

THE AVASTAR
Your World. Your Voice.

VOICE CHAT TEST SUCCESS

- RESIDENTS REPORT FROM THE GRID
- SYSTEM ON COURSE FOR JUNE LAUNCH



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SL TO WIN VIRTUAL WORLD WAR?



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"SL is still the best and most flexible virtual world around. Others may have less lag or better graphics, but none come close to the flexibility, creative freedom and content in SL."

PHAM NEUTRA
p.5



"WE didn't create this world so beautifully for others to come along and ruin it with their ugly adverts. I say we start a grid-wide campaign to boot all those putting up huge ugly signs out. We must make it clear that we won't tolerate it."

REGIS
BRAATHENS
p.5



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.

CHAOS ON SL'S HIGHWAYS



THIS virtual crash resulted in Tina (PetGirl) Bergman being taken to hospital - after she was told by a Linden to drive in the middle of the road!

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VOICE CHAT: FIRST LOOK

SECOND Life took its first steps towards fully integrated voice chat earlier this month with the launch of the beta test grid, from where

Dedic Mauriac and Deeep Witte report on how the system has been working.

PICS By IN KENZO AND DEEEEP WITTE



DEDIC MAURIAC:

WE'VE had a lot of fun on the beta grid. One thing I love is the flash mobs. We see a couple of people talking in the distance and a group of us decide to run up to them screaming. The result is that the people we saw hear us approaching and the screaming gets louder. It's a ton of fun as every-



TALKATIVE:
Stay Puff
Marshmallow
Man

one just laughs uncontrollably for the next few minutes.

We've also had fun tes-



THE GREEN LINE:
Tao Takashi is talking.

ting out the distance features with animations and rotating objects. One animation, 'Rave3' by Plastic Duck, had our avatars animating all over the place very quickly. By constantly yelling and screaming, we found voice does travel where the animations place our avatars rather than the physical location that our avatars are actually standing. We have had fun flying away and screaming while we fall back into our groups. We've had several conversations such as how do you pronounce LOL? and say things like, "I less than three you!" Which is a sideways heard <3.

There is still much to be done with voice - muting, Group chat, IM's, etc. Right now, everything is still pretty early. That means many questions have still to be answered.



DEEEEP WITTE:

THE voice chat infrastructure from Vivox is independent of any sim lag since the data is not passed through the sim's servers. That will mean voice chat will not be affected by rampant scripts and grievers. One bug in their current release is that if you use the far-see mode, you can actually invisibly sneak up to people and listen in on their conversation. This opens a whole new world for perverts and voyeurs.

The next release of the voicebeta is supposed to limit the audio-range to 20 metres. One of the major issues

with voice chat is cost. Mainland and private island sims will have voice standard enabled, but cheap private sims may have to pay a fee. In that

case, people need to decide whether they



HAVING FUN:
Banana phones

want voice or not. At points in the conversation, we all reverted back to typing, since somehow this was more natural in this world. And also voice is not registered, so when you hear something you will have



TALKING HEADS:
In Kenzo, Moo Money
and Spike Linden

to note it down, since it is not recorded for you. Just when I dumped all the short term conversations from my brain because SL kept logs...

THE COMPETITION

THE recent explosion in the number of virtual worlds could give SL its biggest test yet. But how do the competition match up? Here are the likeliest candidates:

THERE.COM:

Launched in 2003, There markets itself as an "everyday getaway". It caters for residents from age 13 upwards with an emphasis on social networking.

WORLD OF WARCRAFT:

WoW is the most populous of all the virtual worlds, with more than 8 million gamers signing up since its launch in November 2004.

PLAYSTATION HOME:

Announced by Sony earlier this month, Playstation Home is set to become available as a free download for PS3 consoles from August and has been described as "uncannily similar" to our world.

KANEVA:

Known as 'Second Life Lite', Kaneva users are given their own space to decorate and customise. It is currently being tested, with a full launch expected later this year.

MEEZ:

Launched in March 2006, Meez allows its users to create almost anything they like, and is entirely browser-based.

THREAT TO SL?

COMPETITION NOT ENOUGH TO DAMPEN PHILIP LINDEN'S SPIRITS

FOR years SL has enjoyed a widely-regarded position as the biggest and best virtual world on the planet. But for Philip Linden and his creation, that might all be about to change.

Earlier this month gaming giant Sony announced the launch of Playstation Home, a rival world on the PS3 console. It is by no means the only potential competitor for SL, with new metaverse wannabes springing all the time.

But do residents in SL need to worry? Some feel that Linden Lab has been encouraging as many people as possible to sign up to SL with the aim of making their position as the biggest virtual world permanent.



SONY HOME: How it will look

Yet there are also concerns that SL might be sidelined by younger, fresher and more dynamic newcomers to the Metaverse scene. Sony's Home will arrive later this year, and there are plans for Virgin to launch a similar venture. Other potential competitors already exist, in the shape of Kaneva, There.com and HiPiHi. This week, Philip dismissed any thought of SL being under threat. He said: "Second Life will be as big as the internet. I anticipate there will be 1.5billion users."

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

I THINK that SL could be under threat because it's getting old and more advance simulators are sure to replace it with kick ass graphics in the future.

But at the moment as far as I know, this is the best life simulator on the web. Not only is it free, people can also make millions off it!

IT probably will be overtaken some time in the future. The world is always changing and people are out there making a rival of SL right now.

I DON'T think so. There is too much money earned within SL. So why shoot the cow when it's giving you milk?

The users ability to build their own world, however they like in SL, is what keeps so many people here.

I THINK that there is really nothing like SL out there right now. Similar up and coming worlds don't mention anything about user created content.

The world is always changing and people are out there making a rival of SL right now.



Andrew Fletcher Zhao:



TD Yap:



Mimiko Ketsugo:



Six Kennedy:

NO DANGER YET

SECOND LIFE IS STILL WAY AHEAD OF THE COMPETITION



SECOND Life is not the only virtual world in the universe.

It never was. But with its success, more genuine competitors are sprouting across the globe. China has HiPiHi, a near clone of SL, and in the US there is Kaneva. Sony announced the launch of their visually impressive Home for the Playstation 3 last week, and many smaller projects are also raising their heads. Some clearly intend to give SL a run for its money, so is there reason for us Second Lifers to immigrate? I seriously doubt it.

Experience

While most of the competitors are not quite ready, one can already see the huge differences between them and SL. For example, most are not really a 'world' as such.

There is no large terrain upon which you can walk, fly, drive and sail; which you can enjoy and really experience as a world (the only exception being the Chinese-language HiPiHi). The biggest locations you experience in these worlds are apartments or clubs. Not bad, but not really a world. Some of them are simply glorified chat rooms.

Barriers

For those of us who like shopping, it is possible elsewhere, but none of the wannabes offer as many possibilities for in-world designers to create fashion, houses, furniture, vehicles, gadgets etc. The development of resident-driven businesses is severely limited or comes with high entry barriers. Small businesses are the source of most of the attractive content and entertainment offerings in SL. Entrepreneurs not only make money, they build our world.

Viable competitor

Second Life is still the best and most flexible virtual world around. Others may have a little less lag or better graphics. But no competitor comes even close to the flexibility, creative freedom and resultant vast amount of content in SL. Someday a viable competitor may arise - but I have yet to see one.



NEW: Sony Home screenshot



COMPETITION: Sony Home preview

'PRETTY' LOOK NOT ENOUGH

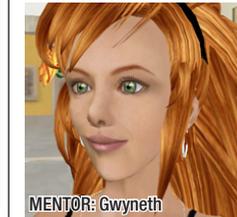
LEGENDARY SL blogger and mentor Gwyneth Llewelyn tells The Avastar she thinks SL's place at the pre-eminent virtual world is safe:

TA: Do you think SL is under threat from other virtual worlds?

GL: We will see the rise of many 'competitors' fighting for a share of the metaverse market. Most will understand, after a year or so, how hard it is to replicate what LL does with SL, and make a profit to satisfy their investors.

TA: How do you rate newcomers like Sony?

GL: They all have pretty graphics and a good brand behind them. The pretty graphics will definitely sell. Compare them to IMVU, There.com, Kaneva or even Multiverse - Sony is way ahead of them in terms of quality. In any case, does this threaten SL? Definitely not in 2007. Pretty graphics and social interaction will indeed be important to open up a new market; however, this is not enough.



MENTOR: Gwyneth

callie cline clothing • accessories • style

LOOKING FOR A LOVING FAMILY

THE INNOCENT SIDE OF CHILD AVATARS IN SECOND LIFE



By HONEY BENDER

ADOPTION agencies have been springing up in sims across Second Life due to popular demand, revealing the lighter side of child roleplay.

Potential parents and 'children' – or rather the adults playing them – flock to the agencies hoping to find their perfect match.

The New Life Adoption Agency opened in October last year, and includes a lovely outside garden where children play and chat. Inside there is one wall covered with photos of orphans seeking parents, and another with couples looking to adopt. The centre is run by Keenan Keen,

who is the proud father of nine. He said there were many reasons why some people wanted to 'play family'. "Most just want to love and be loved. I think that every person in SL plays a life here where they have things they don't have in RL."

Keenan stressed that playing a child avatar is not always about the darker side of SL, age

play. The agency bans lurking paedophiles and anyone else who tries to find age play, and employs several people to find them. They are then reported to Linden Lab in the hope their IP address can be traced and the offenders banned from SL altogether.

Keenan added: "Half of the families and kids in SL know me. Some hate me. Age players know they can't play games with me so they don't waste their time trying to come here. It means I have to live with the hate of many but that simplifies my business – only the best people come to us."



NEWS BITES!

SECURITY PANIC AT THE LAB

A POTENTIAL database breach left 1,138 residents fearing the worst this week, after Linden Lab asked them to check the security of their credit cards. Residents have since been left in the dark as to how many were badly affected.

HORROR IN SL

HORROR writer Dean Koontz sent shivers down residents' spines yesterday with a reading from his latest book.

SPECTACUL-AIR!

FAMOUS French band Air has released its fourth album in SL. All songs from the 'Pocket Symphony' record can be sampled whilst watching the album's visual art and a documentary.

ITALIAN FINE ART

THE Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has opened an Italian Cultural Institute in SL and will showcase activities of its Cultural Promotion Department.

WEATHER IN SL

THE U.S. based Weather Channel has launched five sims in a bid to promote a new program called Epic Conditions.



REGIS BRAATHENS

MAKING YOUR AVASTAR BETTER

THE AVASTAR has been running now for thirteen issues - and I want to thank you for your support so far.

In order to develop your favourite SL tabloid and make The AvaStar even better, we will be introducing a cover price of L\$150 for the newspaper from next week.

And you can even earn money through The AvaStar - if you send us a photo of a great event, or write us an email voicing your opinions, you'll get L\$500 if we print it! That would finance three issues with L\$50 to spare!

That is what we want you to do - as involving our readers is the only way to make it a great newspaper.

We hope you continue to enjoy the AvaStar, as we have a lot more to offer you in the coming weeks.



THE AVASTAR: Issue One

STOP SL LOOKING LIKE A CHEAP HOLIDAY RESORT

KICK UGLY EYESORES OUT OF OUR WORLD BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE



WE didn't create this world so beautifully for others to come along and ruin it with their ugly adverts.

Last week we reported on how a new resident-run database of ugly-ad offenders has been set up in a bid to force out those who are turning parts of our world into an eyesore. I say we start a grid-

wide campaign to boot out all those putting up huge ugly signs. We must make it clear that we the residents won't tolerate it.

Danger

If we don't clamp down now, the beautiful areas of our grid such as the gardens of Apollo, Varga and countless others, will soon resemble nasty holiday resorts, overflowing with big ads promoting cheap attractions. There is also no business sense to it - as no one is going to click on a terrible advert.

If you want to start a campaign to succeed, then you need to

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

follow Vanity Fair's example.

The newly launched German edition of the top lifestyle magazine has, rather than set up an island with nothing special on it, gone for subtle, smart advertising through vendor type displays that residents are used to. It's not an eyesore and is far more effective than spamming land with ugly ads.



SUBTLE: RL ads

WEDDING bells were ringing this week as the AvaStar fashionista Isabel Brocco tied the knot with her man. Congrats!



BLISS: Isai's joy

LAB STUCK IN COLD WAR

They may have had their heads buried in virtual sand over the last five years, but surely they must know that the Soviet Union collapsed 16 years ago! Funny, then, that you can still sign up to Second Life as a citizen of the USSR!

Your Real Name

First Name: Cold
Last Name: War
Gender: Male
Country: Soviet Union

SOVIET SL

your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

SL GENDER NOT AN ISSUE

Hey Regis, I READ the article about women's influence in Second Life.

There are so many influences here in SL and they are always changing, probably a lot quicker than in real life. I do agree that there are some wonderfully talented women and some great female personalities here in SL - regardless of their real life gender. However, because the world is made up of so many

minority groups, islands and interests, I think it is impossible to know who or what has a majority influence. There shouldn't be a debate in SL about gender because it is the one place where men and women are equal, or at least of-

ten indeterminate. By bringing these issues into SL, we bring the same insecurities and hierarchies into a world where they shouldn't matter. SL is unique because everyone has equal opportunities here. We should work on keeping it that way. Judging by the amazing things male avatars have done, it doesn't require "lip gloss and hair styles" to bring on that success.

By Alfred Schroeder

E-MAILS OF THE WEEK
500 LINDEN DOLLARS

VOICE CHAT WILL NOT HELP DEAF

Hey Regis, YES, change is good, but so is looking at the big picture.

While I agree with most of your points on voice chat in your column on March 2, you had one major factor left unconsidered. How will voice chat deal with the deaf community? Our lips don't move, there is nothing to read for the deaf in more ways than one. You did have your points, but I found your tone just a little glib.

By snaper Strong

GIRL POWER HELPS MEN

Hey Regis, YOU say that female avatars rule the roost in SL - I totally and utterly agree!

I originally joined SL not too long ago (I'd like to remain anonymous) as a man, as that is what I am in real life.

But it wasn't too long before I started messing around with alts, especially female ones. I think this is quite a common thing among male residents, just a bit of a joke really. But

I soon discovered what exactly being a woman in SL meant. Not only did I have lots of fun - more than with my male avatar - but people were nicer to me

and helped me out. Now that I have set up a business in SL, I solely use my female persona for business transactions as I find I tend to come out of it better than when I am 'wearing' my manly attributes. Go figure! The truth is that men are willing to be nice to women, and bend over backwards for them, just like in RL, and in SL us men can make use of that!

Name supplied

THE BIG ISSUE
The debate about the influence wielded in Second Life by women has sparked a flurry of post to Your Mail. Are women really on top in SL? Or do RL rules apply here as well?

GOREANS SHOW MEN RULE SL

Hey Regis, REGARDING 'Women on Top'.

Those ladies should get off their high heels for a minute and think about all those female Gorean slaves. They get paid and kept by male 'Masters' because they do everything they are told. I am not being chauvinistic, no one really rules SL. In the houses of Goreans, who are a big part of SL, the man rules. That power is what they come there for.

By Dancing Burt

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TOUCH TO
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PIONEERING SL TV IN 14 DAYS

TV CHANNEL ABOUT SL SET TO EXPAND INTO DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

By REGIS BRAATHENS

THE first TV station in Second Life took just 14 days to go from being an idea to becoming reality.

Walt Stevenson and Harley Kohime came up with the idea for Life 4-U while talking to colleagues in the pub. Two weeks later and the first TV news feature went live.

"We wanted to give the residents a new medium - television that was wholly researched, filmed, produced and shown in SL", said Harley.

Newcomers

The channel is currently offering a weekly news program with short reports, stories and interviews. At the moment it is orientated towards newbies, but there are aims to develop its content in coming editions alongside a program dedicated solely to SL newcomers.

"Who's hip, who's successful, who's

setting trends - that is what we will be reporting in the coming weeks", Harley added.

Feedback

Machinima experts will have the opportunity to work for Life 4-U and the channel also hopes to be a platform for machinima artists to show their best films.

Due to positive feedback there are already plans to translate the program into different languages and the company is now looking for native speakers.



TILA TEQUILA'S SL TOUR

DUTCH entertainment firm Endemol is set to promote MySpace darling Tila Tequila in SL.



LUXURY: Tila's SL mansion

Following on from its Big Brother project in SL, Endemol is hoping to use the virtual world as another platform on which to promote the MySpace star. Tila is hoping to add to her

1.6 million friends and create more hype for the Digital-Only release of her debut single and video 'I Love U'. A mansion has been created in SL for the star and events are planned. She will be in SL on Monday March 19 to talk to residents.

BIZ BITES!

RICH AND POOR

THE number of residents earning US\$5,000 a month or more grew by 20 per cent to 116 in February, according to LL data. However, more than half of all residents take home less than US\$10 each month.

METABOYS IN SL

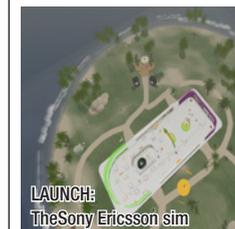
RESIDENTS will be able to attend CeBIT, the top business event for the digital world, via SL. On Hamburg Islands, the METABOYS agencies have recreated their CeBIT stand, with live streaming from the event.

IM FOR PIZZA

REAL life pizzas could soon be ordered direct from SL. Following high online sales, Domino's Pizza is now set to accept in-world orders.

SONY ERICSS-SIM

SONY Ericsson opened it's sim yesterday to coincide with the start of CeBIT. Their new W880 model can be won everyday.



LAUNCH: The Sony Ericsson sim

INTERZONE STYLE HAS LANDED

BY CARRIE SODWIND, PICS BY SKYCAT RANGER
A CROWD of 65 people turned out for the opening of the new stylish sim Interzone last Friday.

The Italian-influenced fashion lines by Gina were displayed by models Diletta Claymore and Fiametta Kidd. Creative director Bianca Foulon presented her video for

the CKlein perfume launch in Milan, featuring Interzone, and said she was pleased with the turnout.

MODEL: Viola Philbin



ON THE CATWALK: Bianca Foulon and Fiametta Kidd

PARTY TIME: Getting down

MODEL: Celina Lathrop

CHIC: Fashion on display

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

REAL estate tycoon and SL's first RL millionaire ANSHE CHUNG turns three on Thursday. Happy Birthday Anshe!

ARTIFICIAL EVENT A REAL SUCCESS

By JENZZA MISFIT

A DIVERSE offering of entertainment was on offer at the Second Convention

last weekend with events at Artificial Island and Motoratti. An outdoor market with many exhibitors, designers and residents showcased items of exceptional design and drew a large crowd of enthusiastic shoppers.



Boo Nakamura, Asimon Jacks, Accur Kurosawa



Honey Fairweather and Mizzy Wikinger

AFRICAN HARP MUSIC IN SL

By KOLLIN TENDAZE

AFRICAN musician Bakary Diarra played an amazing hour of kora, or African harp music, with stunning vocals to an enthralled crowd at the Muse Isle sim last week. His friend and fellow

SL musician JeanChristoph Chevalier acted as a translator for the beautiful songs.



MUSIC lovers

ROCK AND R-AOL

By JENZZA MISFIT

THE Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Awards was streamed into SL this week.

Guests attending the party in SL got to watch the awards in the excellent build at AOL Pointe. People arriving early could wander around the



HALL of fame



A-STAR GOSSIP
By JenZZa Misfit

SWEDES ON STAGE

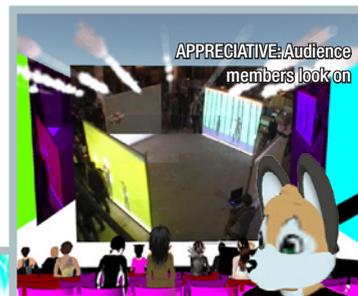
DANCE THEATRE PUT ON UNIQUE PERFORMANCE

A DANCE troupe founded by architecture students from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm put on a unique performance last Friday. The event

by the Second Life Modern Dance Theatre, in collaboration with the Stockholm Modern Dance Theatre, was streamed into RL on five screens.

Eight avatars danced on a scene placed in The Office and the appearance of the stage changed for the audience as they sat on different scripted seats. The mu-

sical score helped generate a full capacity crowd for the event.



APPRECIATIVE: Audience members look on



PERFORMERS: Epletre Asp and Heatncliff Cardiff



DANCER: berra Bogdanovich

UNIQUE: The event in full swing

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Did you spot something unusual? Have you got exclusive snapshots of a SL celebrity? Were you at a great event or party? Have you seen something new that you want to share with

others? Then send us your photos and you could earn yourself Linden Dollars. For each photo published in the newspaper the author will receive 500L\$.



GRACING THE STAGE

SOME of the freshest new styles were on display at the Second Convention fashion show last Saturday.

It was a full house at Artificial Isle, with 26 different designers showing off their latest lines, including

Callie Cline, Sensual Casanova, Nicky Ree, and Shenlei Flasheart.

By ISABEL BROCCO

Spellbound

Babydoll dress for everyday wear or for clubbing. Includes leg warmers.

By Encore Hillcrest Estates (92, 187, 2)

L\$175

Sunshine, with prim belt

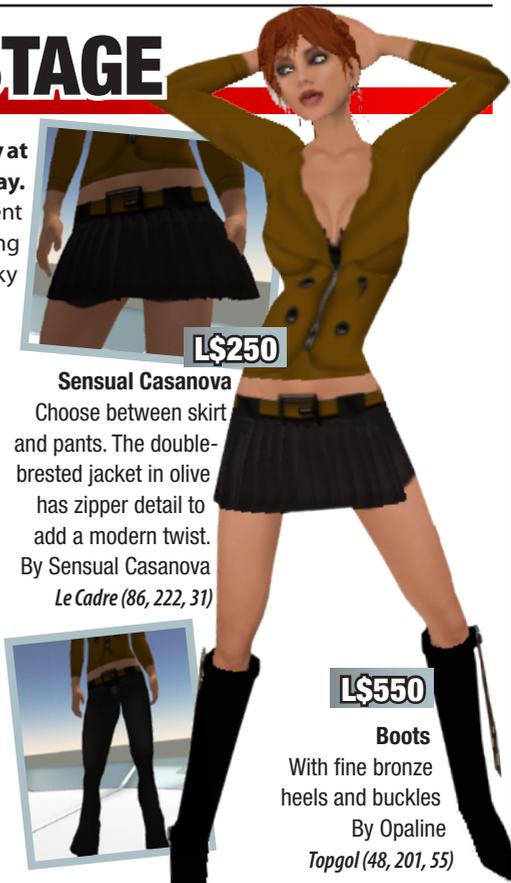
This dress has wonderful details and the shoes are a great match. Go into the new season with some bold colour. By Tazzie Cosmet (6, 191, 25)

L\$350

Strap pumps in Yellow

By Opaline Topgol (48, 201, 55)

L\$300



Sensual Casanova

Choose between skirt and pants. The double-breasted jacket in olive has zipper detail to add a modern twist. By Sensual Casanova Le Cadre (86, 222, 31)

L\$250



L\$550

Boots

With fine bronze heels and buckles. By Opaline Topgol (48, 201, 55)



L\$75

L\$50

SHENLEI FLASHEART

1905 Snow Day Dress. Add fan, hat and jewels to embellish the elegance. By Prim and Proper Tamrannoch (210, 103, 23)

L\$350

callie cline's STYLE HOTLINE



BUDGET FASHION

YOU CAN LOOK COOL, STYLISH AND STUNNING EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK WITH THE HELP OF FASHION DESIGN STAR CALLIE CLINE

SO maybe you don't have tons of Lindens to spend on new releases of the latest clothes, as you don't want to beg, borrow, or steal just to have the new 'in' item that will be 'out' by next week, so what do you do?

A few little tips - get a few classic pieces you can wear over and over, and then mix and match to create new looks. For example, a great pair of jeans can go a long way, as can a 'little black dress', a simple sweater and a nice blouse. Buy in your favourite colours

and think about mixing pieces as you shop.

Clothing that can be modified is a great plus! A long gown can be

made into a mini skirt, long pants can be tucked into boots, light colours can be tinted, and bam! a whole new wardrobe is yours.

You can also find great deals at yard sales. I once bought a huge box of clothes for L\$25



which included more than 2,000 items! Additionally, many designers have discounted sections with things for sale at L\$10 (BareRose) and L\$50 (Torrid Wear). In fact, there are bargains to be found everywhere!

WHAT'S HOT! DRAB DEL HAS A BAK HAIR DAY

By Isabel Brocco

DEL Linden was spotted this week in ETD's hair department, looking lost and very drab. The Linden was clearly in need of some help. All in grey and a badly fitting suit, Del must have been shopping for a new look.

If there is one thing that must be avoided at all costs in SL it is boring outfits which lack imagination. And really, a Linden should know better. Del's decision to hit the funky ETD store was definitely a hot choice, though, and I bet she let her hair down that night.



DRAB: Del Linden

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK FIACHRA LACH OF ESSENTIA

MY top three items: My belt because I am American and proud. I have so many wacky and cool clothes it is hard to choose one in particular. But I have to choose this because I wear it the most - even with my swimming trunks.



MEEPO here is my dog and a great companion by SL PALS, Vekk Sonic. He was a birthday present from my best friend last November. He has his own little personality. He gets confused, and sometimes he goes for a wander and walks right off the side of the Island.



THIS plain black shirt was the first item which made me want to change from furry to human av. The realish style of this clashed with the cartoon look of my av. It's by Naughty Designs.



DESIGNERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Shoshana Epsilon

SL Birth Date:

9/8/2005

Famous for:

Wedding pics, magazine photography and turning snapshots into art.

BY LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

LL: Do you see yourself as an artist?

SE: Yes. I do some work (weddings, mostly) which requires no brain power. Fashion shows are like that, although it is still possible to get some really nice pictures out of those venues.

LL: What makes photography become art?

SE: Good art tells a story or makes you want to know more about the people involved. It

makes you want to crawl into the model's head to find out what the person thinks.

LL: What do you like most about working in SL?

SE: I can move the sun! I can also take my pictures and do amazing things with them quickly. Most of all I get to show people how I see them.

LL: Is photography in SL now an art form in itself?

SE: I find that it is related to RL. I take RL examples for my art, RL photographic techniques. It's one of the reasons that flickr makes me mad. They have hidden my work from most of the flickr community because they're not photographs.

LL: Are you concerned about how your art adds to culture and value in SL?

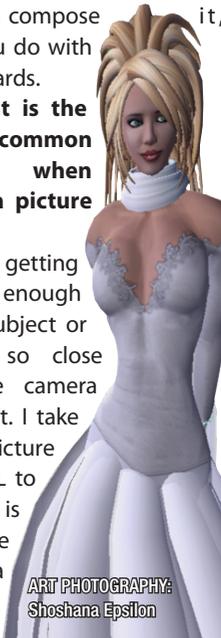
SE: I'm only concerned because some people say "its just a snapshot, for heavens sake. It's

not art." Everyone in SL can take a snapshot.

But a snapshot in SL isn't art any more than a snapshot IRL is art. Art is in how you frame it, how you compose what you do with it afterwards.

LL: What is the most common mistake when taking a picture in SL?

SE: Not getting close enough to the subject or getting so close that the camera distorts it. I take every picture out of SL to crop. It is very rare to take a perfect picture.



ART PHOTOGRAPHY: Shoshana Epsilon

THE RIGHT NOTES

By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN



Grand Piano

In nine different colours with a variety of different tunes. By Lister Lameth

The Piano Man, Bae (182, 86, 62)



L\$750

Musical Alchemy

Concert Harp.

By Persephone Milk
Persenickety Isle (167, 45, 25)



L\$650

Upright Bass

By Robbie Dingo
Scafell (55, 141, 47)



L\$350

Aretha Headphone in blue

From Aretha Audio. By Aretha Russ
Plush Rho (154, 36, 22)



L\$200

LM Tenor Saxophone

with HUD v7 container. By Lacy217 McLuhan
Scotland (230, 147, 36)



L\$1000

TRAVEL FEATURE

CHECK OUT THE POND LIFE!

By CARRIE SODWIND **LIFE by the pond is sweet at the exciting new sim from the Australian firm BigPond, designed by Gary Hazlitt.**

Wild Australian bush swamp-land and smart modern architecture, shopping, art and civilisation work together in harmony at The Pond.



BigPond has its own registration interface for registering Second Life accounts for customers, so there are lots of Australian newbies exploring home-from-home in the Billabong. It makes for a friendly atmosphere where newbies and explorers can share the community.

Pyramid Spa

There are all sorts on offer. Explore the outback, quite literally out the back of the really friendly Billabong Bar, share Australian jokes with Billabong BertBot, take a romantic boat

ride in the pond, chill-out in the cinema or see what's on in the trendy art gallery space. Highlights are the view from the wishing bridge, the intricate details in the North African dome boutique and the luxurious Egyptian pyramid spa.



TAKE YOUR PICK

Take a quick peek at the hot destinations in profile picks. This week **DJs' Picks**



International Spaceflight Museum
Spaceport Alpha (47, 77, 23)
Who would have thought it? The tattooed DJUnknown is a rocket enthusiast. However, space fan or not, this exhibit is worth checking out. View an impressive selection of detailed models of rockets from the past and present.



Phreak Radio on Phreak Isle
Phreak Isle (78, 148, 27)
A beautiful spot and a great community for DJs and music lovers where new DJ talent is always being spotted, and where people who love to play music can find a home in SL. Jorus Xi is one of the main DJs here in this tucked away haven.



PIRANHA
Isla de Muerta (44, 170, 28)
The SL don of drum 'n bass and crazy electronica likes to party. Piranha is his favourite place to rave. He likens it to the experience of a RL rave because of its great atmosphere. Everyone goes for the music: Goa, Psy, Psytrance, Trance, Breakbeats, DnB, House & more.

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

DEAR RANDI



RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK

Ness ponders what to say to Suzie...



Nothing is going on! Forget about Jim.

You know her, don't you? Who is this girl?



What should I do? Tell the truth or keep up the lie?

Randi says: It's better to tell her the truth now before she finds out by herself.

SECRET ALT LIFE

HUBBY IN THE DARK OVER MY EXPLOITS AS A DANCER AND ESCORT

Dear Randi: I HAVE been in Second Life for several months, and recently married the man of my dreams here. Last week he went on a business trip which made him unavailable for SL for five days, and without his knowledge I decided to create an

WILL PALS LIKE MY WOLF LOVER?

Dear Randi: I'm a SL veteran who has had several boyfriends here, and all those relationships began with early sex and ended unpleasantly. Recently I met a guy who is the classiest man I have ever come across in SL! He wants to date and is not pressuring me for sex. The only problem is that he's a furry in the shape of a wolf. I'm afraid my girlfriends will laugh at me if I show up at a formal ball with a canine. What should I do? – A.S.

Randi says: Don't worry so much about what others think. If you enjoy the wolf man's company, then spend as much time with him as you want and do things you like together. SL is not RL, so don't treat it that way - and you never know, your friends may be jealous!

alt. My alt now works in a club as a dancer and an escort, making much more than my first avatar does in a 'respectable' job. I enjoy the work. Should I keep my SL husband in the dark? – C.L.

Randi says: Absolutely! SL is a place to act out fantasies, and it looks as though you have at least two of them. But always be careful about what you say and don't get your incarnations mixed up. If you start telling SL friends about it, that's when you're certain to get into trouble.

FRIEND JEALOUS OF MY MONEY

Dear Randi: I first came to SL after reading about the money some people make. My business has taken off quickly, but one of my first friends here has become very envious. On my first visit to a casino I won over L\$100K, so I bought expensive formal for all my best girlfriends. She refused the gift and said I was getting too vain.

Now she has lied to my new boyfriend, telling him I'm a slut. How should I handle this? – S.C.

Randi says: True friends are happy for each other's successes. Get rid of her and tell your other friends - once - exactly why. And tell your new boyfriend all about it. If they're good friends and he's a decent guy, nothing should change with any of them.

THE GUIDE WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK!

THIS WEEK: THEME PARKS

SCARY:
Spook House



BY GAETANA FAUST

BRING out the kid in your avatar by enjoying SL's fantastic rides and amusements.

Thrill-seekers will enjoy the dark and creepy Koreshan Pointe (242, 79). Have your fortune told and explore the defunct ferris wheel and carousel. If you're up for an old-fashioned fun house fright, head to the Noyo sim (101, 150, 26) for the Spook House ride by Sinatra Cartier. You'll encounter all kinds of ghosts and spectres as your wooden car glides through the Spook House.

Large and detailed rides abound at Prim Hearts (11, 29). Ride the Log Flume high in the air, or move around the park in the underground boat tunnels. From bumper boats to go-karts, this

sim has all the rides you would ever want.

At the recently renovated Djorkland Amusements in Djork (167, 126) you can find skeeball, air hockey and other games. Don't miss the bumper cars, easy to rez and navigate, and a great diversion to share with friends. Ride a pink elephant or pilot a blimp around the sim.

The Blackcat Amusement Park in Tajmahal (48, 99) has an assortment of stomach-churning rides, including a pirate ship. Grab an ice cream or play Smash a Slimey. Several water rides await you in Moolbora (41, 33, 55) at the Tiny Tykes Carnival, and there's an ice skating rink for those who like their water frozen.

CLOWNING AROUND BLACKCAT PARK



Discover a variety of rides and games such as Pachinko and Dance Dance Revolution Extreme. Where: Tajmahal (48, 99, 22)

FORTUNE TELLING KORESHAN POINTE



Amusement park fans will enjoy the dark and creepy Koreshan Pointe, with Zoltar to tell your fortune. Where: Koreshan Pointe (242, 79, 24)

RIDES GALORE PRIM HEARTS



Wonderful rides in a beautiful and carefully crafted setting. Where: Prim Hearts (11, 29, 28)

3.16. - 3.22. 'DON'T MISS!' –



NIGHTLIFE

MATRIX MONDAY

Break out your smooth shades and fake weapons for this club night held in celebration of The Matrix, the smash hit Hollywood movie. Are you Morpheus, Neo or Trinity?

When: March 19, 19:00 - 21:00
Where: Oriental Express (21, 161)



GALA OPENING

AN INSPIRED PAST

The opening of an exhibition of wonderful historically themed costumes designed by Betty Doyle at the Whitehorn Memorial Library I.

When: March 18, 19:00
Where: Caledon VictoriaCity (47, 201)



MUSIC

FOLK IT ALL

The band performs live from Sound Waves, with original songs as well as popular favourites.

When: March 18, 17:00
Where: House Waves (168, 151)



CULTURE

ART OF AIMEE WEBER

Aimee is featured at the opening of the Caledon Gallery of Art.

When: March 17, 12:00 - 16:00
Where: Caledon VictoriaCity (156, 110)



MUSIC

PAKITO CRIMSON

The Spanish rocker is a guitarist and singer and will be playing live in SL for the first time.

When: March 17, 12:00 - 13:00
Where: Clyde (124, 165)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

BEACH PARTY FUNDRAISER

Show off your best bikinis and swimwear and bring your friends for the good cause. The Dixie Rebels are hosting a beach party to raise funds for the American Cancer Society's charity 'Relay for Life'.

When: March 18, 17:00
Where: Dixie Land Estates (130, 132)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK



CONTEST

BEST FEMALE AVATAR FINAL

Intimate Moments present their top female avatar at this party, the final round of the contest. Boogie away with a brilliant selection of live music and hang on to discover who will walk away with the title.

When: March 18, 13:00 - 15:00
Where: Polia (154, 172)



EDUCATION

MAISON L'EUROPE

Discover the history of how Europe was constructed at this exhibition to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome. There will also be the chance to ask questions about how Europe works.

When: March 19-22, 07:00
Where: Lebeau (148, 76)



COMPETITION

KNIFE THROWING COMPETITION

Are you adept at throwing knives on a spinning wheel without hurting the nice lady or handsome guy in the middle? Then come along to the Sexy Coyote Club and show off your talent to win prizes, entry fee L\$50.

When: March 19, 13:00
Where: Stephenson (36, 112)

ADVERT

Soderberg & Sperber

★ ★ ★ **REAL LIFE-ART GALERIE** ★ ★ ★

PRESENTS

THIS MONTH
FEATURED ARTIST

**SABINE
GEBHARDT**

TUESDAY
20.03.07
 OPENING 19.00 MEZ

VISION OF HOPE
31-46-23



By Deeep Witte

How to...

Everything a newbie needs to know!

HOW TO... FIND THE BEST FREEBIES ON OFFER IN SECOND LIFE

SOMETIMES it can certinally pay to be curious. Stores are fine but some generous people make nice things and take joy from seeing their stuff being used, so they give them away for free. Places like Yadni's Junkyard are filled with these freebies.

But other times, freebies are given away quietly without fanfare. When you create an object the permissions are automatically on, meaning it takes a conscious decision to give things away so you know the giver is not likely to do it by accident. How do you know which things

are free? First, move your cursor over the object. The description might say Free to Copy. Right click on it, select More from the menu and Take a Copy comes up.

Otherwise, you can make a note of who created the object and IM them with questions. Most creators are happy to answer questions, although busy and popular store owners may receive a deluge of

IMs and thus may not answer them all.

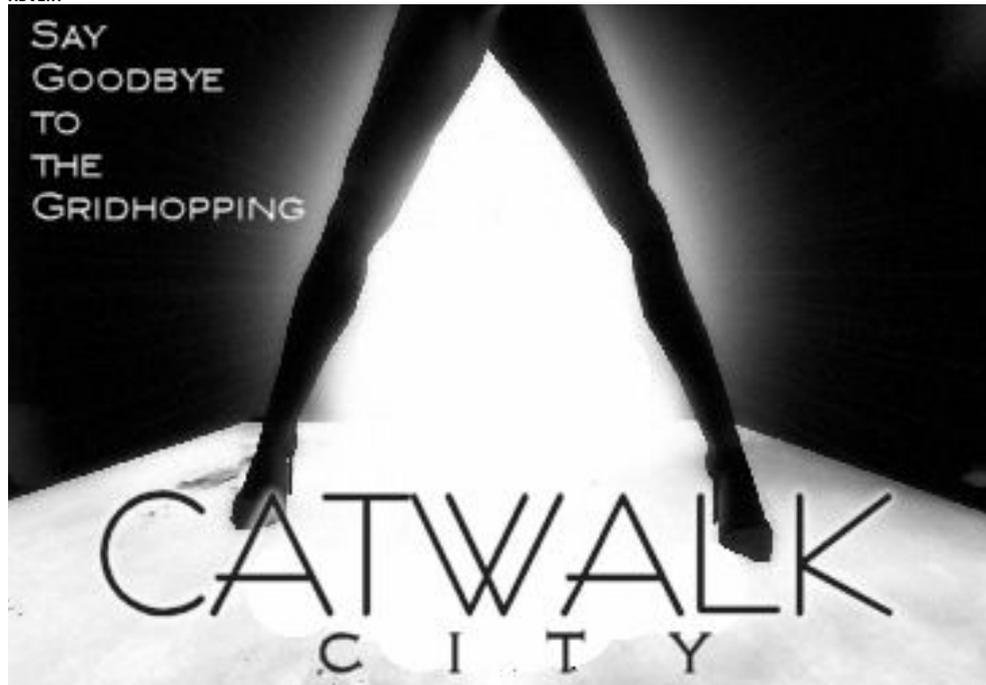
And remember, learn from the world around you - explore, discover hidden treasures and be friendly.

In this world, curiosity can pay!



FREEBIES: Yadni's Junkyard

ADVERT



TELUS IF YOU ARE BUSY

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

IT has happened to nearly all of us - you're happily chatting away with another resident when a storm of IMs or a RL phone call suddenly distracts you.

The simple solution is to set your avatar as 'away' or 'busy', or use well-known phrases like 'afk' (away from keyboard) and 'brb' (be right back), a polite way to let others know you won't be able to respond.

There is also a free and great-looking accessory which can add a touch of originality to your sudden silence - the Telus basic mobile phone. It provides two options to notify others both in main chat and via text above your head that you are unavailable, either because you are on your real life phone or you are busy in IM.

At the Telus shop (Shinda 187, 72, 22), hidden inside a mysterious bag

of free goodies, you will find two phones for your hand and hip. You have to wear both although only one will be visible at a time. When you click on the phone, a pull-down menu lets you choose the right busy message. You can let people know when you have finished, too, and you can choose between nine different ringtones (although turning the sound off can be a good thing as well!).



HIP: The Telus phone

DOS AND DON'TS OF SEARCH

DO + By GAETANA FAUST

- DON'T

- + Use the Find bar to narrow down the selections.
- + Check Events, Classifieds, and Places by Category (music, sports, etc.) to find what interests you.
- + Teleport to an event using Search.
- + Select the People tab to access a person's profile, IM them, offer a teleport, or rate them.
- + Click column titles in search results to sort them according to your preference.

- Rely on the Popular Places tab. Popular often means laggy and filled with camping chairs.
- Limit your search to one tab if you're not sure what you're looking for. The All tab is a better bet.
- Forget to click Include Mature Content if you want to see every thing or unclick it if you don't.
- Try to search without using some filters. If you look at all Land Sales, you'll waste a lot of time.

DIARY OF A NEWBIE



NOT A FLYING START

DON'T fly before you can walk - a fact I discovered in my first hour.

I strolled onto Orientation Island, but immediately after spotting the 'Fly' option I couldn't resist trying it out. 'A far superior mode of transportation' I thought to myself as my feet hovered above ground level and I glided swiftly past all the other newbies crowded together in the entrance. Carried away, I journeyed higher, even reaching above a cloud where I was hoping to get a good view of the island. But when I looked down, I realised I had come further than I thought. I felt lost and craved a bit of gravity.

I pressed the button to 'Stop Flying' but when I made a crash landing in the ocean I realised that I had flown right away from the shore.

Completely unsure how to use the map, I had to fly around for quite a while longer trying to find land, and was very happy to see civilisation again. I swiftly invested in a sexy walk animation to make me use my legs.



FLY: Up in the clouds

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

SUGAR SEVILLE

FUTURISTIC DESIGNER AND OUTGOING BUBBLY SOCIALITE
SUGAR SEVILLE LOVES WATCHING THE WORLD FROM THE
HEAVENS.



By CARRIE SODWIND

PROFILE

NAME:

Sugar Seville

BIRTH DATE:

19/10/2006

PROFESSION:

Virtual Architect

ATTITUDE:

Mischievous Geek Girl

THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?

SUGAR SEVILLE: Oh that's easy, it's right behind my eyes. I've learned a ton of stuff here and love to help others discover the creative possibilities in this world.

TA: What is your favourite place in SL?

SS: I love SL at about 75,000 meters using

Gazira Babelis's 'come to heaven' script.

TA: What would you change in SL?

SS: I'd like to see a weather system in the SL environment - rain, snow, ground fog - complete with seasonal changes to the ground textures.

TA: How do you spend the majority of your time in SL?

SS: My passion is creating visionary futuristic architecture. Making stuff and sharing it in general is central to my SL.

TA: What personal

SL achievements are you most proud of?

SS: Odyssey is a simulator I have been fortunate to develop and manage. Through the kind philanthropy of Pacino Hercules I have been creating a place where artists can exhibit and perform.

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

SS: My creations are like children and are all precious to me, but my favorite child is my Rosesphere sculpture. If you see it and IM me, I'll give you a copy - or

it can be bought for a modest sum on Odyssey. Of course Edgar, my raven, is precious to me as well (Edgar does a little dance).

TA: If there was a president of Second Life, who would you vote for?

SS: Wirxli Flimflam. And Man Michinaga for VP. These are people that have done great work in SL to foster a creative community in a very short time, it's people like this that make SL a fun and exciting place to be.