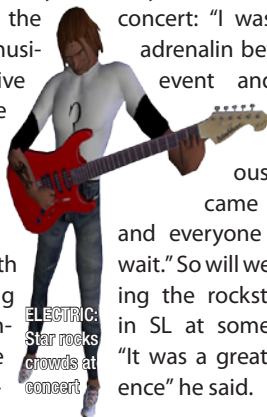


ROCKSTAR IN ROMA

RECORD: First Italian musician in SL

ITALIAN rock star LUCA NESTI wowed crowds in his exclusive debut gig in Second Life. Performing as Luca Nehar in front of a select audience in the Parioli sim last Thursday, he became the first Italian musician to play live in SL. Despite delays to the start of the concert due to technical problems with the streaming the star entertained the around forty-

five strong and largely Italian audience with a selection of rock ballads sung in his husky voice. The event, the first of three gigs, was screened on SKY TV in Italy. Nesti said of the concert: "I was full of adrenalin before the event and even more nervous when I came too late and everyone had to wait." So will we be seeing the rockstar back in SL at some point? "It was a great experience" he said.



CELEBRITIES & GOSSIP

ROBERGE & RANDOLPH PLAY NBC



LIVE: NBC concert

MARC Roberge of O.A.R. and Robert Randolph of Robert Randolph & The Family Band rocked the NBC Universal concert on Wednesday 20 Dec. The concert was streamed live from the Peacock Room at the NBC headquarters in New York to 10 NBC sims in Second Life. Crowds of excited fans were



joined by SL celebrities alike to enjoy the performance. Those in sim NBC9 were on hand to witness the opening act by the Sarah Mac Band followed by a live performance from Roberge's and Randolph's avatars. Between songs, Randolph and Roberge were happy to answer questions per IM. The lovely Robin Linden was clearly enjoying herself as she danced the night away to the funky sounds of the band.

HOT RUBBER: PONTIAC MOTORLYMPICS

THE smell of burning rubber and high octane fuel filled the air across the grid this week as the Pontiac Motorlympics roared into action. Daily races with a total of L\$9.000 up for grabs have been building up to the final on Friday 22nd where the fiercely competitive Motorlympics will be

decided. The champagne at the after party at Andy's Parkade Nightclub may well be on Suku Ming, the current leader, who would pocket a whopping L\$25.000 if she manages to hold onto her current lead.

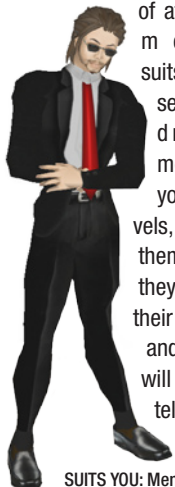


MEN'S STYLE

LOOKING GOOD IS EASY

By Mu Nomura

WEARING distinctive and stylish clothes is one of the best ways to distinguish yourself in Second Life. But while women can enjoy thousands of stores overflowing with every outfit imaginable, men aren't so lucky. It's far too easy to feel a T-shirt and jeans are your only clothing choice. All is not lost, however. Classy men's clothing does exist in Second Life, it's just harder to find. Check out Blaze Columbia's (*Gourdneck 136, 160, 252*) fantastic range, for example - expensive but worth it. Musashi Do (*Anton 140, 221,96*), meanwhile, offer a wide choice



SUITS YOU: Menswear

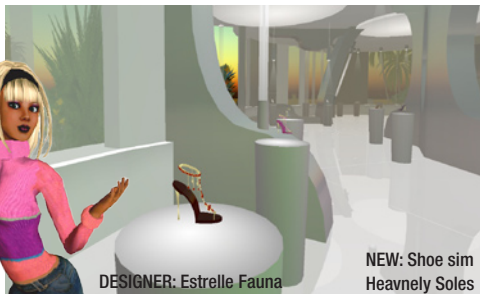
SOLE SHOE SIM SET FOR LAUNCH

BY IKARUS SOLOMON

THE first sim entirely devoted to selling shoes will open its doors before Christmas.

Heavenly Soles has been created by Yoshinori Shirakawa and Estrelle Fauna, owner and designer of PrimAdonna.

Estrelle says she takes her inspiration from real life. "In RL I am a shoeaholic and I admire shoe designers such as Jimmy Choo and Blahnik. I gain my inspiration from their designs. "I create shoes in SL that I would wear in RL and many of my customers like



"I create shoes in SL that I would wear in RL and many of my customers like

this feature." The shops will offer a wide variety of designs from formal shoes and casual sandals, to gothic style shoes and boots. Five boutiques are planned, each selling a different style. Estrelle added: "I think having an all-shoe sim divided into styles will

make it very easy for customers to find what they are looking for. "If they want a formal shoe they will find them all in one place." Each month the owners will offer a talented new shoe designer free space at Heavenly Shoes to exhibit their ware. (*Heavenly Soles 82,180, 29*)

SKI - SLOPE STYLES

HOT OR NOT

Ordinary casual

is this season's hottest trend. Washed denim jeans and athletic stretch sweater (for example from Luminosity Snowboard Outfit) is the perfect look for cool snowboarders.



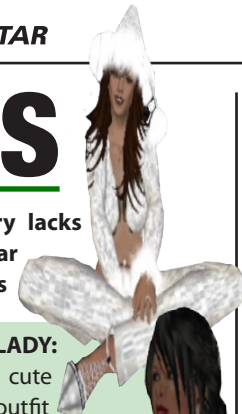
The vintage

psychedelic outfit is super hip for a Xmas rave with your friends but it will be too freaky for a ski holiday with your family.



SEXY XMAS

CHRISTMAS is coming up and your inventory lacks that special outfit for the occasion? The AvaStar scouted the shops and selected the hottest looks for the festive season.

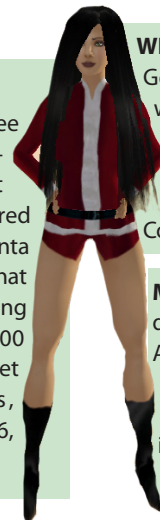


WHITE LADY:

Get this cute winter outfit for only L\$ 300 at Cherry Blossom Design, Southern Comfort (95, 117, 22).

RED AND HOT:

This outfit will guarantee to spice up your Christmas holidays. Get the set of red shorts, Santa jacket, hat and thong for L\$ 100 at Sunset Reflections, Mare, (168, 116, 45).



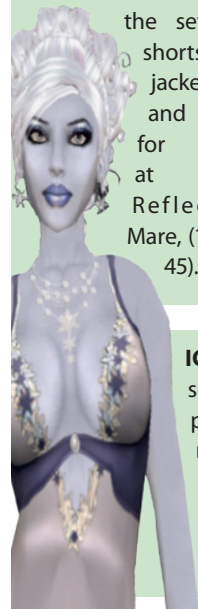
MISS SANTA:

This dream in red from Aylah's Store at Plush Beta (40, 104, 21) for L\$ 890 will get you into the mood for Christmas.



ICE QUEEN:

This glamorous dress sends shivers down the spine. The complete set including skin, hair, crown, magic sceptre, manicure, shoes and jewellery was seen Celestial Studios, Celestial City (60, 180, 25) for L\$ 4 000. Get it now as it is a limited edition.



STYLISH ACCESSORIES

ORIGINAL: Six sets of different coloured earrings for L\$175. Seen at Elexor Matador Studios, Extraordinaire (98,206, 32)



SEDUCTIVE: Sexy fishnet stockings and Santa shoes from Candy Cane Lane, Livigno (197,18, 194) for L\$ 275



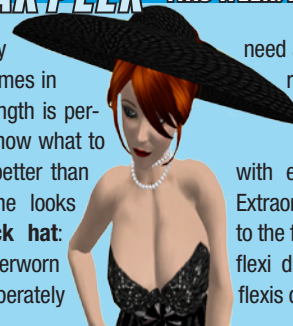
SPARKLING: For a special gift get this diamond and snowman necklace by Alienbear Gupte, Bratz (153,229,27) for L\$ 200.



INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK THIS WEEK: FASHIONISTA SABRINA DOOLITTLE



Sabrina loves her boa by Lily: "The colours it comes in are fantastic and the length is perfect. When you don't know what to wear, what could be better than jeans and boa?" She looks great with her **black hat**: "Hats are sadly underworn in Second Life. We desperately



need an Ascot." The necklace was made by request for Sabrina by Raven Rosebud: "She only sold a single strand of pearls and I asked for triples with earrings." The **black dress** by Extraordinaire has sentimental value to the fashionista: "This is the first flexi dress I ever tried, the day flexis came out."



LAST MINUTE GIFTS



SCARY:
Christmas misfit dolls
L\$100, *Del Agua Winterland*
(145, 140, 30)

FOR ALL LAST MINUTE SHOPPERS STILL SEARCHING FOR THE RIGHT GIFT FOR THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY, THE AVASTAR HAS SELECTED A RANGE OF CUTE AND ORIGINAL PRESENTS AFFORDABLE FOR ALL.

PERSONAL:
Custom made stockings for L\$50 at Our Little Christmas Shop, *ELDORA* (194,26,107)



SINGING REINDEER:
Tap Rudolf and he will sing for you. Each one costs L\$ 350 at Bobby-socks Christmas Shop, *Menophra* (110, 202, 26)

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:
Building blocks L\$187, *Del Agua Winterland* (145, 140, 30)



HOME SWEET HOME:
Gingerbread house \$75, *Del Agua Winterland* (145, 140, 30)



PICK A TREAT: Choose a colour and Santa disperses a treat. Seen for L\$ 500 at Christmas Wonderland, *Plush Beta* (82,110,21)



TIN SOLDIER:
Garden toys and ornaments at Pristine Christmas Gardens, *Drum* (149, 175, 105)

NAUGHTY: Snowman and Santa T-shirts each for L\$15 at Merry Provocative Christmas Mall, *Provocative Paradise* (46,239,22)

CUDDLY:
Reindeer and Snowman Chubbie each for L\$ 150 at Bahama Mama's, *Oceanside dAllienz* (133,33,22)

ICE, ICE, BABY

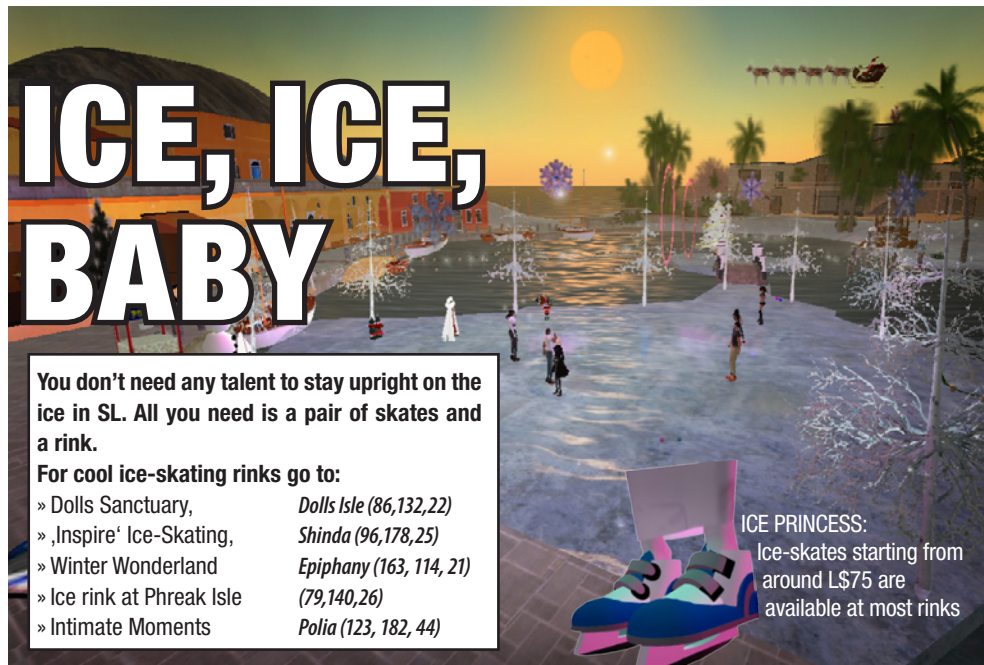
You don't need any talent to stay upright on the ice in SL. All you need is a pair of skates and a rink.

For cool ice-skating rinks go to:

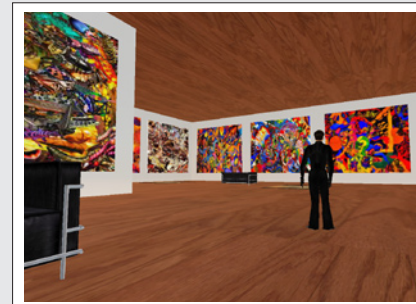
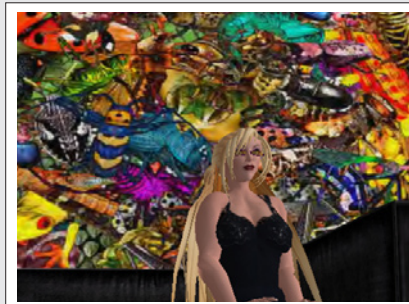
- » Dolls Sanctuary, *Dolls Isle* (86,132,22)
- » ,Inspire' Ice-Skating, *Shinda* (96,178,25)
- » Winter Wonderland, *Epiphany* (163, 114, 21)
- » Ice rink at Phreak Isle, (79,140,26)
- » Intimate Moments, *Polia* (123, 182, 44)



ICE PRINCESS:
Ice-skates starting from around L\$75 are available at most rinks



ADVERT



MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
The JJccc Art Gallery
3000 AD, 3000AD (77,169,500)



AIMEE WEBER ON HER LATEST ACHIEVEMENT

How does it compare to your previous projects?

There was meticulous attention to detail for every part of this project. My team and the AvaStar team would look at every part of this build from every angle to make sure it was an aesthetically stunning experience.

What is your favourite part of the island?

The central sphere, of course. I like the idea that it is an enormous, completely self-contained, bio-dome. It also feels airy and luxurious.

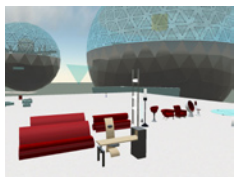
What was the hardest part to build?

Well, the Hulls of the spheres were automatically generated, but fine tuning and texturing them was very labor intensive.

What part that you built do you like the most?

I like the conference room with the decorative centre piece. I had some fun shadow work there and the windows overlooking the sphere adds a great sense of importance.

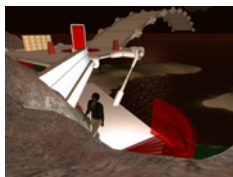
MAKING OF THE



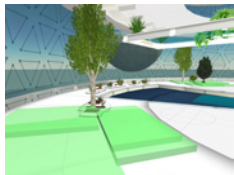
Work in progress: Furniture is created on one of the unfinished spheres.



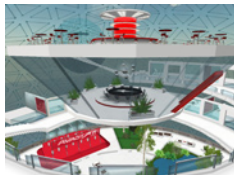
Teamwork: Aimee Weber gets down to work with AnneDroid Lily.



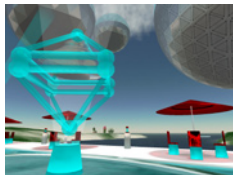
Around the clock: The AvaStar island has special lighting effects at night.



Flying gardens: Trees and exotic plants bring the spheres to life.



Focal point: Finishing touches are applied to the three different levels.



Panoramic view: A light statue finishes off the waterfront bar.

NEWSPAPER GLAMOUR

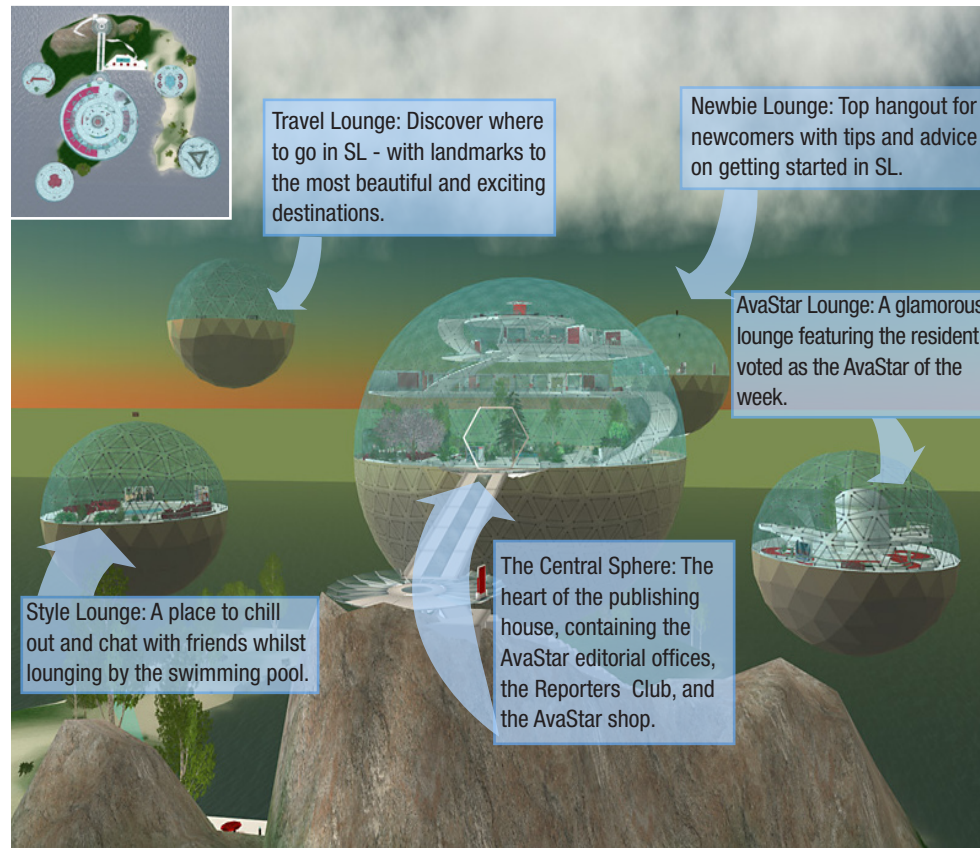
PHAM NEUTRA AND SEBASTIAN OTAARED CREATED THE CONCEPT FOR AVASTAR ISLAND WITH AIMEE WEBER AND HER TEAM. THE CREATIVE DUO REVEAL HOW THE PROJECT EVOLVED. *BY REGIS BRAATHENS*

„The AvaStar Island is all about glamour, journalism and having a good time“ says creative expert Pham Neutra. „We tried to create an innovative concept that reflects this, as well as making people feel welcome and relaxed.“ The futuristic spheres appeal to him: „I love the freedom Second Life gives. Why be limited by the restrictions

of the physical world? People have to ‚understand‘ a building here as well. But slavishly copying something which already exists in RL is unimaginative and boring.“ The light, clear and open buildings reflect the concept behind the AvaStar - the transparent glass symbolises the newspapers aim in bringing more

transparency to SL society. The other creative conceptor Sebastian Otaared is especially proud of the multifunctional event area: „We want to host all kinds of events here so we created an adaptable venue where with the click of a button, you can choose between different setups of stage, floor and seating arrangements.“

AVASTAR ISLAND



Travel Lounge: Discover where to go in SL - with landmarks to the most beautiful and exciting destinations.

Newbie Lounge: Top hangout for newcomers with tips and advice on getting started in SL.

AvaStar Lounge: A glamorous lounge featuring the resident voted as the AvaStar of the week.

Style Lounge: A place to chill out and chat with friends whilst lounging by the swimming pool.

The Central Sphere: The heart of the publishing house, containing the AvaStar editorial offices, the Reporters Club, and the AvaStar shop.

FIVE THEMED SPHERES MAKE UP THE FUTURISTIC PUBLISHING HOUSE OF THE AVASTAR

AvaStar Island, home of Second Life's professional tabloid newspaper - an innovative headquarters where you can drop in and pick up the latest issue, meet the editorial staff, inform yourself or simply chill out. The teleport welcome spot looks out across the suspended bridge towards the five spheres.

The biggest, the Central Sphere, is where you can buy the latest edition of the AvaStar as well as getting your hands on the hottest merchandising products. The giant sphere will host all kinds of events from meetings to concerts. The smaller spheres are divided into three lounges - AvaStar,

Style and Travel, where people can explore the exhibitions, relax and hang out with friends. The Newbie Bubble contains everything a newbie needs to make the start in SL an exciting one - with tips, tricks, advice and freebies. A waterfront bar below provides a place to relax and enjoy the panoramic view.

Temptation

Silver Liquid Metallic



Classic

Sexy

Harem Gold
with 2 silks
FLEXIBLES MODIFIABLES



Short or Long

Classic

Light



Laced Black Heels



Black Ankle Boots



Safari Leopard



Pointy



Buckles



French Gallery | Haute Couture Designs | Pickerel 110,245,129
KINYO NINO | CYBELE PONTOPPIDAN

CHILLOUT: Relax in the cosy hammock by the pond



SKY HIGH: Hanging bridge

By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

DISCOVER DELIGHTS OF ISLAND PARADISE

ENTER THE WORLD OF QUIET HIDEAWAYS AND SPECTACULAR SCENERY

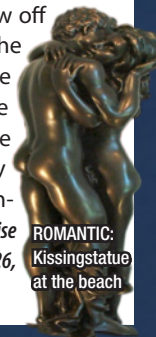
SOFT white sand gives way to rainforest trees, wild bushes, tropical flowers and secret clearings where you can dream the day away. This is the new sim of D'alliez Enterprise, open now for everyone to enjoy. Landlord Alliez Mysterio commissioned her paradise from talented builder Valadeza Anubis who

took over a year to turn her creation into reality. As you explore further, you discover the Aztec-themed hanging bridges, columns and bungalows which rise dramatically from the ground with exuding a sense of mystery and romance. Don't forget to wander off the pathways to explore all the hidden

feel-good areas to swim, dance and relax. From the castle towers you can watch the beautiful sunset as you gaze across the sea. And there is yet more beauty to be found in a secret glowing crystal cave which speaks to you. Alliez plans to use the tropical sim for conventions and meetings, for instance to introduce RL companies to SL. "What better place to show off Second Life?", she says. Paradise D'Alliez can be yours for private events. The only limit is your imagination. *Paradise dAlliez, dAlliez* (226, 27, 25)



BEAUTIFUL: Sunset at the island



ROMANTIC: Kissingstatue at the beach

ROMANCE
 THE FINEST
 DIAMONDS
 AND
 GOWNS
 WEDDING
 DRESSES
 AT
 DETAILS
 NONNA HEDGES



For advice write
 to Randi at:
 dearrandi@the-avastar.com

DEAR



RANDI

SL ROMP GUILT

MY DILEMMA OVER FOUR-POSTER NOOKIE WITH SL GIRLFRIEND

Dear Randi: I am married in RL, but a few months after I joined SL I met a really interesting girl. We hit it off and started hanging out more and more. Recently, whilst we were flying around and exploring we came across a romantic skybox in Tenagra with a four-poster bed in it. She suggested we lie down and before I knew what was happening, she had taken out a

sex animation ball. I was a bit shocked but I was also very curious and decided to give it a go. And I really enjoyed it. However, each time I've seen her since, I feel terribly guilty about my RL wife. I really like my SL partner and I don't want to lose her. But I can't face telling either of them about each other - please help! V.E.

Randi says: Feeling guilty about having sex with your SL friend

is normal - you are not connecting with a virtual figure but a real person. You need to set boundaries. As long as your emotions are confined to SL, perhaps your wife doesn't need to know. At the end of the day its just a bit of fun. But you should be asking yourself why you are having this relationship in SL and what this means for your RL marriage.

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK



IM: Fancy a drink?



to be continued

MARRIED SOUL MATE DILEMMA

Dear Randi: I recently met a woman in SL who is my soul mate. She's all I think about, and she says she has deep feelings for me - but she is a lot older than me and already married. Do you think our relationship is doomed to failure? — S.I.

Randi SAYS: You have to ask yourself if you are content to confine your relationship to SL. If you want more, however, be very careful. Trying to start an RL affair with someone who is still married could prove to be very dangerous.

HEY BABY YOU TURN OFF

Dear Randi: I'm new to SL, but I'm already sick of muscle heads who think, "hey baby you sexy" is a clever way to say hello. How can I discourage these idiots? Should I just give in and make my avatar ugly? — C.C.

Randi SAYS: That may well work in the short term, but it wouldn't be fair on you. Some people are in SL just to have sex with strangers all day and I think it's wise to ignore them if they get out of line. But if that's not your thing, don't feel pressured into participating.

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Build Your Fantasy



Change Your Latitude Today



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THE GUIDE

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK!

THIS WEEK: THE HOTTEST CLUBS

BIG NIGHT: The crowd rocks to Shane Sleaford's music



BEST Drum'N'Bass

THE SQUAT



The Squat is the latest venue to appear on the SL drum'n'bass scene. Owners Siegfried Mangaroon and Shane Sleaford spoke to INDIA OBIVATE.

The AvaStar: What music do you play?
Siegfried Mangaroon: It's mainly drum'n'bass but we also play breakcore, dubstep, raggacore and some old skool hardcore. We're the only place playing the really dark stuff.

TA: Who have you got on the decks?
Shane Sleaford: I DJ three times a week and we have another

two lined up to play with plenty more in the pipeline.

TA: What makes The Squat special?

SS: I think people like this place because it's so fresh. Instead of a grand club we wanted a small dirty venue, with graf-

fiti on the walls, furniture that looks like it's been stolen and grubby toilets.

TA: Does anyone have a problem with you selling drugs?

SM: There have been a couple of raised eyebrows at the heroin. If people do moan about the drugs I tell them it's just a game and they shouldn't get so worked up about it. Some people take this game a little too seriously in my opinion.

Nara (238,148, 26)

Best time: around 8pm

OWNERS:
 Siegfried Mangaroon,
 Shane Sleaford



CLUBBING DELIGHT

Industry



Music: Industrial, electro, synthpop

Best time: around 12 am

Where: Bowfin (201, 246, 83)

ROCKER'S PARADISE

Sanctuary Rock Club



Music: Rock

Best time: around 6 am

Where: Sanctuary Rock Island (154, 87, 54)

BLOODSUCKER'S HAVEN

Le Cimetiere



Music: Goth, industrial

Best time: around 1 pm

Where: Le Cimetiere (148, 208, 64)

21.12. - 28.12. 'DON'T MISS!' –



NIGHTLIFE

Christmas Day Party: Dancing and Christmas cheer in your glitziest festive gear.

When: December 25, 14:00-17:30
Where: Drum (81, 18, 106)



ART & DESIGN

Exhibition opening showing works from the artist jjccc Coronet.

When: December 21, 18:00-21:00
Where: 3000 AD Art Gallery (191, 7, 26)



SPORT

Ice Hockey: Whales vs the Wolves, fast pace and competitive pre-Christmas game.

When: December 22, 16:00-17:00
Where: Jericho Hill (227,138,43)



MUSIC

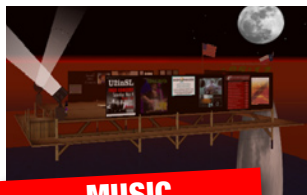
Keiko live at Lily Pad Lounge
When: December 23, 17:00-18:30
Where: Clyde (127,159, 31)



EDUCATION

New Citizens, Inc. Class: intermediate level class for scripting and object communication.

When: December 24, 17:00-18:00
Where: NCI Princess Category, Kuula (54, 175)



MUSIC

Kaklick Martin Live
When: December 28, 19:00-21:00
Where: Led Zeppelin Lounge, Torch (215, 193, 85)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK



NIGHTLIFE

Juel Resistance Live in Concert at the Evolving Images Amphitheater.

When: December 22, 19:00-20:00
Where: Tammora (20,253,64)



ART & DESIGN

Chat and wine at the gallery opening of photography by CC Chapman.

When: December 23 18:00-21:00
Where: Soho Galler (128, 128, 27)

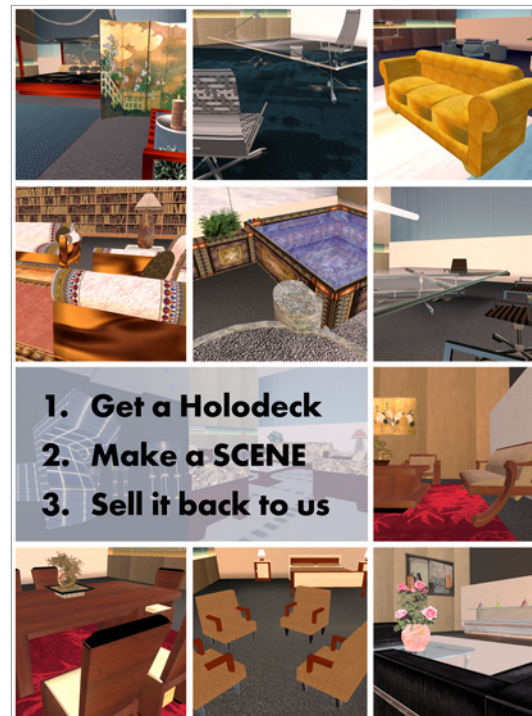


NIGHTLIFE

Grand opening of a new club. The Dive has a party pool, minibars, deck chairs and lightshows.

When: December 25 00:00-03:00
Where: Yongchon (164,193,21)

ADVERT



HOLODECK

Inside This World's Holodeck lets you store the location of prim objects and rez them one at a time from a menu. Imagine a 90 room house on a 512m² block! Or a 90 room shop!

- Get a free Demo Holodeck to see how it works
- Buy a Simple Holodeck to be able to add scenes by Scope Cleaver, Eva Virgo, Kelindra Talamasca and Wisper Patel.
- Buy a Production Holodeck to be able to make your own scenes and (if we like your stuff), we'll sell them for you and pay you a commission of up to 50%.

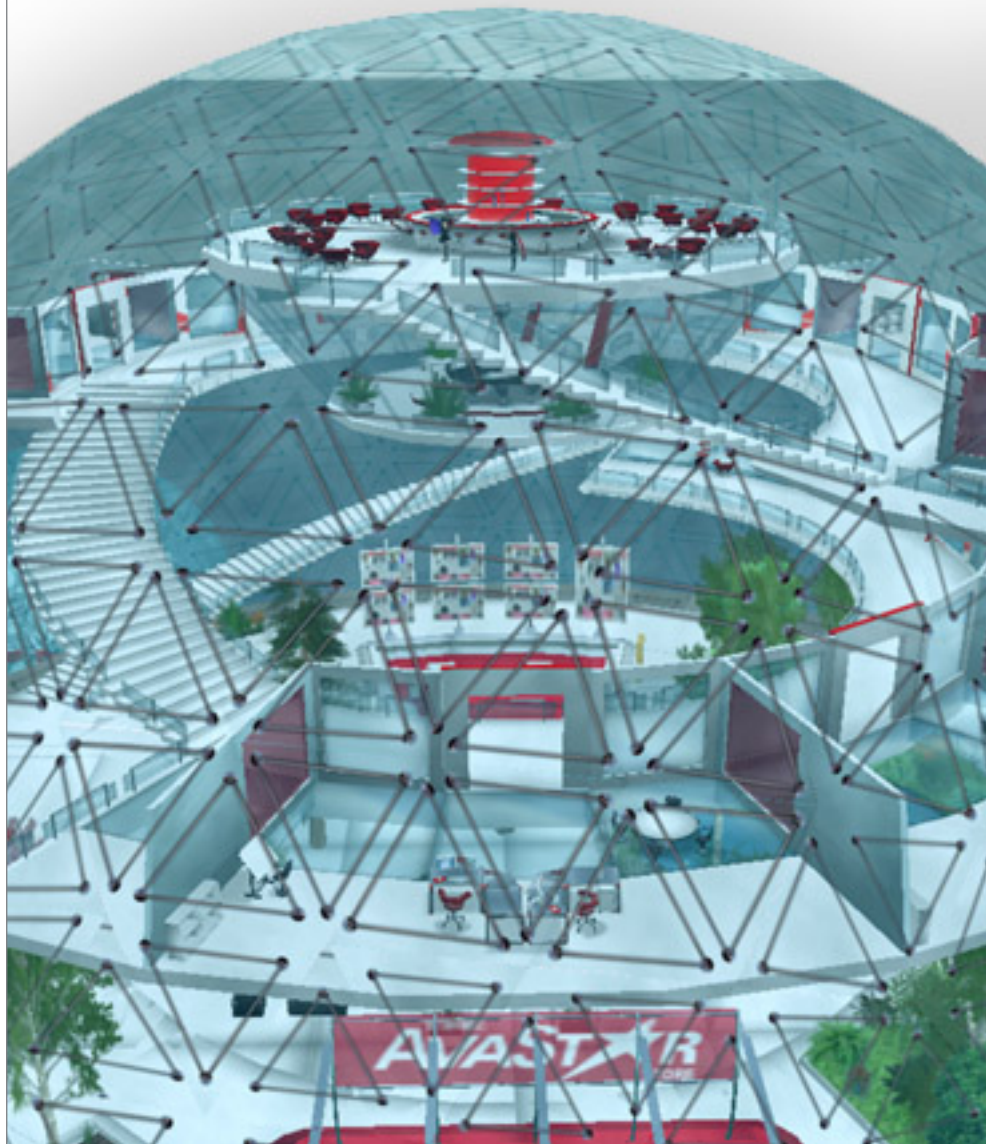
Details:
<http://www.insidethisworld.com/the-holodeck.html>

Holodecks available at SL Exchange, SL Boutique or our store in Kenora.



Aimee Weber

Virtual Content Creation and Services



FIRST DAY MEMORIES

DIARY OF A NEWBIE

Boxed in!

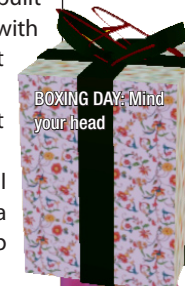
Today I spend most of my time walking around with a box on my head.

Having sorted through the freebie items at Yadni's Junkyard, Leda, (210,28) I came across a cool black top hat. But when I tried to wear it, I found to my dismay, that I had a box on my head. After walking around feeling and looking stupid for a while, I came

across a friendly Furry on Help Island. He told me to put the box on the ground, open it, copy the items to inventory and click on wear the item. That's how simple it was. But my delight was short-lived. The top hat looked terrible anyway.



VETERAN: Cailyn's current style



Cailyn Miller started in SL as the sweet girl from next door. Today she is one of the jewellery designers in world. India Obviate spoke to her about her days as a newbie.

The AvaStar: Describe your first day?
Cailyn Miller: Kinda scary! I waited up till midnight to log in. SL was only open from 4 to 10pm PST back then. I stayed on orientation island for ages. A Linden asked if I was ok. I was so nervous talking to someone that I logged out!

TA: What was your most embarrassing moment as a newbie?

CM: There was the usual getting naked by mistake in public.

TA: Your advice to newbies?

CM: Talk to people! That's something I avoided. Ask questions even if you think they are stupid. Most people are friendly and won't mind helping you out.

TA: How long did it take you to feel at home in SL?

CM: A couple of weeks maybe. I bought a little plot of land, built a house and made friends with the guy living next door. That helped a lot.

TA: What was the first object you created or designed?

CM: A chair. It took me ages! I hadn't worked out the camera controls so nothing lined up properly.



NEWBIE: Cailyn's look over three years ago

DO'S AND DON'TS: CREATING A PERFECT PROFILE

DO +

- Show your personality! Be funny, flirty, witty, and interesting.
- Show a knockout snapshot that makes a great first impression.
- Use the „picks“ tab to share your favourite places with others. Why keep all the fun to yourself?
- Use your profile to plug your business and hopefully make a few L\$.
- Spell-check. Enough said.

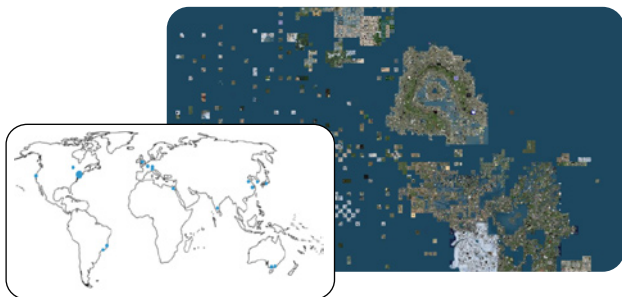
DON'T -

- Leave your photo and „About“ section blank. You'll get a lot more people clicking „Add Friend“.
- Use a wide-angle photo that doesn't show your face clearly.
- Go into embarrassing detail about how much you love your significant other. Who wants to read that?
- Forget that your groups are visible to everyone. What do yours say about you?



Global Trend Research virtual worlds, real opportunities

Based in New York City, Munich, Tokyo, Beijing and now Second Life, CScout has been reporting from global and virtual hotspots since 1997.



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www.cscout.com

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

NYTE VARGAS

THE AVASTAR TALKS TO THE DESIGNER AND OWNER OF THE INNOCENTLY EVIL STORE. SHE ALSO TEACHES CLOTHING DESIGN IN SL.

BY FREDERIC PREVOST

VOTE FOR
THE AVASTAR
OF 2006!

Which SL VIP should be rewarded for their achievements in the past year? Send us your top three to newsdesk@the-avastar.com.

PROFILE

NAME: Nyte Vargas
BIRTH DATE: 13 Feb 06
PROFESSION: Designer
ATTITUDE: Plenty of it

THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?

NYTE VARGAS: That would be my crazy kitty personality! Looks-wise, I would say my eyes or my ever-twitching ears.

TA: What is your favourite place in SL?

NV: Where ever my store is, which is lame

but I love it, and Minoru Musashi's place with all his Japanese buildings for sale.

TA: What would you change in SL?

NV: Unverified accounts and the discouraging frequency of updates.

TA: What do you spend most of your time doing in SL?

NV: Designing clothes,

putting on shows and training new designers. I am also planning a modelling school to open soon near you ...grinz (evil plug).

TA: If you could vote for anyone to be president of SL, who would it be?

NV: My friend Varik Marat because he understands diplomacy, respects others and

can handle just about any crazy situation that comes his way.

TA: What personal achievement in SL are you most proud of?

NV: I love the fact that the graphics designing skills I am learning can translate into real life and were responsible for a raise I received a while back.

