

THE AVASTAR

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- PREMIUM ACCOUNTS DEVALUED

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THE controversial First Land scheme has been scrapped after Linden Lab admitted it could not stop landbots.

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I disagree that SL is a cult - it's a huge, diverse and fragmented community, like in the real world.

However, many residents are too quick to put down one another.

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If the vast majority of residents in SL were not great-looking it would be like, well, Real Life.

And I thought the whole point of SL was to do stuff which you couldn't do in RL.

We can't change our looks in RL, so that is what we do in SL.

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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@the-avastar.com, or visit www.the-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 which angers or moves you? If so, we want to hear from you. Send us an email with your views, comments and opinions to yourmail@the-avastar.com. The best emails will be printed in the newspaper, and you can earn L\$500 for each one which is published.

THE COSBY SHOW HITS SL



THE Hanja Welcome Area was subject to two grieving attacks in quick succession last Saturday featuring images of iconic American comedian Bill Cosby.

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BY LEIDER STEPANOV

NO MORE FIRST LAND

LINDENS SCRAP LAND SCHEME AFTER IT WAS EXPLOITED BY BOTS AND ALTS

THE controversial First Land scheme has been scrapped after Linden Lab admitted defeat in the fight against landbots and unscrupulous landowners.

Linden Lab (LL) announced the decision on Tuesday in order to combat the practice of using bots and alts to snap up the cheap land provided by the scheme and sell it on for profit.

Landbots are programmed to continuously search and buy the available bargain land, and make it nearly impossible for normal residents to purchase the cheapest property. Thousands of ordinary residents had been left unable to find a plot of 512 square me-

tres, which they were entitled to buy for just L\$512. But many have slammed LL for giving up the fight, and have expressed concern that without First Land, premium accounts are not worth the money.

Benefits

Lecky Clary signed up to Second Life several weeks ago, and says her plans to become more involved in the world have been put on hold.

"I enjoyed SL so much that signing up for a premium account and getting myself on the property ladder seemed like a good idea.

"But this has put a doubt in my mind about it all. To be honest, until Linden Lab con-

FOR SALE:
But not at cheap prices any longer

vinces me the benefits of premium membership outweigh the costs then I won't bother with it."

The announcement was made on the official blog by Jack Linden, who said: "Increasingly, we have found that these cheap L\$1 per metre parcels were not benefiting [premium account holders] as intended. Because of the low price, they were being immediately sold, or bought via alts, purely for profit.

"We have discussed many methods to ensure that First Land is used as intended but have decided that there is no way to do this without significantly impacting on resident freedoms."

NEWS BITES!

IRAN PROTEST AT CAPITOL HILL

Protestors gathered at the American Capitol Hill sim on Tuesday to voice concerns over a possible war against Iran. Residents shouted peace slogans and held 'no war on Iran' banners.

MYST'S CHEEKY SL PROMOTION

Mass multiplayer game Myst Online Uru Live has cheekily created an SL island to promote its virtual world. Adverts for the game are all over Myst Online Uru Island.

BBC IN SL SPAM ALLEGATION

SL mentors have been up in arms over what many have referred to as spamming by the BBC. The British broadcasters have apparently been targeting helpers in order to recruit SL couples for a documentary film.

AVATAR NAMES MULTIPLYING

The rate of SL surnames that are added each week has got close to 200, revealed Daniel Linden. Each surname is now allocated to around 1,000 avatars before being retired.

SL GAMBLING SCENE ON A ROLL



BY MARIAN MAVERICK

GAMES OF CHANCE GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

GAMBLING in Second Life is on a roll with thousands of residents hoping to be dealt a good hand.

Despite concerns over the unregulated nature of the industry in SL, and the possibility of interference from RL lawmakers, there seems to be no end in sight to the flow of gamblers into SL's numerous casinos and poker houses. Mithik Vavoom owns Myth Poker House and Casino and says gambling is set to become even bigger in the coming months. "The gaming industry in SL is worth millions at this time, with an exponential increase projected."

Mithik himself has seen a ten



thousand-fold increase in traffic through his venue since it opened in May 2006.

"It used to be the same few players every day, but now we attract more than 100 new players daily." The success of casinos has seen many new venues spring up in recent months, residents lured by the prospect of earning big money. Patrick Spotter set up Pokerzone, which has a poker room, slots, roulette and camping chairs. "We are trying to build a regular crowd. At this time, though, there is no earning; I invest all my money back into Pokerzone."

Not everyone wins from gambling, however. Nia Frye is a frequent visitor to the casinos. Like many others she loves the atmosphere and stylish surroundings of SL's poker halls. But she also recognises what there is to lose. She said: "I dropped a couple days' worth of SL wages one night so I've slowed down."

For many, the stakes are even higher. One dealer, who asked to remain anonymous, said it was not unusual for some to play every day and lose up to L\$20,000 a night. "Sometimes they do win, of course", he said.

Many gaming houses fail to provide formal warnings to players about gambling addictions. The dealer added: "I've seen people win L\$70,000 and I've seen people lose L\$140,000."

"If I see people losing a lot I usually tell them to get out if I know them.... but other than that there is no warning,"

Despite some heavy losses, most

players bet on small time stakes, taking advantage of a cheap and atmospheric introduction to gambling.

The lure of gambling will always be strong - as one player put it, "poker is civilised warfare. If you are smart and know the odds and when to bet what, you can do well."



THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

If anyone wants to avoid all the sex and gambling they can, and quite easily. Fenix Harbinger:

I'm not much of a gambler myself but I figure that this is a place for people to indulge themselves. If that's what they want to do, I'm happy for them. Kadin Redgrave:

All the popular places have that available. It appears to be one way for newbies to try and make some money. Tilly March:

I wish the guy with the casino behind my house would go out of business. It causes lots of lag. Ivy Norsk:

There's far too much of it. There should be some sort of casino account that will only allow you to gamble a certain amount. Clunky Burton:

All of the sex and gambling takes away from the good aspects of SL. People quickly learn what to avoid, like people avoid bad neighbourhoods in RL. Ancora Quintus:

TREASURE HUNT

A TREASURE hunt will be held to celebrate the Second Life launch of computer processor firm Advanced Micro Devices (AMD). The three-month contest will include challenges in interactive Linden scripting language and open source programming.

The Pavilion on AMD Dev Central Island will house a virtual space for meetings, lectures and training courses. AMD project manager Paul Nolte said: "Through the pavilion, we hope to provide developers with an outlet to learn and grow."

OBAMA HQ IN SL

SUPPORTERS of recently declared US presidential candidate Barack Obama have followed the lead of his rival John Edwards in launching a Second Life presence.

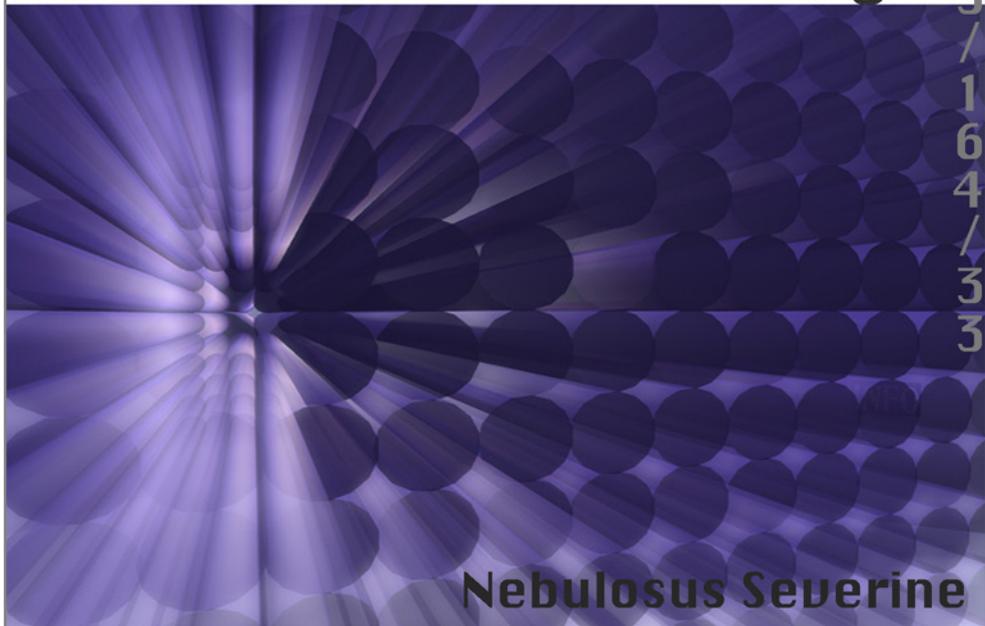
More than 50 avatars filled the newly-opened Barack Obama '08 Headquarters on Wednesday to set their strategy and discuss the election. L\$ donations to the campaign were also collected.



Arahan Claveau

Buttermerre / 53 / 164 / 33

SALON DU DISRUPTIF @ The Heldscalla Gallery



Nebulosus Severine

THERAPY: On the couch



SHRINKING SECOND LIFE

By VALENTINO SCHNABEL

HOW ONE PIONEERING CYBERPSYCHOLOGIST IS BRINGING HIS EXPERTISE TO SL

AVATARS may have no need for doctors but one psychologist is helping many residents in SL.

Craig Kamenev started his Centre for Positive Mental Health in April 2006 to provide information on mental health, before stating avatar-based online psychotherapy three months later.

He says SL offers the chance to reach people otherwise unable to access to mental health services due to geographical isolation, physical disabilities or agoraphobia.

"These groups of people are often unable to seek out traditional mental health services. "I find that a great many people with these conditions use SL as a consistent method for

social interaction." Craig handles several SL clients for one-to-one therapy at a cost of L\$27,000 (around US\$90) per session – a significant discount from RL.

He added: "Clients bring a great deal of information regarding their personality in the form of their avatar design, name choice and props."

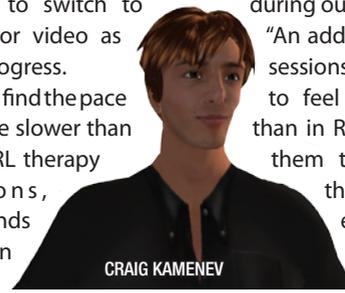
Sessions will be conducted at first via chat or IMs, with the option to switch to Skype or video as they progress.

"While I find the pace is a little slower than in my RL therapy sessions, it tends to run more

efficiently and to the point than in RL. Due to the need to organize thoughts for typing, and the anonymity of the situation, clients usually work quicker than in RL therapy sessions."

Like any psychotherapy, treatment in SL can be hard work. "One of my clients once asked in a joking manner, 'If therapy is supposed to make me feel better, why is it that I often cry during our sessions?'"

"An additional benefit of SL sessions is that clients tend to feel less self-conscious than in RL. This often allows them to share details of their concerns much earlier in the sessions than my RL clients."



CRAIG KAMENEV



REGIS BRAATHENS

“SL IS A CULT”

OUTSPOKEN SL critic Randolph Harrison has gone from criticising the virtual world economy as a pyramid scheme, to referring to the community as a cult.

After receiving a serious backlash from SL residents over his claims SL resembles a sort of high yield investment program which benefits those at the top, he said: “SL is not a game to many involved. It’s more of a cult.”

Randolph felt that the criticism he received was unwarranted: “I attempted to honestly engage all my critics. Unfortunately, I learned that such is a wasted effort when dealing with the blind faith that afflicts the Second Life True Believers.”

I disagree with Randolph that SL is a cult. It’s not - it’s a huge, diverse and fragmented community, like in the real world.

However, it is true that many residents are all too quick to put down one another, often for challenging opinions held by SL veterans, or to point out their inferior knowledge of the game. In this sense, strangely, a certain level of tolerance is lacking.

RESTRICTIONS COULD GO FURTHER THAN ACCESS

TWO-TIER SOCIETY A POSSIBILITY IF GRID PROBLEMS CONTINUE

RESTRICTED access – a sign I never thought I’d see in Second Life. Yet with the grid so close to breaking point at peak times, Linden Lab have decided to only allow low premium account holders, land owners and LindeX users when that occurs.

Collapse

When they announced these ‘contingency measures’ last Friday, LL made it clear the situation would only arise if the grid was on the verge of collapse, and it certainly makes sense for some to use it rather than none at all. I hope it will never

have to be implemented, and there has been widespread support among premium account holders, whose money it is after all. The danger is that we could be creating a

two-tier society. Currently, there is little surface difference between premiums and non-premiums, but SL has only grown as it

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

counts, so LL would be very reluctant to discontinue them.

Premium

If the grid runs into problems, then, what will happen? Perhaps the non-premiums would have limited scripts, animations, teleports, movement as well as access. I don’t deny premium account holders should have extra benefits, but that should come by giving them extra rather than taking away from basic account holders.



SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS

“WE’RE getting better at providing people with search capabilities that work.” Are you indeed. Well, the recent words of Linden Lab Vice President Joe Miller have yet to convince many of us. The search function remains a random, occasionally mysterious but mostly frustrating part of SL.

How well it works seems to be a bit of a lottery - I amused myself re-

cently by searching under the same word and seeing how many different answers came up each time – but there doesn’t seem to have been much improvement.

Now before anyone starts accusing me of indulging in Linden bashing, I appreciate the search function may be a bit patchy at peak times. It’s the claims to the contrary which get to me.

your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

THE GOOD DEEDS OF SL

Hey Regis,
I WAS totally amazed to read that the AvaStar of the Week last week, Francis Chung, had designed a pixelated car and sold it in SL for US\$2,000.

The very cool one-off model, the Pink Dominus Shadow, has been auctioned off in aid of charity. I thought it was a great example of the sort of enterprising things that hobbyists and designers are doing for fun in SL.

I then also turned to your page about Ayeshe’s Angels, which has been set up by two girls to raise money for a friend of theirs in real life who is really sick and needs expensive treatment. They have had hugely successful auctions, and have also

raised real life dollars in the thousands.

SL has recently, in an International Herald article, been described as something ‘just used (by commercial businesses etc.) as a hype and marketing thing’. But it is important to note that it is also a place which is increasingly turning fun with designing, flirting and socialising into good deeds. Keep up the good work everybody.

By Stingkiss Arliss

E-MAILS OF THE WEEK

500 LINDEN DOLLARS

WRITE TO: YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

BARBIE WORLD’S NOT BORING!

Dear Regis,
I AM writing with regards to the story which featured on the front page of last week’s AvaStar with the headline ‘Barbie World is Boring’.

Um, no it’s not. If the vast majority of residents in SL were not great-looking it would be like, well, Real Life. And I thought that the whole point of SL was to do stuff which you couldn’t do in RL.

So for most people, arriving in SL is the perfect opportunity to come up with a new and, almost invariably, attractive and sexy look. It is something we can’t change in RL, so we do it in SL.

Now, I am not having a go at people who are ugly, fat or whatever in SL - perfecting a good ugly avatar is as creative as a good attractive one.

But we shouldn’t start

moaning about how it has become a ‘Barbie and Ken’ world when everything here - including most non-newbie avatars - are completely creative and really extremely original.

By Alfred Schroeder



U2 SHOULD GET OFF THEIR BUMS

Dear Regis,

I DON’T understand why there is such a song and dance being made about U2 in SL.

The concerts are well done and the events are professionally set up - but it’s NOT U2!!

If the events are meant to be raising money for charity, then the real U2 should get off their backsides and come and do it themselves. Why are they letting a cover band do it for them? That way they would earn a lot more for the cause as well.

I think we should boycott the cover band until the real members step forward and come and do a gig themselves.

Name supplied

UGLY WHINERS SHOULD LEAVE

“I DON’T want to look like a barbie?” - well, don’t then!!

Ugly avatars are the latest group to start whining about SL. If people want to be beautiful, great! If not great! And if you don’t like it - go join WoW.

Name supplied



callie cline clothing • accessories • style

SL VOICE CHAT COMING SOON

LL VICE PRESIDENT JOE MILLER SAYS VOICE TO BE ADDED SHORTLY

By REGIS BRAATHENS

RESIDENTS will soon be able to talk to one another using voice chat according to Linden Lab.

In an interview with PC Advisor, Joe Miller, vice president of LL, revealed the company is close to providing an integrated voice communication system. He said voice communication is an area which LL is currently actively investing. There have been several attempts to integrate voice chat created by outside companies as well as residents, with SecondTalk recently making the headlines with their Skype-based solution, alerting users to

others using Skype in their vicinity. Miller said that the Linden approach will be much more integrated. "You won't have to run anything else, or do anything else: just speak to someone or a group of people as you engage in a conversation. As you move through a large group of people, you'll be able to hear multiple voices each emanating from the proper place in 3D, so it makes it very much like a real experience of walking through a crowded room."



Miller revealed LL is near to completing the project: "It's an important attribute we'll be adding shortly", he added.

BUNCH.TV CHANNEL OPEN

BUNCH.TV launched its broadcasting station in SL on Thursday. The German TV channel is offering residents its entertainment service - for free. A TV set is required to watch the channel, which can be simply picked up from the BUNCH.TV Broadcasting Centre as a freebie. Frank Zahn, the head

of multimedia agency exozet which helped bring BUNCH.TV to SL, said: "In SL there is a definite lack of high-quality moving picture



content - we have recognised this and offer

the inhabitants of SL real added value with the live programming." The company has also developed a virtual remote control, enabling those with a TV to launch the stream. BUNCH.TV also aims to develop its channel by adapting it to SL and developing special formats for the virtual world.

MARKET TRUTHS WINS SL AWARD

MARKET Truths has won the Electric Sheep & Edelman Public Relations SL Business Plan Contest. Pebbles Hannya, one of the founders of the RL market research company which produces reports on Second Life, accepted the prize of L\$350,000, ownership of an island and one year's tiered membership at the ceremony this week. Hannya is hopeful that the award will boost awareness of their business and help bring in new clients.

LOTTERY OFFERS L\$2 MILLION POT

SL firm Lederberg Investment has set up the SL Millions lottery. It will sell tickets at L\$500 each and claims to pay out L\$2,000,000 each month to the winners. The first draw is on March 31.

SPENDING OK

Spending in L\$ seemingly took a massive tumble this week, plummeting from L\$1.4m on Feb 18 to around L\$200,000 on Feb 20. However, the cause was revealed to have been database problems at Linden Lab, with the data being generated from an old database.



MERCEDES-BENZ ROCKS!

By JENZZA MISFIT
 MERCEDES-BENZ kicked off the opening of their new island with a launch party on Tuesday. Wagner Love, a young band from Germany, played three songs live to a fully-packed sim. Residents rocked to the exclusive preview songs from Mixed Tape 16 from the Mercedes music compilations, due to be

released on February 27. Each party-goer also got their hands on their very own stylish and free Formula One racing outfit, which visitors to the island were given.



YOUR PHOTOS!

Have you been at an event and taken some good snaps? Send them in to us and you can earn L\$500 for each picture we publish. Simply email snaps to yourphotos@the-avastar.com.

GALA FASHION

By JENZZA MISFIT
 A SNEAK preview of Mamaa's Creations spring line-up was on offer at the first ever Gala Fashion Show. The event was held at CZ Designs in Solang on Thursday night, and included all the latest crea-

tions from Aries Celestial Designs. Designer and event co-ordinator Celandra Zon hosted the event, which drew a large crowd who were impressed by the colourful parade of models on the runway.



Designers Celandra Zon (top), Mamaa Saiz (near right) and Aries Bricklin (far right), wearing Calla Cela's Harlequin dress) at the event.

SPOTTED!

FAMOUS SL magician Chris Angel is clearly taking a breather from the week long Mardi Gras celebrations on SoHo Island that finished on Sunday.



A-STAR GOSSIP

KIDS' CHARITY FUNDRAISER A HIT

A FUN-FILLED evening with live music took place last week to mark the second anniversary of a SL fundraiser held in RL at the same time.

The event was raising money for the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Children's Hospital in Pennsylvania in the US to help children with cancer through superior care, comprehensive support and innovative research. An impressive US\$500 was raised at this year's SL event, held last Friday

at Mill Pond. Organiser Micala Lumiere, a Penn State University graduate, said: "This is the largest student-

run philanthropic event in the world, which in total last year raised more than US\$4,000,000."

By JENZZA MISFIT



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STYLISH VICTORIANS

ACQUAINT YOURSELVES WITH THE FINEST SECOND LIFE COUTURE INSPIRED BY THE AUSTERE AGE OF THE VICTORIANS. THE CLUTTER OF ACCESSORIES, HATS, STICKS AND BROACHES HAVE BEEN RECREATED BEAUTIFULLY BY A VARIETY OF DESIGNERS. WORK YOUR WAY TOWARDS THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER ACCESSORY OF ALL, A BEAUTIFUL ENGLISH STATELY MANSION.

By ISABEL BROCCO

Edwadian Earbob
earrings available in fifteen colours
Caledon Tamrannoch (96, 105, 23)



L\$75

1880's Spool Heel Pump
shoes available in eight colours
Caledon Tamrannoch (96, 105, 23)



L\$100

Ankle boots
with brass buckle detailing
Nouveau (86, 72, 31)



L\$350

1880s Bustle Day Dress
which comes with head piece
Caledon Tamrannoch (96, 105, 23)



L\$325

Pin-striped Sac - a dapper suit which comes with matching bowler
Lo Lo (92, 97, 29)

L\$250



L\$50

Horsehead cane
- be the master of your estate. This unusual accessory comes in different colours.
Caledon Tamrannoch (212, 124, 23)



L\$50

Stovepipe hat (right)
Caledon Tamrannoch (212, 124, 23)

Bowler (left) comes as set with the pin-striped suit worn right
Lo Lo (92, 97, 29)



L\$50

Brass 1895 Glasses
The downward slant will set off your moustache.
Lily Buttonholer
Flamboyant touch
Caledon Tamrannoch (212, 124, 23)



L\$25

callie cline's STYLE HOTLINE



CALLIE CLINE IS ONE OF SL'S BEST KNOWN DESIGNERS, AND IS CEO OF CALLIE CLINE'S MOTORATI GIRLZ. THIS WEEK, SHE TACKLES THE SUBJECT OF SKIN.

"I'm often asked what skin I wear, and I've spent hours explaining to people that each and every skin will make your av look

wear Nevermore's Hybrid 2 skins. It took me a very long



EYES

time to find a skin that complemented the features I had and once I found these skins, I decided to stick with them.



NOSE

completely different. "To achieve a look you want, with a skin you like, you must often take some time to make adjustments.

"This usually includes eyebrows, lips, and nostrils. I exclusively

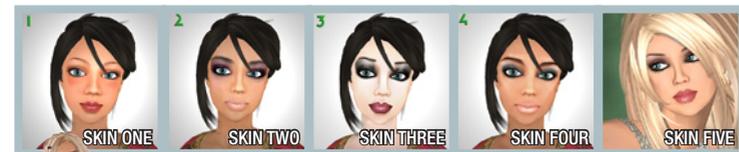
wear Nevermore's Hybrid 2 skins. It took me a very long time to find a skin that complemented the features I had and once I found these skins, I decided to stick with them. "It does matter how you adjust your features when you get a new skin. So, when shopping for new skins, make sure to buy a demo, take it home, set your lighting on

sunset or sunrise, have your avatar face the sun, and then make the adjustments you want until you find your perfect face.

"It's a lot of fun actually, and you could stumble upon a whole new you!"



LIPS



INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK WITH SIX KENNEDY OF GURL 6:

BY CARRIE SODWIND



My tutu and future boots are very much my signature look. I am a creature of habit and I wear the tutu at least three days a week.

It's flirty and cute and goes with just about every single top I have. I wear my GuRL of the Future Boots with everything, even formal wear.



My Zip It Outfit from Stellar Designs is one of my favourite outfits of the itty bitty mini sets she does. Even when I don't wear the full outfit I am usually using pieces of it as the base for other outfits I put together.

My poses from Torridwear, I have them in my AO as well as in my photostand. They are all attitude but still girly enough for me. I have been using them in my AO for as long as I have had one, I haven't found a reason to change them ever.



WHAT'S HOT! PRIMANICURE

By Isabel Brocco

When I came across prim nails I was sceptical. Thinking I'd have to put a prim on each finger I dismissed it as too much work. But I eventually decided to experiment. They come in three sizes to fit every hand (from Athena (202, 170, 22) and I was pleasantly surprised - you only have to put one prim on each hand. They only cost L\$50 each, a set of five for L\$200, but if you really want to treat yourself go for the Fatpack for L\$800, which contains 25 types of nails. I still have my old manicure nails but don't use them much any more, as they are worn as a glove and don't look as realistic as prim ones do.



PRIMNAILS

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THE AVASTAR

SELL THE AVASTAR!

The AvaStar is offering YOU the chance to install one of our stylish vending machines on your land and earn L\$! To get involved with distributing Second Life's favourite tabloid, IM Ikarus Santos or email advertising@the-avastar.com.

DESIGNERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Nathan Babcock

SL Birth Date: 5/5/2006
Famous for: Clean designs, the next star on the minimalist design heaven

By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

THE AVASTAR: How did you get into architecture and interior design?

NATHAN BABCOCK: A combination of growing up in the tropics and having a dad who was a child at heart. He used to build me cardboard and wooden homes for my GI Joe action figures, he would always make me create things.

LL: What do you like about creating in SL?

NB: It is INSTANT GRATIFICATION! I love being able to test my ideas, rather than penning them down.

LL: How do you approach a design project?

NB: I always talk to my clients, get to know their interests, personal style, and whether or not my design elements work with their needs. We usually spend quite some time having fun over a drink or two, maybe three.

LL: How do you describe your style?

NB: Clean, modern and yet accessible... A calm heaven in a hectic world.

LL: Does hectic world apply to your SL lifestyle as well?

NB: I think many SLers escape here because the

reality of RL is catching up with them. For many, SL is a heaven. I want to bring my clients a sense of serenity in their home or business. Not many people can afford a beach front property in RL but this is the next best thing.

LL: What do you think are the upcoming trends in design?

NB: A lot of designers are trying to make their builds affordable. There are many designers now offering low prim builds. I go against the grain.

I am not necessarily trying to reach as many audiences as possible. I want great builds, and prim usage is not a limiting factor for me. I don't budget my prim, I build and design, when it's done it's done.



HOUSEHOLD PETS



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

Flying Eagle or Circling Eagle **L\$500**
 for the sky.

By ArchTx Edo Shona 71, 215, 30



L\$100 **Parrots with**
 six different colours to choose from.

By Garth FairChang Da Vinci 98 96 24



Hummingbird feeder
 By Kim Manilow Parrot Island (66, 137, 402)



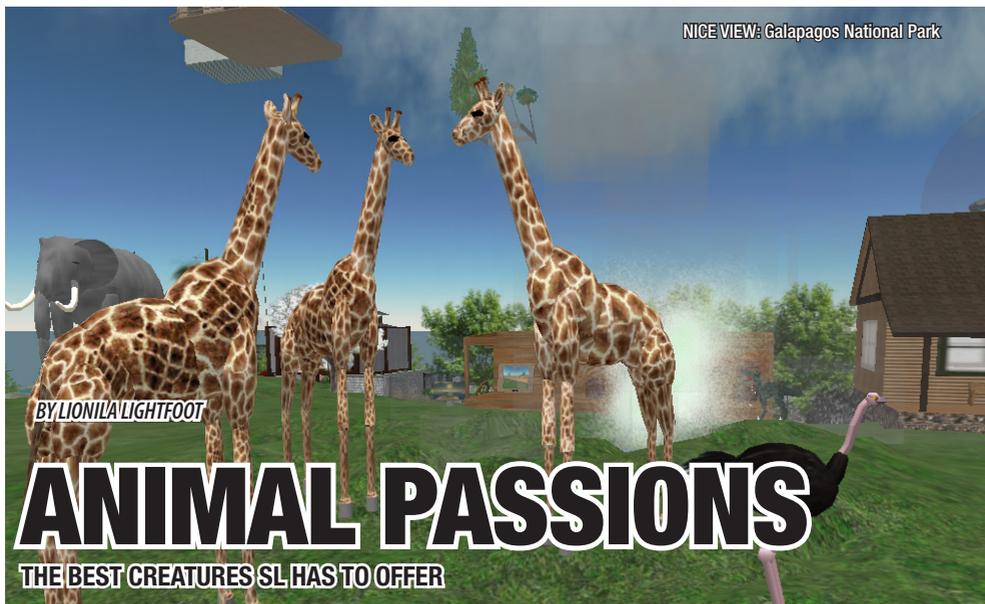
L\$1



L\$50 **Light or dark green Frog**
 Kiss it and maybe your dream prince will appear.
 By Jake Cellardoor at Clementina Park Clementina (69, 210, 22)



L\$325 **NIRVANA**
 - Stubby the Ugly Duckling Adoption Pack. By Carrie Grant
 NIRVANA - Animal Rescue Centre, Insanity (186, 40, 26)



NICE VIEW: Galapagos National Park

BY LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

ANIMAL PASSIONS

THE BEST CREATURES SL HAS TO OFFER

GO wild in SL with animals inside and outside the cage ready for your attention and affection.

Most of us need to visit a zoo to see animals, and for the classic zoo experience head to Paratopia Zoo (Paratopia 111, 36, 21) where the lazy wild crowd is staring back at you 24/7. At Imagination and Breeding (Stone Pike 41, 220, 24) lions, elephants, zebras and company are interacting with visitors. You can even race the animals.

If you want to get close to animals in their natural surroundings head to the Galapagos National Park & Wildlife Retreat (Haenim 77, 198, 64) which features many wild species and honours the huge Galapagos turtles with a guided trek on the back of

the giants around two sims, Changmi and Cheonma, both animal friendly bird sanctuaries.

You should refresh your boy scout skills before travelling to The Yin of Life (Sonamu 43, 140, 401), which is a forest with indigenous animals, like



the fox, the bambi and the bear. You will best enjoy the forest at midnight sitting around the camp fire and listening to the spooky sounds of the forest. It can get a bit chilly here so bring your



loved one and spend the night in the spacious tent. Some animals experienced abuse and torture before arriving at the Animal Rescue Centre (Insanity 197, 71, 26), and you can adopt the poor guys. Do not walk by the Tarantula spider, the snake and the flying monkey, they may not look weak but they do need your help.

If you think we are all animals and the whole world is a big zoo, than slip yourself into your favourite animal with Bambi's animal avatars (Fox Valley 187, 143, 21).

TAKE YOUR PICK

Take a quick peek at the hot destinations in profile picks. This week: **ARTISTS**



Keiko is a self-proclaimed home girl. She likes things sweet and simple, describing herself as 'a girl-with-a-guitar type musician.' Her only pick is her home, a big, boxy fortress with Malbogio Newchurch. Keiko welcomes visitors - 'We have cable' - she says. But it's really a magical place to expore. The Island, Purgatorio (29, 88, 31)



The notorious shy jazz musician chooses nature with music. AmphibiCatt Gardens (South). He is there with Jaycatt in the serene gardens every Friday, and he loves it when his mum comes with him. Black Mire (237, 251, 272) Now why would The Frog choose The Lilly Pad Lounge? Clyde (25, 149, 21)



Kaklick loves the Roadhouse Ranch & Saloon, a Rockabilly music venue in an old barn. He can go and listen to music with his friends. You can also buy Bunderfeld Choppers there. Idyllwyld (111, 210, 23). For music buffs, Triana's Place for Music Trivia. Milu (197, 73, 50) is his choice.

ADVERT

dAlliez Private Estates
Java dAlliez
 YOUR NEXT HOME IN SECOND LIFE
 1/2 the estate is protected land
 for your enjoyment
double prims on all six islands
 FOR SALE
Java dAlliez (38,51,24)

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

DEAR RANDI



RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK

Ness helps Suzie celebrate...

Jim was cheating on me so I left him at last!



Finally! Well done, you're better off without him.

She doesn't know it was me sleeping with Jim.



to be continued...

LOVE DILEMMA

WHICH FRIEND SHOULD I TRY AND HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH?

Dear Randi: During my first days in SL I became close friends with a guy I will call 'Bob' who I now consider my soul-mate. We used to hang out together and talk about everything. Recently he met another girl with whom he says he has 'chemistry', and I encouraged the

relationship. His best friend 'John' is now interested in me and I like him back, but I wonder if I should have tried harder with Bob. I'm inexperienced at love and don't know how to handle this. Help? —I.A.

Randi says: You should go ahead and date John without

promising to be exclusive, but you shouldn't tell him your feelings about Bob yet. See how the new relationships go. Perhaps you will fall in love with John. If not, and you someday find out Bob's other relationship has ended, then waste no time telling Bob exactly how you feel.

HOW CAN I MEET THE RIGHT GUY? SL EXPLOITS NOT A HIT WITH WIFE

Dear Randi: I'll admit to being pretty picky about men, but I was hoping when I joined SL I could find one for a satisfying virtual relationship. It's not difficult to meet guys here, and I do have some male friends. But none of them is quite my 'type'. I have heard about dating services here, and my girlfriends think I should sign up. What do you think? — P.W.

Randi says: It's an excellent idea, particularly if it is not too expensive. The dating service should know men you would not otherwise meet, and you have little to lose. Dating services are putting together many successful relationships in RL. Why can't the same be true here?

Dear Randi: I entered SL as an 'escape valve' and have a pretty complicated in-world life. I have two alts, one a gruff, middle-aged man and the other a stylish, classy young lady. My man has a steady girl while my lady also prefers women. My RL wife has known I am in SL and hasn't been interested in the particulars, but now she has learned more about what I do and isn't happy. What should I do? — R.O.

Randi says: Come clean to her. If you never intended for your male alt to meet his SL girlfriend in RL, tell your wife exactly that. Then invite her to come into SL - if she will agree to join, perhaps she will understand your interest a lot better.

Naughty Tonight?

Night Prowler

Classy Lingerie Slutwear
Bondage Queen
Sexy Costumes
Thigh High Boots
Sex Furniture

Stealth Techsuit

French Maid

Szentasha Fashions

(Glow Estates)

Designs by Szentasha and Jynne Salome

Our high quality outfits satisfy the most discriminating tastes

Many ensembles are tintable, have variants, and include interactive extras

Ask about our newbie special

Conquest



The Virtual Reality Room

Expand your Second Life with the most amazing virtual environment. Set up the most realistic and beautiful homes in SL with just one command!

Forget about ugly neighbors

Not in a seaside SIM? The ugliest griever SL has ever seen just moved next door?

All it takes is one click to be on the beach anyway, or just move to the top of a mountain, the garden of a gorgeous Renaissance castle, a cosy bedroom or down in a dark dungeon: There are more than 150 scenes available in the VRR Shop, and our collection is always growing!

Build a cosy private room or a huge club

Sizes range from 10x10 to 80x80m. Build a skybox, a cosy room, a big home or even a club inside the Virtual Reality Room: Whatever your plans, there is a size to fit your needs.

The Virtual Reality Room just brings your Second Life to another level!

Which is the right room for you?

The **VRR 210** is only 7 prims and 10x10x10m, making it ideal for a cosy cuddle-nest, chat room or skybox that you can even deploy on the fly.

The **VRR 220** is only 29 prims and 20x20x20m, is still ideal for a skybox or but can also make a gorgeous small home. At just a little more than 400sqm, it does fit on a 512sqm plot, provided it's not too elongated in shape.

The **VRR 230** is 64 prims and 30x30x30m, and is perfect for a home or a very nice skybox. At a little more than 900sqm, it fits on reasonably square 1024sqm plot.

The **VRR 240** takes up 113 prims and 40x40x40m. It's already a big room, perfect for a nice home, an expansive skybox or even a club. It is big enough to build a small house **INSIDE** the Virtual Room, using it to display the surroundings of your choice. The room itself occupies a little more than 1600sqm.

We're approaching the top of the Virtual Reality Room lineup with the **VRR 250**. It is only 176 prims for its 50x50x50m, making it ideal to host a good-sized house or a club. The room itself occupies a little more than 2500sqm.

Last but not least, the **VRR280** is currently the top of the Virtual Reality Room lineup. At only 113 prims for its 80x80x80m (6400sqm) it's the ultimate low-prim build, making it ideal to host a big home, club or a big store in the breathtaking setting of your choice. The room itself occupies a little more than 6400sqm.

Find the Virtual Reality Room by searching for
VRR Shop
in *Find/Places*.

FINDING HER PRINCE

By RANDI BARRACUDA

Kymerly and Nebriil



HOW KYMERLY AND NEBRIL FOUND TRUE LOVE WITH EACH OTHER IN SECOND LIFE

Kymerly McCallister kissed a lot of frogs before finding her prince.

But after a rough period during which both suffered ugly breakups with both their Second Life and their real life partners, she and Nebriil Spark are quite the happy couple.

The Heavens Hell stars — she's a dancer and he's primarily a DJ — live together in the spacious castle she built for them in Winterfell, and plan to become SL husband and wife on March 3.

When Nebriil first joined SL last Halloween, he was in an unhappy RL marriage that was

about to end.

And Kymerly, a resident since August 15 last year, was engaged both in SL and RL to different men and both relationships were crumbling.

Spark, who came into SL with Vihlyrel Eclipse, a friend from another website, said the moment he laid eyes on Kymerly he dreamed of starting something special.

But he became sidetracked, and within hours had met his future first SL wife, a woman with whom the couple remains friends despite the subsequent collapse of the marriage.

One night in a dance club Nebriil and Kymerly found solace in each other's arms as their complicated web of relationships crumbled. Now they hope to live happily ever after in SL.

"Aside from the fact that he's now one of my best friends", Kymerly said, "we share many common interests. He's kind, funny, interesting, and sexy. I like his new sword. And most of all, I love how he makes me laugh."

Nebriil added: "She's a wonderful person. She's kind, caring, creative, attentive — I love her and I'm in love with her."

THIS WEEK'S HOTTEST DATES

VALENTINE'S DAY IS OVER, BUT THERE IS STILL TIME FOR ROMANCE IN SL! *By RANDI BARRACUDA*



CHRYSORCA

How would you describe yourself?

I'm a nice, pretty, outgoing girl who likes to have fun and laughs a lot.

What do you like to do in Second Life?

I like to chat, and of course go to the clubs and dance!

Where are your favourite places in SL?

Inner Circle, Bad Girls and Edge. They all have great dance music.

Describe your dream date.

I like a guy who laughs, knows how to have fun and dresses well. And it would be great if he spoke French as I do.

How would you describe yourself?

I'm reasonably intelligent and always curious. I can be reclusive, but sometimes I'm outgoing.

What do you like to do in Second Life?

I'm loving the experience of learning all about it, especially learning to build my own things!

Where are your favourite places in SL?

That would be hard to say.

I love visiting new places all the time. All of SL is amazing to me.

Describe your dream date.

She would definitely be open and honest, and someone who is interested in learning all about SL with me.



HOWARD FINNEY



THUNDERCLAP MORGRIDGE

How would you describe yourself?

I'm an author and clothes designer who believes deeply in peace. I am deeply involved in my faith.

What do you like to do in SL?

Contribute to the grid, wander around and see everything and meet new people. I am also building a chapel.

Where are your favourite places in SL?

I like Neufreistadt's Gwyneth Llewelyn town and Xentlix because of the low land and the relatively sane people. The snow lodge is absolutely beautiful!

Describe your dream date.

I'm looking for a cute, fun-loving girl who knows how to have a good time but also loves to cuddle and be quiet. And she must love clothes, so she can wear my Oscar- and Grammy-style gowns and shoes!

How would you describe yourself?

I'm basically a shy girl, even though I work as a dancer. I'm friendly and cheerful and love to laugh!

What do you like to do in SL?

I like my job and I love to shop. I enjoy exploring new places with good friends.

Where are your favourite places in Second Life?

Shopping malls, especially Butterfly Island. They sell my favourite clothes.

Describe your dream date.

Humour! That's very important to me, because I have a good sense of humour myself. And I hope he is both tall and fit.



JOCEY KYOMOON

THE GUIDE

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK!

THIS WEEK: ASIA

PEACEFUL: Little Kyoto

By GAETANA FAUST

THE MYSTERIES OF THE EAST

DISCOVER THE BEST ASIA HAS TO OFFER

WHETHER you're from Asia or just an admirer of Asian culture, fashion, and architecture, your travels in SL can offer a chance to explore the wealth of Asia via teleport. There are three Samurai sims (Tokyo, Edo, and Samurai Island 128, 242, 24). Here you'll find the House of Blade Mall, a pond, a Japanese garden, and even a combat battleground where samurai can practice their sword skills.



SWORDPLAY: Samurai sims

Little Kyoto in Juho (89, 165, 62) is a shopping district where visitors can stroll among bamboo trees and Japanese architecture. For a Japanese 'zashiki' experience, visit the Karyukai Japanese tea house in Pyrina (197,47,29). Geisha

provide tea and entertainment, with fan dancing and music for an authentic experience.

In Hyperborea (230,206, 23), the Peranakan Corner highlights the world of the Chinese Straits, with architecture and art. At the Shin Tao Haiku Retreat in Ophelia (14,23,21), snow covers the ground and paths are lined with trees. It's a lush, quiet backdrop for a cup of

tea and silent contemplation. Devotees of kimonos and cheongsams will enjoy the wares at House of Zen in Hinode Shim (194,97,25), although they are far from the only items available at this chic clothing store.

FOR ROMANTICS

KARYUKAI TEA HOUSE



Enjoy the hospitality of the Geisha at this wonderful tea house.

Where: Pyrina (197, 47, 29)

JAPANESE ART HOUSE OF RAVEN



Discover the superb collection of Japanese screens on offer at the House of Raven and Asian Store.

Where: Jeogori (173, 239, 99)

CHIC ASIAN CLOTHING HOUSE OF ZEN



For kimonos, cheongsams and much more. Where: Hinode Shima (194, 97, 25)

2.23. - 3.01.

'DON'T MISS!' –**MUSIC****Leonie Smith Live**

The Australian jazz vocalist performs tracks from her debut albums, 'Sweet Jazz' and 'Never The Less'. A must for all you fans of jazz.

When: March 1, 17:30 - 18:30

Where: Nantucket (30, 181)

**SHOPPING****Yard sale for Virtual Angels**

The new charity, launched from the old charity Ayesha's Angels, starts with a ten day simwide yard sale, with donations from huge SL designers.

When: Beginning February 22

Where: Useful Technology (57, 216)

**NIGHTLIFE****Post Oscars Party**

Dress up to the nines, and stroll down the red carpet for a real celebration after the awards.

When: February 25, 11:30 - 14:30

Where: Paduk (15, 125)

**MUSIC****Aldo Live**

Aldo plays on the beach. Enjoy an afternoon of ambient music.

When: February 24, 13:00

Where: Neo Goa Island, Magenta (92, 223)

**NIGHTLIFE****Lingerie Party**

Put on your sexiest lingerie with a chance to win the contest.

When: February 27, 12:00 - 13:30

Where: Drum (82, 22)

**EVENT OF THE WEEK!****Miss Second Life**

The beautiful and talented finalists of the first ever Miss Second Life Pageant will compete for the title.

When: February 25, 09:00

Where: Costa del Sol, Montserrat (40, 129)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK**MUSIC****Frogg Marlowe and Jaycatt Nico LIVE**

The friendly duo are two of SL's favourite musicians. If you haven't seen them yet, make sure you catch them - it's a must.

When: February 24, 03:00 - 04:00

Where: MCEstates (112, 45)

**OPENING****BC Designs for your home**

Come along to the grand opening celebration for BC Designs. Snap up the newest and trendiest furniture and artwork designs by Bryon Curtis.

When: February 28, 17:00 - 20:00

Where: SoHo (111, 161)

**EDUCATION****Dressing without getting naked**

Second Life finishing school. Don't risk bearing it all in public, it's a horribly noob faux pas, and help is at hand with this class so you can avoid embarrassment.

When: February 26, 11:00 - 12:00

Where: Mystica (140, 231)

**EVENT OF THE WEEK!****The Oscars**

The formal ball and awards starts with the 'Casablanca Experience'. The ceremony will be hosted by Hollywood & Trader1 Radio.

When: February 25, 10:00

Where: Hollywood Bowl Hollywood (184, 104)

**NIGHTLIFE****Best and baddest beats**

DJ Ephemera delivers the best Conscious Hip-Hop and R&B mix around to a crowd of cool young things.

When: February 25, 10:00 - 11:00

Where: Isle of Genesis (247, 39)

WANT TO SEE YOUR EVENT HERE?

DO you have an event which you would like to see published in The AvaStar's Events section? If so, email us details at news-desk@the-avastar.com.



How to...

Everything a newbie needs to know!

HOW TO... KEEP TRACK OF YOUR FINANCES IN SECOND LIFE

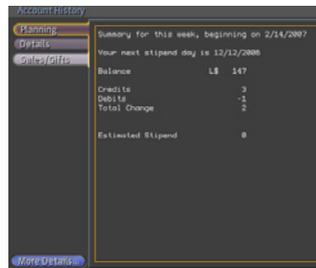
DID you know that every Second Life resident has a financial record?

To find yours, click on World at the top of your screen and select Account History, and you will see a record of your most recent incoming and outgoing expenses. You will find three tabs there: planning, details, and sales and gifts.

If you need more information, click the More Details button which will open your internet browser and take you to a page at the SL website. There you can view or download a copy of your financial records, laid out in

great detail including an option to show transactions that did not involve money, although that option greatly increases the size of the report.

You can also set a date range for the report to cover, although it stops with 500 transactions. Be aware that this even covers the



textures you upload - everything involving a Linden dollar in Second Life.

Details include the date, time, who the item came from, the exact name and more. This is handy if you forget what the item was called and need to find it in the inventory again later - you will at least have the description of the item if not the exact name.

SL Exchange and SL Boutique also have financial statements for account holders. It is a good idea to check your details once a month, and save a copy of the records.

ADVERT

Club Silverstar

Where the party never stops!

Well equipped dance-floor
Money sploder Talented strippers & dancers & We have the music you want to hear!!
From House of Music

Live Dj's, Audience Requests, pole dancers, strippers, escorts, complete entertainment.

FIND THE BEST FREEBIES

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

Do you want to live in a lighthouse, or perhaps own a skyscraper or church? In SL you can fulfil your dreams for just L\$1 - the conventional price for a freebie - or even less.

Among tons of quality stuff, GNUbie (Indigo, 226, 52 31) has a nice selection of free houses, from the Alpine Cabin of Juro Khotari to Jai Nomad's futuristic loft. You can use them, and also learn something about building technique as they come

But don't forget to visit designers' shops, too, where they love to offer L\$1 stuff to give an idea of their products. Sometimes you can pick up a real bargain, like the elegant Fawn Skyhome package, a stylish Japanese house for a 512 plot you can find at the House of Efulgent (Boksunga 53, 79, 120). It's a two-room cottage with a large terrace, beautiful textures and scripted sliding doors, in two versions. Inside the folder you can find basic furniture and some elaborate items, like scripted lamps, a kimono hanger, a dressing screen and a delightful stove that gives its lucky owner a yummy bowl of food.



DO + DO'S AND DON'TS OF BUILDING - DON'T

By GAETANA FAUST

- + Start at the Ivory Tower of Prim Knowledge or Help Island to learn basic building skills.
- + Practice at one of the many public sandboxes available.
- + Look for building classes in the Events tab of Search.
- + Examine the structure of RL objects for ideas on what to build.
- + Learn basic scripting to make objects come to life. A door won't be much use if it doesn't open.
- Build things using dozens of prims. Your land has a prim limit.
- Use only the default textures. You'll find lots of resources for free or purchased textures all over SL, or you upload your own for only \$L10.
- Forget to set the permissions for your prims, to lock them down or allow others to modify your objects.
- Leave practice prims lying all over the place. As your mother always said, clean up after yourself!

DIARY OF A NEWBIE

GROUNDHOG DAY

My Second Life birth happened several times in one morning, which made the experience even more surreal than I had bargained for.

After arriving in SL, I played around with changing my appearance. Getting wrapped up in the possibilities on offer, I had settled on thick luscious lips and a huge pair of breasts, which when I think of it now, were rather untasteful. Moments after I had adopted this guise of a sexy porn star, my computer crashed.

Now that I have lived through a few crashes in SL, I know the usual practice is to log back in at the place where you left. However, a bug that morning meant when I returned, I was back at the entrance door looking like I had on my first arrival. And it kept happening. I would teleport somewhere, and crashes would take me back to my moment of entrance. This was a good thing because each time I logged back in, I realised the mistakes I had made the time before - so I toned down my initial appearance. Groundhog Day was a bonus!

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

CHARITY COLVILLE

MIXING BUSINESS, MUSIC, ROMANCE, FRIENDSHIP AND TRUE LOVE, CHARITY HAS EVERYTHING SHE NEEDS AND LOVES ABOUT SL IN ONE SUCCESSFUL VENUE. BUT SHE IS CONSTANTLY LOOKING TO IMPROVE BOTH IT AND SL FOR THE BETTER.

By CARRIE SODWIND

PROFILE

NAME:

Charity Colville

BIRTH DATE:

07.29.2006

PROFESSION:

Co-owner of Phat Cat's Jazzy Blue Lounge

ATTITUDE:

Dancin' and Romancin'

THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?

CHARITY COLVILLE: My husband and business partner Dilbert, my love of people, and my optimism.

TA: What is your favourite place in SL?

CC: That's because the people who come here are the greatest. I am a big supporter of live music in SL. I utterly adore Heath Vercher. Anywhere ElectrAcoustic Fusion

is providing a live artist, you will find me. Castrense is a new live venue with some great entertainment.

TA: What would you change in SL?

CC: There need to be more wholesome adult venues, free from the sleaze and child role play I hear about. That concerns me as a parent.

TA: How do you spend time in SL?

CC: Dancing with Dilbert and working out how we can improve our venue to make

it more fun for everyone. We will soon move to a new five class sim which will accommodate more people.

TA: What personal SL achievements are you proud of?

CC: Most importantly I met Dilbert here and our RL love affair continues to blossom. I am proud of our club and the group we have built. We have over 2,000 members now, most of whom we have spoken to personally. I have built

wonderful life-long friendships too.

TA: What is the most precious item in your inventory?

CC: My paradise blanket and the rings Dilbert gave me.

TA: Who would you vote for president of SL if there was one?

CC: Dilbert Dilweg. I am biased but he is a wonderful man with a huge heart and great vision for SL. He is business savvy, but also honest. There aren't many RL politicians like that.

