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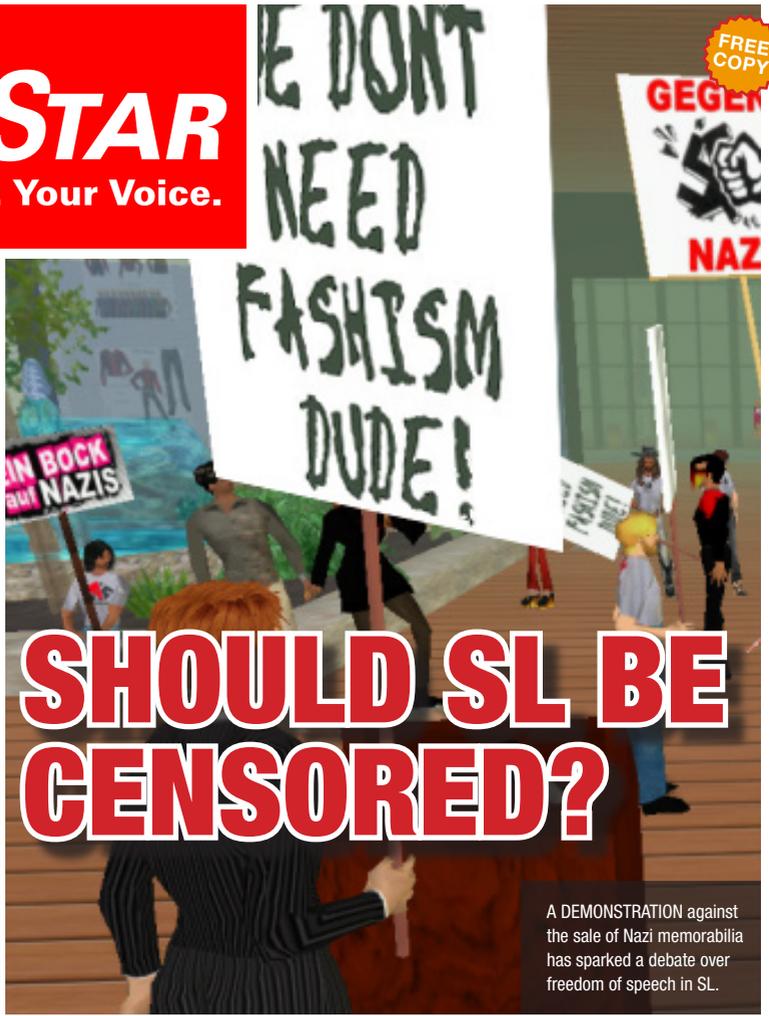
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A DEMONSTRATION against the sale of Nazi memorabilia has sparked a debate over freedom of speech in SL.

GWENYTH LLEWELYN ON SL'S FUTURE - see page 6

“HELP US FIGHT THE GRIEFERS”

- NEWBIE ATTACKS ON THE RISE
- MENTORS READY TO STRIKE BACK

By **CARRIE SODWIND**

VIOLENCE should be used to combat grieving attacks aimed at newbies, say mentors.

Full story - Page Three

INSIDE OPINION

"Linden Lab can't just force the standards of a 'moral majority' in the USA onto all their customers from around the world. They certainly won't enforce the laws of other countries."

PHAM NEUTRA p.5

"Technologically, Second Life is fully empowered to deal with a grid of only 2,000 physical servers which can, in theory, serve the whole worldwide online population. To do that requires just a month of work from a single developer."

GWYNETH LLEWELYN p.6

WRITE FOR THE AVASTAR
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WE want to hear YOUR opinion. Is there an issue which angers or moves you? Do you have a point you want to make? If so, then send us an email with your views and comments to: yourmail@the-avastar.com. The best emails will be printed in the newspaper, and you will earn L\$500 for each one that is published.

BEAM THEM OUT, DATA



DATA Linden came to the rescue of resident Hans Masukami, banning the grievers Osama and Saddam who were lagging the Myth Casino Pokerhouse.

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BATTLE TO KEEP NEWBIES IN SL

CAGED: Attacks on newbies increasing

MENTORS WANT POWERS TO REMOVE GRIEFERS BY FORCE

By CARRIE SODWIND

VIOLENCE should be used to combat griefing attacks aimed at newbies, according to mentors.

Confused newbies on Orientation Island have stumbled over enormous piles of black cats, become stuck in delivery trucks and have been trapped in cages and repeatedly shot. Now some mentors say the griefing has seen many new residents

leave SL, never to return.

MEGAPRIM

Greeter Solar Legion has become frustrated at how often the attacks occur. He said: "The worst I have seen was a combined follow drone, particle/audio spam, caging and shooting and replication attack - all taking place while an infinite, checkered floor megaprim was set down on the ground. "Some of the newbies just leave - some are so confused that they do not know what to do at all. "I think the long standing third party helper groups, as well as the mentors, should be given more power than they currently have. Hell, at the minimum both mentors and the third party helpers should be allowed to use force when it is warranted, without fear of the griefer sending in an



SINKING FEELING: Newbies suffer the lag



FORCE: Solar Legion wants to take on griefers

abuse report." The griefing is accompanied by severe lag and newbies lose their bodies, wander around with only hair, or walk into the ground so that only half their bodies are above grass level. Another mentor, Carlos Bernstein, also believes that some action must be taken in order to reduce the levels of griefing in newbie areas. He said: "I spoke with some new players and they didn't like the game. Some are overwhelmed. There is often griefing in sandpits, but to a newbie the griefing feels aggressive because it is often aimed at them."

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

SHOULD FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN SL BE LIMITED?



Simulat Almendros:

People should be free to say what they want and if I don't like it, I should be free to get them out of my face!



Avi Arrow:

I appreciate LL's policies pertaining to hate speech. The guidelines for determining what hate speech is should be well defined. What LL chooses to do is their business - there is no 'right' to free speech in here.



Lordane Basalt:

I'm American, freedom of speech is part of our Constitution and I firmly believe in it.



Luthion Decosta:

I don't think there should be limits on freedom of speech, but I do think there should be classifications to keep all the unsuitable content away from those who shouldn't or don't want to see it.

LIBERTY HAS ITS LIMITS



BY ZELMO BOUCHER

NAZI MEMORABILIA SPARKS THE LATEST SET OF PROTESTS

BLACK SS uniforms, skull rings, Hitler-jugend avatars and even replica Stuka bombers – tasteless, disgusting yet now available in Second Life.

The Nazi memorabilia is on sale at a shop called The Waffenamt, and is the latest abuse of the freedom of speech enjoyed by residents in SL. German activists demonstrated at the shop earlier this month, while the store owner maintains it is all about harmless roleplay.

But it remains deeply upsetting for many residents, so is it a case for more censorship and control over what takes place in SL?

After all, what kind of roleplay needs barrels of Zyklon-B – a gas used to kill innocent people in the concentration camps?

SAGA

There are already precedents of freedom of speech controversies in SL, notably the massive demonstrations against the French far right Front National party and its leader Jean-Marie Le Pen earlier this year. The saga of FN in SL is less clear cut than the presence in-world of Nazis. Le Pen came second in

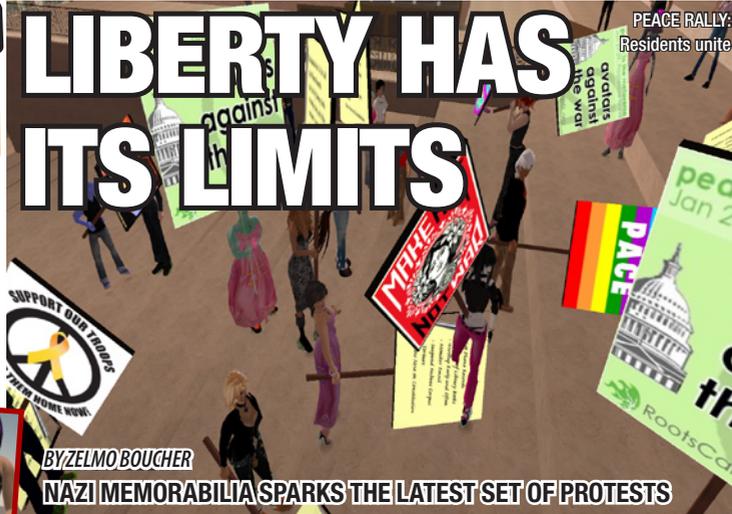
his country's presidential elections in 2002, and can claim his party has wide democratic support. So should its freedom of speech be curtailed?

Many would also point to the benefits of freedom of speech, such as the protest held against the US and the Iraq war. The Second Life Liberation Army (SLLA), meanwhile, advocates using 'force' to overthrow Linden Lab and create a democracy in SL – although it remains to be seen how serious its leaders are.

But the failure of Linden Lab to act against the SLLA, may indicate they are unwilling to limit any freedom of speech in SL.



PEACE RALLY: Residents unite



FREEDOM IN SL

WHY CENSORSHIP WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR LINDEN LAB

COMMENT PHAM NEUTRA



HAVE you ever seen something in-world and thought: "How on earth can anything like that be allowed to exist in Second Life?"

It might be pornographic content, a racist symbol or simply a copyrighted image which is clearly not being used with permission. Then there are activities by people whose lifestyle we consider in violation of law or important moral principles.

CRACKING DOWN

So why does Linden Lab allow all of this rubbish in our beautiful world? The answer to this question is far from simple and unlikely to be satisfying.

There are three important reasons why LL is not cracking down on what many would consider offensive content.

Firstly, SL is all about freedom of expression, about creativity and creation. That is a vital fact for many residents, not only those producing 'content.'

Secondly, monitoring all the content produced in Second Life on a daily basis is impossible. There is no algorithm, no piece of software, that would be able to judge if a picture or object is tasteless, offensive or illegal. Only humans can do this, and employing enough of them would cost more than Linden Lab's turnover from SL.

STANDARDS

But maybe the most important reason is that there is no universal standard on what is acceptable, offensive or illegal. Standards re-

garding what is decent, or for example pornographic, vary wildly all over the world, and who are we to judge what is right? Linden Lab can't just force the standards of a 'moral majority' in the USA onto all of their customers from around the world. They certainly won't enforce the laws of other countries regarding limits of freedom of expression – for example, did you know the depiction of a swastika is illegal in Germany and might land you in jail?

Which doesn't mean that you should not see some Nazi propaganda or pornographic material on open display in SL. Just don't expect too much support from Linden Lab.



PROTEST: Attack on the Front National

SL CENSORSHIP

REGIS Braathens talked to veteran confrontational artist, ARAHAN CLAVEAU about SL censorship.

"I feel that censorship in any form is a dangerous thing. Who are the people that decide what is acceptable? What one person finds offensive another may find artistic."

How should art be censored in SL?

"I was once forced to censor an image some people found 'inciteful' - this was not my intention and the work in question was taken out of context. My integrity as an artist was compromised. So it boils down to a simple rule for me - either accept everything is permissible or nothing is, because unless the people doing the censoring are appointed by God then they have no business doing it! Of course, handing out racist material is clearly incitement, but in the arts, the boundaries are more blurred."



ARTIST: Arahan Claveau

NEWS BITES!**PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN SL**

AN official US Presidential Candidate is set to simulcast in an event on SoHo Island at the end of the month. A national US press release is expected next week to confirm the event.

SEAL HUNTING PROTEST IN SL

PROTESTORS trying to stop seal hunting have been given a SL base for their fight. Trellon LLC have donated part of Progressive Island to the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).

SCARLETT SET FOR SL LAUNCH

HOLLYWOOD star Scarlett Johansson will launch a clothing line in Second Life. The actress has created the 'Scarlett <3s RBK' line in association with Reebok.

MMORPGS HIT US\$1BN MARK

THE incredible recent growth in Second Life has helped the MMORPG market hit the US\$1 billion mark, according to analysts Screen Digest. The figure covers Europe, the Americas and Africa.

THE FUTURE OF THE GRID

HOW SL COULD COPE WITH MILLIONS OF CONCURRENT USERS

Analysis
GWYNETH LLEWELYN

CAN Second Life cope with the ever-increasing number of users trying to log on? Gwyneth Llewelyn says yes – but here she explains the difficulties facing Linden Lab bosses and why they have chosen a different path.

THERE is a common misconception that SL is not 'scalable'. But Philip and Cory Linden have described how SL can scale indefinitely. This is a bold, shocking statement when we see the evidence: the grid currently doesn't handle well past 30k simultaneous users.

Small improvements, such as more efficient connections to reduce the amount of bandwidth used up, are helping, but alone they will not be enough. One possible solution is to relieve the sim servers of tex-

ture data and have it stored elsewhere. With the amount of texture data in SL running into hundreds of Terabytes, it would be next to impossible to hold it all on a single hard disk. What LL could do is allow textures to be downloaded from outside the grid, perhaps even allowing users to store them on their own.

DEVELOPMENT

If LL made that move, their 2,000 servers would be able to handle 20 million simultaneous users – lots of room to grow!

Surprisingly, this could be achieved in a month of development, and it would allow the existing system to continue to operate while enabling 'external' servers to start providing texture data outside the grid.

Why doesn't LL implement this? I think it's



QUESTION marks over the future of Second Life

mostly a philosophical decision. Today, we view the grid as mostly a collection of textures and prim data inside LL's servers. Thinking of the grid as just 'glue' between SL clients and servers, with no data, feels somehow weird – what kind of service is LL providing then?

EMPOWERED

It changes the whole concept of what Second Life, as LL's product, actually is. Dealing with this radical change is something that has to be done carefully.

So technologically, SL is fully empowered to deal with a grid of only 2,000 physical servers which can, in theory, serve the whole worldwideonlinepopulation. To do that requires just a month of work from a single developer. The reasons for NOT doing things this way are purely 'corporate policy'. At some point in the future LL will have to swallow their pride and go for a model which is much more efficient but which seriously questions what SL actually is.

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HOW ONE SL 'CHILD' FOUND HAPPINESS

By HONEY BENDER

FATIMA LYCIA HAS ENJOYED A BLISSFUL SECOND LIFE SINCE BEING ADOPTED LAST YEAR

TEENAGE avatar Fatima Lycia started her Second Life as a two-year-old orphan. In the second part of our look at adoption in SL, The Avastar discovers how Fatima has found her happy family.

SINCE she was adopted by Kryton Russell and Kim Weeks, Fatima Lycia has had what she describes as a 'happy childhood'. Her age has jumped at intervals of two weeks, but in December she regressed from 14 back to four in order to enjoy an old-fashioned family Christmas with her adoptive mum.

CONTROL

The 26-year-old woman behind Fatima's avatar is an experienced role-player. She



ADOPTED: Fatima Lycia

said: "I have been a role player for 15 years, but I was tired of the dominant/submissive (D/s) thing.

"To me, playing a child has nothing to do with being submissive but I can understand that some might see this as a form of D/s, a way of giving up control. Just the thought of sexual age play makes me sick."

FOSTER CARE

Her reasons for playing the role of a child in SL are complicated. Fatima added: "My main reason for wanting to play a child is to experience seeing the world through a child's eyes. It's fun!

"It was also a way to regain some of the joy I lost through different RL experiences. My RL family kinda sucked, my parents were far from perfect and I was in foster care from when I was 11 until I was 15. I still have trouble dealing with some

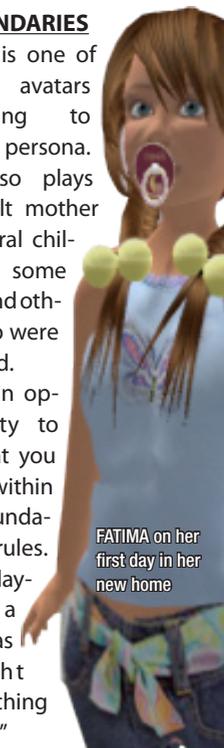


of that."

BOUNDARIES

Fatima is one of several avatars belonging to her RL persona. She also plays an adult mother of several children, some 'hers' and others who were adopted.

"SL is an opportunity to be what you want within the boundaries of rules. And playing a child has brought me nothing but joy!"



FATIMA on her first day in her new home



REGIS BRAATHENS

WE MUST HELP THE SL MENTORS

MENTORS, the kindest and most caring of people in SL, are so upset with griefers attacking newbies, that they are determined to take the law into their own hands. Now seems like the time for Linden Lab to finally act.

HELP

I have repeatedly called for a professional mentor network, organised by the mentors and financed by the Lab. The newbies need help - they need people to explain why they are grey, why they keep disappearing underground, and why SL appears to be a battleground where they get shot at. Otherwise they will leave SL for good.

FED UP

Linden Lab needs to set up a professional system, or risk losing countless potential new customers - and existing mentors. They are fed up with the lack of action, and rightly so. It's time to sort it out.



SL COMMUNITY INSURES FREEDOM ISN'T VIOLATED

LINDEN LAB MAY PLAY GOD, BUT THE COMMUNITY SETS STANDARDS

ARE we really free at all in Second Life? If you read the ToS you may start to think otherwise.

Violating them is easy: "transmit content... that is harmful, threatening, abusive, harassing, causes tort, defamatory, vulgar, obscene, libelous, invasive of another's privacy, hateful, or racially, ethnically or otherwise objectionable." It seems that you have to be a saint in order to keep on the right side of the law in SL.

FREEDOM

But the TOS don't really

define our freedom as such. They do the job, despite their shortcomings, of setting general community standards - and covering Linden Lab's back.

In fact the freedom that we enjoy in SL is something that we should cherish, because you won't find it anywhere else.

VIOLATION

We have so much freedom of expression, permission to demonstrate when and where we like, to report on what we like and to build on your land

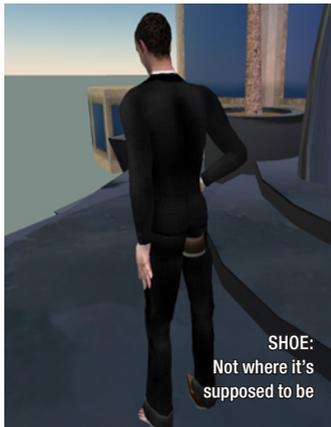
PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO:
regis@the-avastar.com

without having to ask for building permission. And that type of freedom is priceless.

However, when people violate such freedoms, such as selling Zyklon B canisters - then they must be stopped. That kind of sick 'roleplay' seeks only to incite and sets a dangerous precedent. Luckily for SL, it's the residents themselves who act to protect the community.

A HELPING HAND...

AS grid problems left me once again with a shoe where the sun doesn't shine this week, I spared a thought for my newbie friends. For those new to the world who are frustrated with such problems, simply press CTRL-ALT-D, go to 'Character' in the Client menu, and rebake the textures. That will ensure that your shoe or Terminator-style head will return to normal. Want to share other newbie-saving tips? Email regis@the-avastar.com.



SHOE: Not where it's supposed to be

your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

HIPIHI IS A THREAT TO SL

Hey Regis, I JUST read your story on Second Life taking on the other virtual worlds.

This is interesting, and I think because SL has such a good head start, it will probably come out on top. But the arrival of Hipihi, the Chinese virtual world which is so similar to SL, should be taken seriously.

I want to check it out - and a lot of Chinese people will as well.

Only 1,000 invites were given out, but this will change in time. If it becomes extremely big, my friends and I would consider switching, as some of them do not speak good English. If a Japanese interface for Second Life was launched, and maybe

if this was done for the Chinese, it would increase the amount of Chinese users.

So my point is, SL is safe as the number one virtual world for a while, but only with non-Chinese! When Hipihi starts to expand, there are so many Chinese now online, Hipihi may soon have many more users - and that could well be to the cost of existing worlds, especially SL.

By Filipa Decosta

E-MAILS OF THE WEEK
500 LINDEN DOLLARS

ADOPTION IS WONDERFUL

Hey Regis, I READ your first story about adoption agencies in Second Life and this inspired me to adopt my own child. Never one to fall behind the bandwagon of Slebrity lifestyles, I officially jumped the gun and adopted FwwixliSwindlehurst on March 19, 2007.

I do not know her exact age as she did not come with

a birth certificate note-card but I am guessing she is anywhere between nine and 12 years old.

Thanks to your previous AvaStar issue, I

now feel like SL's version of Angelina Jolie and Madonna.

Fwwixli is planning to collaborate on performances together with me now that she is in my custody.

For more information about my adoption, please visit our own collaborative blog at <http://fwwixli-wirxli.blogspot.com>. Thanks!

By Wirxli Flimflam



SL IS A GIFT FOR THE DISABLED

Dear Regis, IT'S hard for me to imagine a more unique and creative place than SL.

Newbies often ask me if I could explain the goals of the game but normally discover quickly that Second Life is really about forming relationships, social contacts and expanding your horizons.

I know for a fact SL is a tool for many disabled people to participate in life again.

Experiencing things they normally wouldn't be able to do.

Rocky, a good friend of mine suffers a rare illness that affects his breathing and he needs tubes to get enough oxygen in First Life. In Second Life he recently built a house, together with a friend he had met and even started dating again.

He found happiness and new meaning and has recovered from a depression he was starting to develop.

Second Life was a gift for him as it is for thousands of residents in-world everyday.

By Dylan Miles

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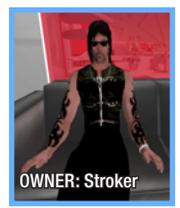
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By REGIS BRAATHENS

ONE of SL's most popular sims has gone up for sale on eBay. Stroker Serpentine, a veteran of the SL adult entertainment industry, is looking to auction off the sim with the minimum bid set at US\$20,000. "I feel confident that it will bring between US\$30,000 and US\$40,000. I know the costs of development for a presence within SL and there are a lot of resources and talent necessary to create such a presence", said



Stroker. The sim represents good value at that price according to Stroker: "Amsterdam is a 'turn-

key' and enjoys a great amount of publicity and popularity, and the sale will include thousands of landmarks visitors have already made." Although at the time of printing there had been no bids on eBay, it has been attracting interest from many RL investors, from adult entertainment companies to tourist services. Stroker, however, would prefer it if it remained the red light district of SL: "Amsterdam is part of the SL tapestry."

Stroker now plans to develop a limited-access 16-sim Eros empire with RL companies, which he describes as "Adult Disneyland". Limited access enables user verification and makes more business sense long term. The project should roll out in August.

JAPANESE CLIENT PLANNED

A JAPANESE-LANGUAGE SL client is set to be launched in the near future.



Japanese residents already make up more than one per cent of SL and that figure is now likely to increase with the news that there are plans to launch a Japanese client. The Far East remains a lucrative market in which Linden Lab needs to move fast in the face of strong competition from the newly launched Chinese virtual world Hipihi. A LL source said the date for the beta version has not yet been set.

BIZ BITES:

KING PHILIP

PHILIP Linden is king of virtual worlds - according to eweek.com. The website voted the LL CEO as the 74th most important man in the IT world.

STOCK PLUNGE

WORLD Stock Exchange CTO Shaun Altman has resigned after less than a month in the job. He sold his 50 per cent ownership of the WSE for 12.5m shares in joint venture partner Hope Capital, which promptly halved in value.

VICTORY FOR SL

TOP German shoe retailer Deichmann has opened it's Victory Island to promote its sports brand 'Victory'. Free sports shoes are being given out at the sim.

IT SERVICES

T-ONLINE has set up a branch in SL offering cut-price IT services for residents.

FOOTBALL IN SL

FOOTBALL fans in SL have reason to celebrate, with Planet.nl streaming live matches of Ajax Amsterdam in a replica of their famous arena.



PLAYSTATION3 ARRIVES IN SL

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

THE Sony Playstation3 was launched in Second Life on Thursday at a new sim. Virtual Italian Parks (30, 160) hosted the twin launch with a big party including lots of gadgets and surprises. Guests also had the chance to watch a Sony promotional film called 'This is Living'. A set from the trailer was recreated in the sim by Virtual Italian Parks builders Bruno Echegaray, Elektra Hesse, Zoe Visconti and

Julienne Lucero. The eight actors from the film were also present in avatar form to meet party-goers. Many at the event noted the irony of the set recreation – as a similar one in the planned Home virtual world would only be possible as a 'Sony created content'.



ACTOR 'Hot Dog', left, and the new sim, below.

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'300' GORE-FEST

By BILBO WINKLER

WARNER Bros. arrived in SL last Friday to publicise the arrival of gore-fest blockbuster '300'. The focus at Silver Screen Island was a question and answer session with

Frank Miller, creator of the novel behind the film, as well as director Zack Snyder and several leading actors. Many people also turned up wearing period costumes.



'300': Film fans look on

PICS DANNY LIGHTFOOT

A-STAR GOSSIP

A MODEL LAUNCH FOR NEW LOOK

LAUNCH PARTY FOR MODELS MODE NEW LOOK IS A GREAT SUCCESS By JENNA MISFIT

MODELS Mode, a networking group for models and their clients, held a New Look Launch Party at The Carinosa Ballroom at Penthouse, Hayao (213, 52, 41). Models Mode is not an agency, but a community of more than 100 people interested in

all aspects of fashion who come together to network. The group's mission is to provide resources for aspiring models, services for established professionals and an on-going social and events calendar. Event co-ordinator Satine Heart

said: "I was so happy with how many people showed up, it was more than I could have hoped for."



POPFUZZ Bamboo

STYLISH: Models

HAUTE Mode owners Mikerrrrs Mathieson and Leera Tesio

JADE Mathieson

NETWORKING: Lady in blue

SL MERC LAUNCH

By JENNA MISFIT

AN excited crowd filled the showroom at the Mercedes-Benz island last week for the historic unveiling of the company's new C-Class car, which took place in SL before RL. Spokesman Mercedes Milestone MCed the event with an

audio presentation as the guests crowded around the outdoor stage to see the beautiful car, which rezzed before their eyes and rotated while changing colours. Everyone in attendance was invited to build their own car to test drive on the track provided.



DAZZLING: The crowd admire the C-Class

PARTYING: Scarlet Springvale

MAMBO, TANGO, CHA CHA CHA

THESE EXOTIC HEELS AND RISQUÉ DRESSES ARE FOR ALL YOU FIERY ROMANTICS WHO TAKE SOME ATTITUDE ONTO THE BALLROOM DANCE FLOOR. LADIES SHOULD EXPOSE SOME LONG TANNED LEGS AND MEN SHOULD DRESS IN BLACK WITH A FLASH OF COLOUR.

By ISABEL BROCCO



LS\$75



LS\$195

Changing hair flower

Barcelona del Oeste
(116, 116, 23)

Shania Hair
Chatouille
(132, 186, 30)

Sunglasses
Terra Toulouse
(121, 140, 27)

LS\$200

Black suit jacket
with orange tie
Phyllira (233, 63, 119)



LS\$125

Dark suit pants
Phyllira (233, 63, 119)

LS\$75

LS\$400

Silver Leaf Oblivion set

Available in seven colours. With add on Salsa skirt LS\$100
The Sirens Grotto
(136, 101, 32)

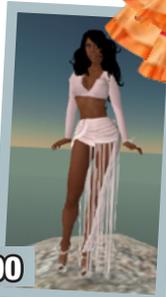


Odyssey shoes in black
Egret Island (97, 28, 29)

LS\$150

Samba dress
Egret Island
(97, 28, 29)

LS\$800



LS\$200

Passion Flame dress
comes in five colours
Epione (109, 51, 71)



Callie Cline's

STYLE HOTLINE

FREE-HUNDRED

GRAB SOME GREAT FREEBIES FROM A MOVIE PROMOTIONAL SIM

THIS week, I'm writing about a great freebie film!

The movie '300' has been promoted in SL with a special build replicating part of the set, and when you visit it you can pick up both a men's and women's costume for free.

We all like getting free things, and this is something worth visiting for sure. There are also fun little free items

in the build to pick up, including shields, helmets and spears from around Sparta.

The costumes were designed by Sachi Vixen and her partner Damen Gorilla and they did a cool job. To pick up the costumes, visit the Silverscreen sim. I have always loved costumes in SL, from pirates to princesses, dragons and more, and to have one tied to the biggest film of the year so far is quite exciting!

There are even custom avatars made for the stars of the film – but my favourite part was the little rat in the

hole you can fall way down into to find free stuff, you must check him out!



SPARTAN: The men's costume



STYLISH: Callie in the 300 dress



WHAT'S HOT! MAN'S AMAZING TECHICOLOUR DREAMCOAT

By CARRIE SODWIND

ARTIST and machinimatographer Man Michinaga was spotted looking uniquely stylish in this gold-embroidered aristocrat's coat by Bewitched. The tapestry fabric has some wonderful detailing, with brass buttons and lace cuffs to complete the look. The flamboyant jacket was complemented well by his long black and blue pink hair, and violent green eyes. Man told the AvaStar he owns an exact replica of the jacket in RL. He sure knows how to stand out from the crowd in both worlds.



COLOURFUL: Man Michinaga

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK THIS WEEK: BIANCA FOULON OF GINA'S

"These PrimOptic Ray-Ban glasses are really useful for me. I like to cover my eyes, to keep a sense of mystery about myself until I have really got to know someone."



MY TOP TIPS: "My Charlotte heels which are by x3D shoes. I chose these because I love dresses, and they go with any of them."



"Bold School Tattoo by Kalik Stork. I love the way this sexy and colourful tattoo makes my skin seem almost as if it were a white sheet of paper for others to read from."



STYLISH PHUKET

THE tropical island of Phuket in western Thailand was the inspiration behind the latest creation of Barnesworth Anubis.

His new house at Demersal (241, 218, 19) features a swimming pool and a small intimate living area inside.



INTUITIVE ART

ART, spirit and nature are the themes of an exhibition by three young artists at the Intuition Gallery (223, 94, 31).

Mossie Mantis, Noelle Jansma and Zoe Paravane exploit colour and form on canvas.

TRIBUTE TO ART

CABARET, cinema, music and fine arts will be united at the new Multimedia Arts Centre at Somerset (230, 198, 66).

Founder Dash Renoir wants the centre to become a tribute to some of the greatest current artists.



STYLISH JAPANESE TAKE OVER SECOND LIFE

CULTURE FROM LAND OF THE RISING SUN

By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

JAPANESE style is taking over SL, with designers and sims inspired by the Land of the Rising Sun springing up across the grid.

You will frequently meet avatars who speak Japanese and look like no others in SL - from robots to cute little dogs to transformers.

Harajuku, Osaka, Ikebukuro, Nagaya and the beautiful Shinagawa are just a few of the destinations which cater for this cultural wave, while MaHoRoBa proudly announces itself with the slogan: "Where the pixels speak Japanese!"

There you can buy Japanese green tea and check out how a subway station looks in Japan. The sim also houses fujio Squeegie's shop where you can find animations including Ninja Samurai,

and realise "Hey, I can actually do this!" So for a while, it was the first thing I thought about as soon as I woke up everyday.

LL: Why do you think people are fascinated by your work?

SR: My best guess would be that several of my pieces evoke strong emotion. I try to build something that 'is' what I am feeling at the time. I guess sometimes the message makes it across better than I thought it would.

LL: What are your inspirations?

SR: My sculpting is my outlet... so much so that when I'm not really going through any highs or lows in RL, it is difficult to build. I'll find myself brainstorming for days, and sometimes weeks.

LL: Do you think your work has an impact on SL culture?

SR: SL is so huge now. I can't imagine the work of all the sculptors in SL combined having much impact.

LL: How do you feel about the development of SL art in general?

SR: Sadly, I think the artistic side of SL is being swallowed up in the rest of what SL has become. Art is scarcely spotted across the grid if you search it out among the escorts, clubs, and casinos.

LL: What advice would you give on how to be a successful artist in SL?

SR: Everyone improves with time. If something happens in RL that gets you down, log in and build. You'll create some of your best sculptures when you're emo!

MaHoRoBa contains a replica of a Heian-era palace. In fact, wherever you go, you can't escape the influence of the Far East!

There you can buy Japanese green tea and check out how a subway station looks in Japan. The sim also houses fujio Squeegie's shop where you can find animations including Ninja Samurai,



REFRESHING: Green tea

Jo ga and Harakiri Seiza.

The Osaka sim includes a castle, housing and shops, all dedicated to the Japanese style, and Shinagawa contains a replica of a Heian-era palace.

In fact, wherever you go, you can't escape the influence of the Far East!



GADGET: Turntable watch



MOBILE: Stylish scooter



TOP SIM: MaHoRoBa

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DESIGNERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT Stormy Roentgen

SL Birth Date: 20/5/2004

Famous for: Being part of the early sculptor guard

By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

LL: How did you become an artist in Second Life?

SR: My first friend in SL, Starax, was a sculptor. He pushed me to get started. The journey to becoming a sculptor - I could best describe it as exciting and addicting! It is very exciting when you first create a piece you're happy with

and realise "Hey, I can actually do this!" So for a while, it was the first thing I thought about as soon as I woke up everyday.

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STORMY ROENTGEN

SNEAKER STYLE

By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

Le Cadre' Network Designs - Adidi Sensual Designs & Asri Falcone Originals.

By Asri Falcone Le Cadre 87, 222, 32

Real Sneakers

In ivory, white, red checker, camo, rainbow, pink/black and black.

By shin Mathilde Baba 77, 107, 22

Red Tartan Sneakers and/or Burberry Sneakers By swaffette Firefly Lotus 182, 238 149

Inside Out Shoes 4 Girls - Purple

A high quality shoe from Inside Out

By Johnny Mann Doesburg 30, 104, 25

'Velocity' Sports in 20 different colours!

By Sylfie Minoque Sylfie 49, 34, 23



L\$300



L\$200



L\$60



L\$250



L\$125



TINA'S MUST-HAVES

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

DEAR RANDI



RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK

Steph comforts Emma after her divorce...

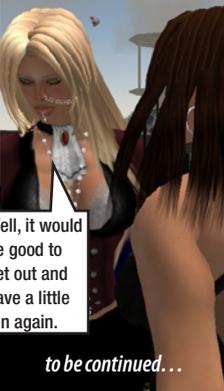
WEEK ONE



I can't believe he left me, I still love him so much!



Why don't you come out with me tonight?



Well, it would be good to get out and have a little fun again.

to be continued...

SPY SCRIPT STRIFE

BOYFRIEND DUMPED ME AFTER I TIPPED STRIPPERS ON A HEN NIGHT

Dear Randi: MY best friend is getting married, and another friend and I wanted to give her a hen party at a club with male strippers. My boyfriend didn't like the idea, and asked me not to tip the dancers. But when we got there everyone was tipping, so I did too. Unfortunately he had a spy script on the land that showed everything. When I denied having tipped the guys he showed me what was said, called me a liar and broke up with me. What should I say to him? — S.O.

Randi says: It's going to hurt for a bit, but you should move on! The guy is a complete control freak. There was nothing wrong with going to the strip club with your girlfriends, especially since you told him in advance. It would have been rude of you not to tip, and he had no right to follow you. Dump him!

GROOM CHEATS ON HIS BRIDE

Dear Randi: RECENTLY I was shopping with my sister, who is going to be the maid of honour at a wedding between people I don't know. The groom sent her a TP to his holiday home, and I went with her. While we were there she got an interruption and left SL, and then this guy produced a sex ball and asked if I would like to sample it. Being the curious type I hopped on, and within seconds he was nude and on top of me. Should I tell the bride? — A.J.

Randi says: No, tell your sister in confidence and let her handle it. Perhaps the guy was just trying to make a joke. Since you don't know the bride, she might think you're making up a story because you want the guy for yourself.

LOVER TURNED INTO A STALKER

Dear Randi: LAST month I had a very satisfying one night stand with a beautiful woman in Second Life, just minutes after meeting her for the first time at a dance club. I thought it was a one-time thing, but she appears to have become very interested in me. Every time I sign on she IMs me immediately, and since our hot night I have learned she is boring and just isn't very bright. I have no interest in her. What should I do? — D.Y.

Randi says: Pick your dance partners more carefully next time. The woman sounds like a bit of a stalker. You need to tell her once, very clearly, that the relationship is over. Then you should mute her, frequent new places, and move to another spot any time you run into her.

THE GUIDE WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK!

THIS WEEK: BLUES CLUBS



HOT: Juke Joint Blues

By GAETANA FAUST

SINGING THE SL BLUES

CHECK OUT THE BEST BLUES CLUBS IN SECOND LIFE

FEEL the blues at one of many great venues in SL for lowdown, dirty blues music.

At Allen's Seaside Blues and Jazz Club in Richies (168, 196, 24), the dance floor extends out over a placid sea while Eric Clapton plays in the background. There is an extensive bar and free cocktails. The House of Tunes in Whitlock (207, 162, 108) is a roadhouse-themed blues joint with a down-home vibe and great music on a constant stream.

Junkyard Blues Club in Tagona (230, 47, 746) is heaven for music lovers with a grungy garden for dancing along to some rootsy blues. An old piano, a flamingo in a bathtub, a telephone booth, and a wide selection of dances

and romantic spots fill the grassy oasis. In Plush Sigma (12, 26, 23), you'll find the Juke Joint Blues Club, a hot little place perfect for a spin around the floor with a date. If you're looking for a place to hang out with friends, a good bet is Rugs Boom Boom Blue in Jewell (235, 191, 126). This laid-back bar is home to a cozy dance floor and some hard-rocking blues music. Fool's Paradise Pub in Gunda (42,182,78) feels a bit more upmarket, with ceiling fans and comfortable sofas to loaf on as you soak up the regular live acts including Nad Gough and srv4u Conacher. Club KT in Djork (141, 128, 23) hosts a regular gig every other Friday night with SL blues great Komuso Tokugawa.

SEASIDE JAZZ

ALLEN'S BLUES CLUB



Check out the amazing dancefloor which extends out over the ocean, head to the bar for some free cocktails - and don't forget the great music!

Where: Richies (168, 196, 24)

ROADHOUSE VIBES

HOUSE OF TUNES



A roadhouse theme and a down home vibe make this place special.

Where: Whitlock (207, 162, 108)

MUSIC LOVER HEAVEN

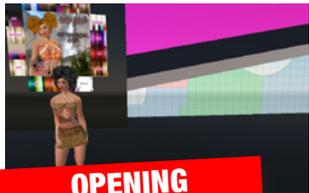
JUNKYARD BLUES



A grungy garden and an old piano await visitors at the Junkyard.

Where: Tagona (230, 47, 746)

3.23. - 3.29.

'DON'T MISS!' –**OPENING****HAIRSPRAY**

A cocktail of the best hair designers including Sinn, Gurl6, ETD, Panache, Random and Jolie Femme will be at the opening of Hairspray.

When: March 24, 12:00

Where: Endless Destiny (31, 53)

**ARTS AND CRAFTS****LANTERN MAKING**

For those with some knowledge of how to rez and texture a prim, Matika Wombat gives a tutorial on making a traditional Japanese lantern. The lesson costs L\$150.

When: March 24, 11:00

Where: Dreams (141, 158)

**NIGHTLIFE****COWBOY APPRECIATION NIGHT**

Head over to the Silver Dollar for country music and a bull riding contest.

When: March 23, 19:00

Where: Dixie (184, 230)

**EDUCATION****GET HYPNOTISED**

Come to the Drink Less Mind Hypnotherapy session led by Divinity Dovgal.

When: March 25, 04:00

Where: Norcott West (214, 213)

**ART****KALEIDOSCOPE ART**

See Alexandra Mensing's art and meet her afterwards.

When: March 25, 7:00-10:00AM

Where: Wollah (193,235)

**EVENT OF THE WEEK!****FASHION EXPO**

The huge convention with many of SL's top designers selling their latest looks will begin in the newly opened Exhibition island.

When: When: From 23 March

Where: CopperMass (18, 32)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK**LIVE MUSIC****SAX AND WOODWIND SET**

Saxophonist and woodwind musician Anakin plays a free set ranging from blues to contemporary sounds.

When: March 26, 13:00

Where: Lily Pad Lounge, Clyde (124, 165)

**SPORTS****HORSE RIDING**

Fancy a ride on the back of one of our four-legged friends? Free rides at the new Asian-inspired sim Amatsu Mitsukai.

When: March 27, 15:00

Where: Amatsu Mitsukai (126, 231)

**NIGHTLIFE****RANDOM STINE COMEDY SHOW**

If you want a good laugh, head down to Club Kanoloa for Random's interactive approach to comedy. Entry costs L\$1,500.

When: March 24, 12:00

Where: Insula Inferi Hills (233, 63)

**EVENT OF THE WEEK!****GALLERY OPENING**

Art hungry? The Neufriestadt Museum of Contemporary Art opens its doors with digital and contemporary art, sculptures and video.

When: March 23, 13:00 and 19:00

Where: Neufriestadt (188, 135)

**NIGHTLIFE****AN EVENING OF VILLAINS**

Come and explore your villainous side, dress up as a bad guy and then relax to some mean tunes - DJ Barracuda and Viscount Me-natep in charge of proceedings.

When: March 29, 20:00

Where: Infinity (73, 129)

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 MAKE SIMPLE SCRIPTS

MAKING a script is not complicated at all. Firstly, open your inventory and click on Create, then select New Script. A file appears in your inventory titled, 'New Script'.

Double-click to open the new script and you will see it already holds a basic program. If you were to put that in a box or other prim, it would speak to you in a green whisper, saying "Hello Avatar!" If you clicked on it, it would say "Touched" in another green whisper.

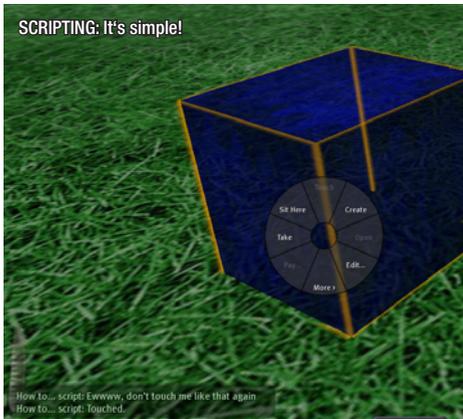
You can change the words in the script into "Ewwwww, don't you touch me like that again" or

anything you can possibly think of. Simply open the script and change the word "Touched" into whatever you like.

Next, you can rez a box. Edit the box and give it a new name like "Stupid Old Box." If you know how to colour and texture, you can make it look interesting.

Finally, put the script in the box. Suddenly, it will say what you

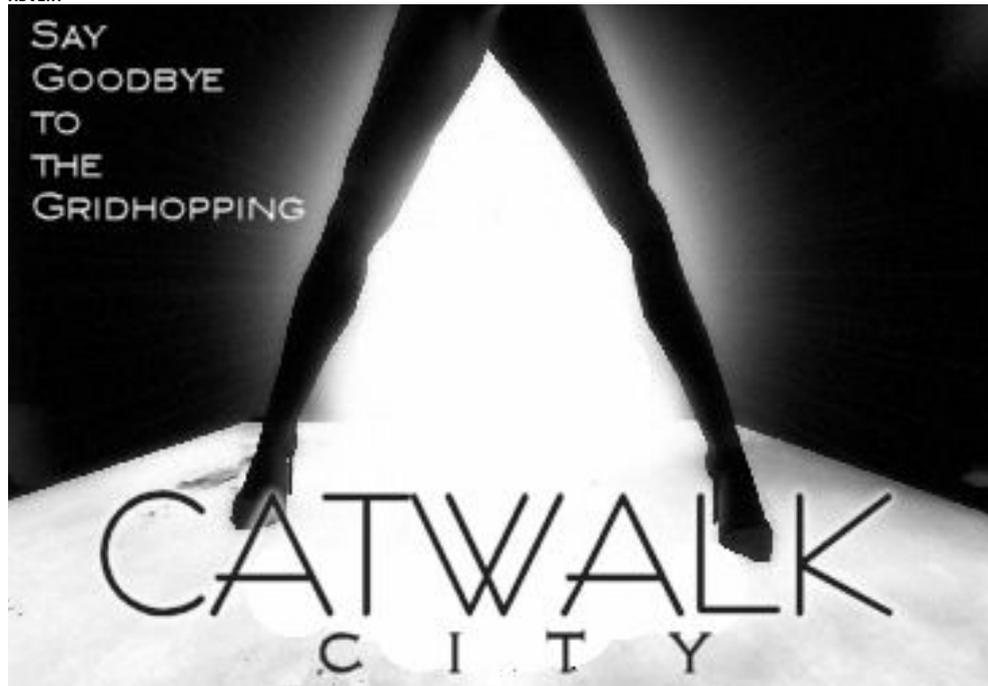
told it to say and, when you click on it, it will say your other line. Congratulations - you are now a scriptor!



SCRIPTING: It's simple!

How to... script: Ewwwww, don't touch me like that again
How to... script: Touched.

ADVERT



TAKE A LOOK AT YOURSELF

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

YOU will be amazed when you discover what you can do with camera controls.

Finally, you can see your face as well as your back, and the world appears in a whole new way.

Two fantastic Linden freebies known as the Single- and Multi-FollowCams can add something to this experience.

The Single FollowCam, by Ben Linden with help from Casval Epecha and Dave Zeeman, allows you

ing the Multi FollowCam, which was scripted by Dan Linden, click your back to activate the blue touch dialogue with eight different choices. Without moving, you can see the whole space around you, or yourself in the space, in a static or in a dynamic way, from different points of view.

Both gadgets are invisible boxes which you wear, and are fully permissive in order to stimulate creativity and scripting abilities. You can find the free FollowCams at Linden Land aka Torley's experi-crib (Montara 194, 204, 27).



SPOOKY: View from the FollowCams



WIDE ANGLE: Check out the new look

to look at the world as your avatar does. All you have to do is wear it, start walking and play with your mouse. After attach-

DO + DOS AND DON'TS OF PRIM HAIR - DON'T

By GAETANA FAUST

- + Splurge on high-quality prim hair. It's the best way to improve your avatar's appearance.
- + Edit your prim hair to make it fit your head.
- + Move each individual prim to customise the fit and adapt it for the look you want.
- + Have a style which expresses your avatar's personality. Try crazy styles and colours. It's fun to wear blue pigtales occasionally.
- Stick with the newbie look of non-prim hair. Many great designers have attractive, inexpensive styles for new residents with limited L\$ budgets.
- Get long hair that passes eerily through your avatar's body.
- Purchase prim hair that is no modify.
- Buy prim hair without trying a demo.
- Forget to adjust your hair so that you don't have bald spots peeking through.

DIARY OF A NEWBIE

DANCING TO THE WRONG TUNE

"WOW" I thought, as I made my way into the club. "All these people dancing in the middle of the day - I could really feel at home in SL." But how to start dancing?

I fiddled with the mouse, but to no avail. I fiddled with the keypad. Again, nothing. So I decided to ask the person dancing next to me. Surely I'm not to blame if she's the most attractive girl in the bar? "Hi there, Sandy, could you tell me how to dance?"

Nothing. "Hi, Sandy", I tried again, "do you know how to dance?" Unfortunately she thought I was asking her to dance with me, as she responded with a curt "No I'm fine". So guys beware - girls will not assume you're just asking for help!

I soon found others who were willing to help - and it turns out all I had to do was click on the disco ball, and off I went! Thanks for nothing, Sandy!



DANCEFLOOR: Confusion

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

SATINE HEART

WITH HER WILD EYES AND MYSTERIOUS GOOD LOOKS, AMBITIOUS SATINE FOUND HER NICHE IN MODELLING. SHE HAS LEAPT FROM THE CATWALK INTO HER ROLE AS OWNER OF THE CATWALK AGENCY WHICH LAUNCHED LAST WEEK. SHE TALKS ABOUT HER HOPES TO HELP NEW SL DESIGNERS, MODELS AND AGENCIES.

By CARRIE SODWIND



PROFILE

NAME:

Satine Heart

BIRTH DATE:

1/5/2006

PROFESSION:

Owner of Model Mode

ATTITUDE:

Sweetheart Diva

THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?

SATINE HEART: It would have to be my eyes. I get lots of comments on their colour and shape.

TA: What is your favourite place in SL?

SH: I love the big clothes stores, especially Naughty. It is always busy. I like the fast pace and the hustle and bustle. But

when I want some peace I go to one of the mountain getaways.

TA: What would you change in SL?

SH: I think the community is too segregated. I would like to see more unity among people rather than many small groups or cliques. And of course the Lag.

TA: How do you spend your time in Second Life?

SH: Recently I have not had much time to chill. Most of my time is spent working or organising events, but I get to meet fabulous

people. I also like to party a lot.

TA: Which personal SL achievements are you most proud of?

SH: The friends that I have made - they have helped me through it all. Also Models Mode and what my partners and I have been able to do with the group. The launch party was a particular highlight for me. We have now joined with Catwalk City to produce a Fashion show that will give new designers, models and agencies the opportunity to be showcased alongside a major designer.

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

SH: It sounds really corny and there are a million of them going around for free - but it has to be my purple rose. It was a gift from a close friend that I met when I first got here. It reminds me of the kindness that is everywhere in SL.

TA: If SL had a president, who would you vote for?

SH: Lost Thereian. I love her work and think that the Naughty label has done so much for fashion in SL.