

THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

FREE COPY

WWW.THE-AVASTAR.COM

NEWS p.2-9

Leaked WSE accusations spark bitter feud

COMMENT p.5

Don't expect favours with free accounts - Pham Neutra

BUSINESS p.11

SL's hyper-growth bubble has burst, say experts

A-STARs p.12-13

All the news and pics from the Pontiac SL Auto Show

STYLE p.14-17

Brazilian fashion, Callie Cline's column and more

TRAVEL p.18-19

Pompo Bombacci's top tips



AVASTAR EXCLUSIVE:

MUSIC VENUES TO CHARGE L\$

SEE PAGE 4



AVASTAR OF THE WEEK
SAMYJO
AH
p.28

EASTER SPECIAL - see page 16

GAMBLING BAN ON PG SIMS?

- CASINO LAG RUINING PG-RATED SIMS
- RESIDENTS DEMAND NEW RULES

By LEIDER STEPANOV

CASINOS should be banned from PG-rated land, say frustrated residents plagued with lag problems.

Full story - Page Three



INSIDE OPINION

"LINDEN Lab is a business: they will treat customers who generate profit differently from those who only cost them. Anything else would be commercial suicide."

PHAM NEUTRA
p.5



"THE death of a SL resident this week underlined the importance of the SLR-FL. Events like this, and the subsequent outpourings of grief from fellow residents, highlight the fact SL is not a game - it's a real community with real people."

REGIS BRAATHENS
p.8

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

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.

DRAMATIC FLOODS HIT SL



A RESIDENT left high and dry on Wednesday when the potential catastrophic effects of climate change were dramatised in a series of organised sim floods.

THE AVASTAR STAFF

CEO

Gregor Ginsberg

BUSINESS MANAGER

Ikarus Santos

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Regis Braathens

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Leider Stepanov

WRITERS & CONTRIBUTORS

Pham Neutra, Lionila Lightfoot, Deeep Witte, Randi Barracuda, Gaetana Faust,

Tina (PetGir) Bergman, Manta Messmer, Bilbo Winkler, Gwyneth Llewellyn, Honey Bender, Carrie Sodwind, JenzZa Misfit, Isabel Brocco, Petronilla Paperdoll, Stephane Zugzwang, Zelmo Boucher

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Ronsen Sungsoo, Raoul Cimino

ADVERTISING & DISTRIBUTION

advertising@the-avastar.com

WEBSITE

www.the-avastar.com

NO CASINOS ON PG SIMS

By LEIDER-STEPANOV



CASINO PROBLEMS PROMPT CALL FOR NEW LAWS

LAG: The So Nice Casino

CASINOS should be banned from PG-rated land, according to frustrated residents plagued with lag problems.

Residents on Nedben sim have spoken out after weeks of severe lag and restricted access caused by the presence of the So Nice Casino.

Land owner Makena Kelley says she feels helpless: "I was advised by a Linden to put in a dancefloor and a few slot machines and try to steal away the competition - then close it when the casino was gone", she said.

COMPETITION

But Makena is now demanding a change in Linden Lab policy regarding PG sims. "The sim came to a crashing halt. There was terrible lag and residents were unable to get home."



LANDOWNER: Makena Kelley

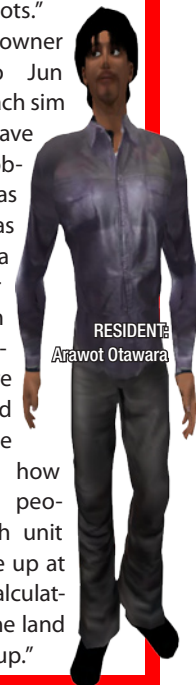
"But my biggest problem is that this is a PG sim. Why is gambling allowed here?"

"If the Lindens use the movie rating system, PG means under 18, you can't gamble unless you are over 18, which puts you in to the R (mature) rating." Despite a reduction in camping chairs from 50 to 22, the problems still remain - as they do for similar sims across the grid.

FLASHMOBS

Arawot Otawara is a resident of Nedben. He said: "I believe residents can fight camping. I think if there are not enough people in Nedben to control the sim, we could co-operate with other sims who suffer from

camping casinos, such as flashmobs to take all the slots." So Nice owner dokomo Jun said: "Each sim will have this problem, as long as there is a popular unit on it. Maybe there could be a rule about how many people each unit can take up at most, calculated by the land it takes up."



RESIDENT: Arawot Otawara

WHY WE SHOULD PAY FOR MUSIC

Menorca owner **SLIM WARRIOR** tells The AvaStar why she is trying to set up a system of charging for live music.

TA: Why is there a need to charge for music?

SW: "I want to provide a place for musicians to come and play. I help to give unsigned artists some exposure.

"However, I also want to reward them - I am a musician myself, and it is lovely to receive some payment for performing. But I don't have shops, I don't advertise - the sim is purely for music.

"If you're paying musicians L\$1,500 five times a week on top of tiers, the bank account suffers."

TA: Should there still be free music in SL?

SW: "Yes, it is an integral part of it.

"But there should be a system whereby venues can charge for the best artists - but then how do you decide who is the best?"

"For it to work, we need to do this system together."



VENUE OWNER: Slim Warrior

TOP ACTS TO COST

VENUE OWNERS WANT TO INTRODUCE CHARGES FOR LIVE GIGS



By CARRIE SODWIND

TOP ACTS: Be prepared to pay

PARTYGOERS: Peacefairly Smalls

FREE performances by top SL musicians could soon be a thing of the past, as the debate about whether live music in-world should be free takes another twist.

A group of 26 venue owners, led by musician and Menorca owner Slim Warrior, are considering a plan to introduce cover charges for special concerts and the best artists.

Following a meeting on Monday, the changes could be enforced in as little as two weeks, with Slim adamant the move is necessary to prevent losses and keep the budding SL music scene alive. The group will meet again this Monday.

Slim said: "Let's get the venue owners talking, and see if I am the only person saying I can't afford to keep paying to put on these events. I hope we can implement this in the next few weeks.

"Things are going to change whatever happens, and it will be far better if venue owners are working together with musicians and listeners."

Live music fan Peacefairly Smalls agrees with Slim. She said: "I would like to

see the Lindens a bit more concerned about how cultures survive in SL."

Some leading musicians, however, are opposed to plans. Jaycatt

Nico attracts up to 80 fans to weekly concerts he gives with singer songwriter Frogg Marlow. He feels that people should be able to see them for free.

"I have friends who enjoy listening and can't afford to pay. It would seem like forced tipping. It's not like buying an item that you can see you want. What if you don't like the performance, do you get a refund?"

Jaycatt said he was sympathetic to the plight of venue owners. "Musicians make money through tips.

But making money has been

a big problem for the venues since LL stopped 'Dwell', a bonus fee for sims based on traffic."

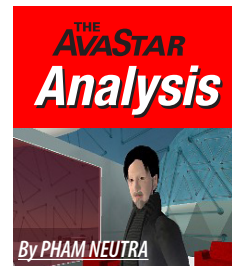


SL STARS: Frogg Marlowe & Jaycatt Nico

SL SHOULD BE FREE THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

FREE ACCOUNTS MUST REMAIN - BUT WITH LESS PRIVILEGES

SHOULD FREE ACCOUNTS BE STOPPED?



By PHAM NEUTRA

'THERE is no such thing as a free lunch' reads the old proverb, which in essence means that you get what you pay for and have to pay (sooner or later) for what you get. Yet there is a sizeable commu-

Incarnation of the Internet - still Philip Linden's ultimate goal.

Demanding more than this is not uncommon - but a bit naïve. When Linden Lab announced they might limit logins to premium members when the server load is very high, there was a public outcry from many residents with a basic account.

But the account is 'basic' as opposed to 'premium', so it should not come as a surprise if a

and builders, who in turn need land, for which they have to pay... LL.

SUICIDE

Others are proud to live their second lives without paying a penny. That is OK too, of course, especially if they create goods or offer a valuable service. You can be rather well off in SL if you are creative and resourceful, but that costs time. And time is money, in a very real way.

LL is a business: they will treat customers who generate profit differently from those who don't. Anything else would be commercial suicide.

So yes, access to Second Life should be free - but if you don't spend money or invest time in a productive way don't expect to be treated like a king.

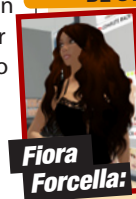


nity of residents within SL who think it should be more or less 'free'. And somehow, it is.

NAIVE

You can get a free basic account and there are lots of ways to enjoy SL without spending RL money. Otherwise, SL doesn't stand a chance of becoming the Next

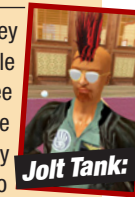
resident with the latter gets better service. This is not to say that basic account holders are not important for SL. Many of them pay landowners a monthly fee, most of which goes to LL in the end. Others are heavy consumers, buying lots of in-world stuff from designers



Flora Forcella:

"I think avatars spend enough money here already without having to pay to join. Accounts should stay free. The cost would also deter many people from joining."

"I think they should throttle logins on free accounts, like they said they were going to if it gets too full. I think



Jolt Tank:

ALL free accounts that have had no money transactions or upgrades should be blocked during peak usage."



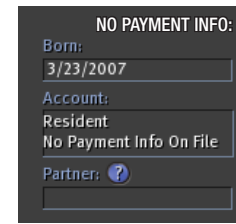
Amira Mathilde

"No. It would be too expensive for lots of people and SL would lose lots of members like that I think."

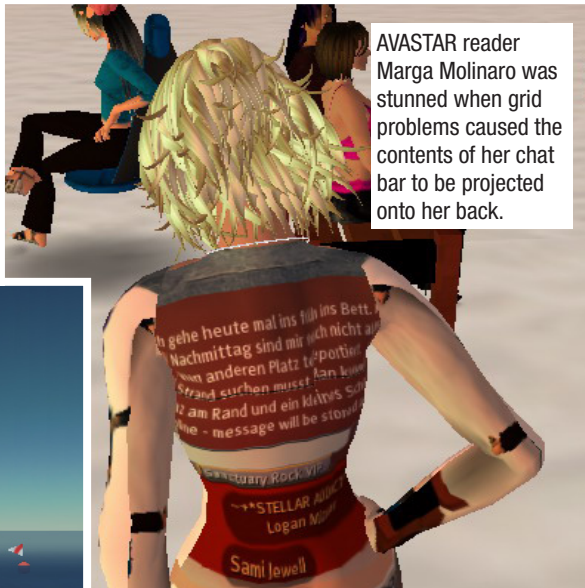
"My answer is no. How about those people who have no credit card? They won't be able to use SL."



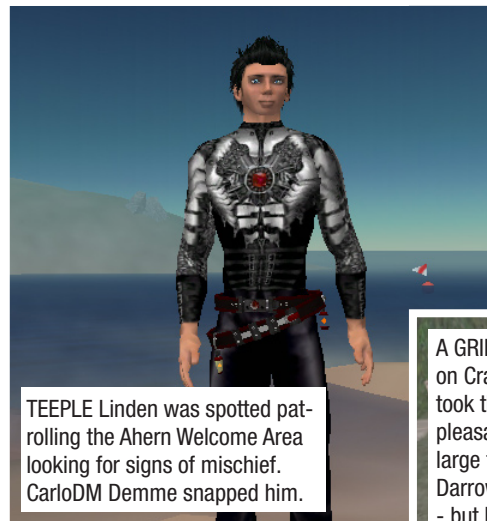
Saul Melendez:



L\$500
PICS
OF THE WEEK
 yourphotos@the-avastar.com

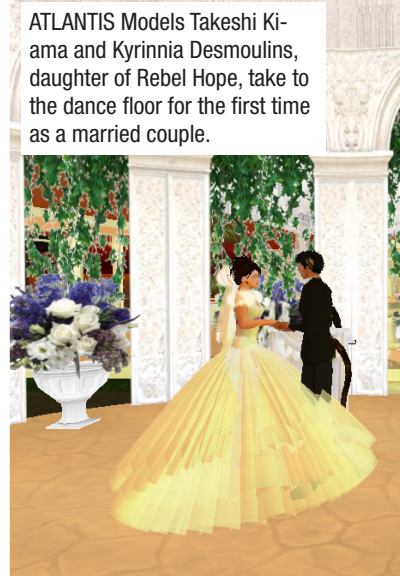


AVASTAR reader Marga Molinaro was stunned when grid problems caused the contents of her chat bar to be projected onto her back.



TEEPLE Linden was spotted patrolling the Ahern Welcome Area looking for signs of mischief. CarloDM Demme snapped him.

A GRIEFING attack on Cranberry sim took the unpleasant form of a large faeces. MB Darrow spotted it - but luckily wasn't the one who had to clear it up.



ATLANTIS Models Takeshi Kiama and Kyrinnia Desmoulines, daughter of Rebel Hope, take to the dance floor for the first time as a married couple.



CHECHO MASUKAMI spotted these 'remains of the best camper in SL'. The sign says he made L\$20 in just 155,987,459 minutes!

SMEAR CLAIMS
OVER WSE SAGA



LukeConnell Vandeverre and Shaun Altman at the WSE

By **BILBOWINKLER**

RIVALRY EXCHANGE ACCUSATIONS AS FEUD INTENSIFIES

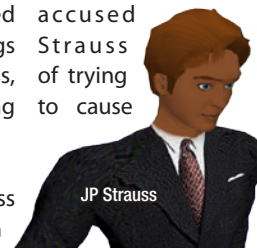
A FORMER World Stock Exchange boss has launched an extraordinary attack on a rival.

Shaun Altman claims he is the victim of a public smear campaign by JP Strauss, head of the rival Virtual ComEx exchange. In an explosive open letter, Altman also accused Strauss of approaching him to buy WSE's trading software and says he was misrepresented in conversation logs released by Strauss, and was in fact trying to bait the VCX CEO.

DESPICABLE

Addressing Strauss in the letter, Altman

said: "I threw you what bones I needed to discover how much of a dog you really were." He described the attempt to buy the software as a "vile, despicable and under-handed act". The letter comes days after Strauss released parts of his logs, which he alleges show dubious activities by Altman. But WSE chief LukeConnell Vandeverre accused Strauss of trying to cause



JP Strauss

turmoil at the Exchange. When The AvaStar broke the news of the letter to Strauss, he said: "Sean and Luke are out to discredit me with falsehoods that they believe will deflect attention away from themselves."

BLACKMAIL

In a retaliatory letter, Strauss says Altman sent former VCX investor Xavier Zeddmore to offer the software which he bought legitimately - only for Zeddmore to try and blackmail him for a higher price. Neither party was willing to release their logs.

NEWS BITES!

ROCKY HORROR

SWEDISH students staged an SL showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show. As part of a blurring realities project, the classic film was then broadcast into a RL theatre with the RL audience dancing along with the avatars.

BRILLIANT SL

A DOCUMENTARY about SL premiered this week at the Aspen ShortsFest 2007. 'Our Brilliant Second Life' concerns an Australian couple's love for the virtual world.

GREY GOO GRIEF

APRIL Fool's Day was marked by a grey goo attack. The stunt sparked minor disruptions and normal service was resumed within two hours.

INVENTION SOUP

IDEAS for widgets, scripts, and builds to improve SL life are being requested by Techsoup.org, with top proposals promised a share of US\$100,000.

TEACHING SPACE

THREE new learning islands have been opened by New Media Consortium for educators to promote their projects at a minimal cost.



REGIS BRAATHENS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SL & RL

RAISING FUNDS IN THE COMMUNITY FOR A GOOD CAUSE - SECOND LIFE'S RELAY FOR LIFE

THE death of a Second Life resident this week underlined just how important the SL Relay for Life is.

The well-loved Felicia Feaver, an active resident since 2003, sadly lost her battle with cancer. As an inspirational member of the SLRFL Transylvania team, she had spent much of her last time in SL raising money for Relay for Life, the RL charity dedicated to cancer research.

SUFFERING

Felicia was one of many SLRFL volunteers who had been

struck down by cancer or who had seen close friends and family suffer from the disease.

Members of the 39 teams, who have so far raised more than

L\$8,650,000, are now even more determined to exceed the US\$40,000 figure reached by the SLRFL in 2006.

COMMUNITY

Events like these and the outpourings of grief from fellow residents and SL friends highlight the fact that this Second Life of ours is not a game - it's a real community with real people behind their avatars.

Over the last few weeks the members of this year's SLRFL campaign have been organising events, arranging products

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

for auction and encouraging others to participate.

SUPPORT

I shall also be playing my part as a member of the Ubuntu team, and hope that many other residents will get involved, support the numerous events, and donate generously.

Let's use SL to make a difference.

(More info at www.srlf.com)



GOOD CAUSE: SL Relay for Life

VATICAN CITY SET FOR LAUNCH?

POPE Benedict XVI will make an appearance in SL to open a virtual Vatican city - at least that was the news story



FOOL: Abt Pril

on iBusiness.de, the German internet trends site, on April 1. A closer look at the name of the supposed Vatican speaker, Abt Pril, was a giveaway - a quick check for Pope-Island is enough to determine that the Pope will not be entering SL any time soon. Happy April Fools!

GRID GOING DOWN...

AS the four hour downtime loomed like an iceberg in front of the Titanic on Wednesday, the Linden Town Hall Questions group IM was suddenly bombarded with residents saying their last words: [6:57] W starts playing a classical instrument while the grid starts to shut down around him... [6:57] DG mans liferafts [7:00] HK: this is it *gulp*

And then, Anthony Linden pulled the plug and SL was no more...at least for only three hours.

Anthony Linden
Last warning, the grid will be brought down momentarily. Please wrap up any activities and log off now. Downtime is scheduled to take 4 hours. We appreciate your patience while improve your experience in Second Life.

GOING DOWN: Grid

your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

UPDATE SPELLS TROUBLE

Hey Regis,

I HAVE noticed that some things have changed since last week's update.

Some people haven't noticed, because it's the small things that have changed. But they're the ones that really matter.

A friend of mine owns an amazing costume shop, and all the costumes are made of feathers and flexi primes. She says that ever since the update happened, it has changed the effect of the costumes.

The movement of the fabric and their texture have lost the effect they used to have. To the customer's eye they probably look very similar or the same as they used to. However, in my opinion the designer is an artist, and they have lost the quality they were designed with.

E-MAILS OF THE WEEK

500 LINDEN DOLLARS

It is very frustrating to know that with each update, anything could happen in order to affect the quality of our designs. Yet there is never any way of redeeming what is lost, and the change is not big enough to make a proper complaint about. There really should be some way of warning people about the changes that will take place - if the Lindens even notice them at all.

By Jojo Yue

WRITE TO: YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

REPLICAS HAVE NO PLACE IN SECOND LIFE

Hey Regis,

I DON'T understand this SL fascination with recreations of real life locations.

I came to this virtual world looking to escape my own humdrum existence, I don't want to see it recreated in SL!

Every day I stumble into some virtual version of London, Paris, Berlin or whatever. If I wanted to visit these places then I'd hop on a train and explore them for real. So the fact that the Amsterdam sim

has sold for so much money is just irritating because it's going to make everyone think this is the way forward for SL - a facsimile of RL.

ONE OF A KIND:
Amsterdam sim



SL is a chance for its users to create their own utopia, unburdened by the restrictions of the real world. They can do absolutely anything. Go to places like the eco-world of Svarga or the crazy surrealist Something Awful sim for examples of this idea in action.

SL is a world limited only by the users' imaginations, but judging by Amsterdam and the rest, these are lacking.

By Justin3 Humphreys

FURRY SEX BAN JUST THE START

Dear Regis,

IN reference to last week's front page article about furry sex - it seems as if the floodgates are opening.

If Linden Lab ban animals from having sex with human avatars, it is surely only a matter of time before more rules are imposed on our free world.

But what I am fascinated to know is, how exactly do they intend to impose these sorts of rules?

For a start, how do you define an 'animal' in SL? What about robots? What if the avatar has a cat's head with a human's body? And although Philip Linden might be the closest thing to God that SL has, he really cannot be all-seeing and all-knowing. Perhaps he will hire some heavies to hang out in clubs where furies and humans chat together. I can just see it, the moment the kitten looses her top, the heavy will step over and say, "Can your partner please put his furry skin on - then it will all be normal again." Haha, I don't think so.

By Countvon Gazov

FREE TOUCH TO DOWNLOAD THE CURRENT ISSUE NOW!!!

THE AVASTAR

SELL THE AVASTAR!

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

HYPER-GROWTH BUBBLE BURSTS

EXPONENTIAL GROWTH PERIOD OVER, SAY EXPERTS *By REGIS BRAATHENS*

SECOND Life's hyper-growth phase might be set to end, say experts - despite registrations topping five million recently.

Massive expansion caused by global media hype surrounding the virtual world has led to monthly growth rates of around 15 and 20 per cent over the last year. But the latest statistics for March suggest this rapid growth bubble has burst.

"If you look at the last few weeks then it looks like SL's period of exponential growth might be over", said AvaStar analyst Pham Neutra.

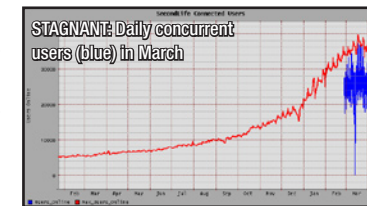
The average daily concurrent user figures for March have not increased much in comparison to the previous month.

So does this signal the end of SL's honeymoon growth period? "It is too early to make any concrete prognoses yet. But it could well be

that SL's growth will become linear", added Pham. "That's not a big problem, however it means those speculating that SL will soon be a mass medium will have to wait a while longer, if the trend is correct."

SL analyst Chromal Brodsky refused to speculate: "I believe SL's user base will continue to grow as technology makes it increasingly accessible to a wider audience of users."

The news is a blow to Linden Lab, coming weeks after Philip Linden announced that he believed SL will eventually reach 1.5 billion concurrent users.



FBI INVESTIGATES SL CASINOS

SL casinos are being investigated - by the FBI.

The gambling scene in



SL has grown massively over the last year, with enormous amounts of money flowing through casinos.

Concerned at the growth of this unregulated industry where some casinos make around half a million Linden dollars a month, Federal agents are infil-

trating SL casinos looking for signs of illegal activity. This is part of a general crackdown on gambling by the US government in recent months.

As revealed by Adam Reuters, the FBI has visited casinos on several occasions at the request of Linden Lab.

BIZ BITES:

JAPANESE BIZ

JAPANESE Venture Company Netage Capital Partners has teamed up with virtual world marketing firm Meltingdots to encourage Japanese businesses to enter SL. Services will include an EM registration page, a currency exchange, and content creation.

MARKETING IN SL IS FRUITLESS

VICE PRESIDENT of Global Marketing for Hewlett Packard, Eric Kintz, has blogged ten reasons for RL firms not to market in SL. Kintz names the lack of scalability and misleading subscriber stats among his reasons.

BUSINESS TOURS

The Hamburg chamber of commerce is organising business tours of SL with a discussion afterwards in Hamburg City. The tours take place every Tuesday from 9-10am SLT.

SL GEEK SQUAD

THE Best Buy Company will soon set up on Geek Squad Island, providing free computer advice from its Geek Squad Technical Support.



A-STAR GOSSIP
JenzZa Misfit

A-STAR GOSSIP

MONSTER CAR SHOW

PONTIAC CAR SHOW KICKS OFF

By REGIS BRAATHENS

HOT wheels and beautiful girls - all you would expect from a great car show.

The event at Pontiac Car Design Park opened on Wednesday and was streamed live to the New York Auto Show. On display were residents' modified versions of the Solstice GXP as well as many original designs from racers to big trucks entered in a competition to win

LS\$25,000. RL rock band Toe'd Up from Edinburgh also played a live set at the event. Lovely Underwater Love Club owner Lizbeth Ladybird and Motorati Girlz CEO Callie Cline were also at the event, which runs until April 15.



TALENT:
Toe'd Up lead singer

LIZBETH LADYBIRD:
posing in front of a monster truck

LINEDANCING TO THE COFFEEHOUSE BLUES

By BABA COEN

RESIDENTS' SYNCHRONISED BOOGIE AT MUSE ISLE

LINEDANCING broke out on the dancefloor as the crowd showed their appreciation for blues musician Kelvinblue Oh. Residents danced together in synch at Cecilia's Coffeehouse at Muse Isle

during the well-attended Blues at Muse live event.



HAVING A PINT: Dublin owner Ham Rambler



BLUE: Kelvinblue Oh

SPOTTED!

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

JIMI Hendrix was seen joining the overflow crowd at Komuso's party in Artropolis. In fact, it was artist Filthy Fluno who donned the outfit for the occasion.



A-STAR GOSSIP

ISABELLA IS FACE OF L'OREAL

BRAZILIAN WINS FACE OF L'OREAL COMPETITION AND PRAISES CONTESTANTS' SPIRIT *By BILBO WINKLER*

THE sexiest women in SL battled it out last weekend for the honour of being named winner of the inaugural Face of L'Oreal Paris competition.

Aspire Isle was packed to the rafters as the lovely

ladies strutted their stunning outfits in front of a panel of judges.

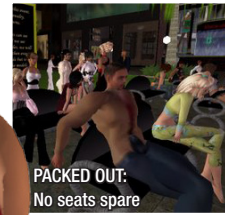
Taking turns to display their formal, casual and swimwear, great designs and sexy poses were the order of the day. The contest came down to the trio of Alissa Bright, Happy Elytis and Isabella Sampaio. After some tense moments, the gorgeous Isabella

was chosen as the Face of L'Oreal. Isabella praised the contestants in her victory speech: "They are fabulous, fashion-forward women who partnered with me in this event - all of whom represent beauty, culture and dynamism in their own unique ways."

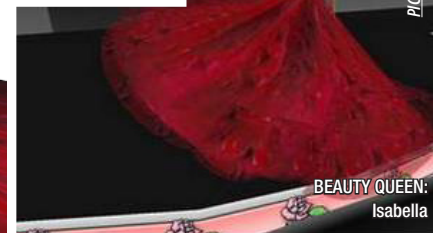


WINNER: Isabella Sampaio

CONTESTANTS:
Getting ready for the show



PACKED OUT:
No seats spare



BEAUTY QUEEN:
Isabella

PICS BY EMMETTAL

WHO'S THE DADDY?

By MANTA MESSMER

REGGAE SUPERSTAR SHAKES IT IN SL DREADLOCKS and bright Jamaican colours were out in force on Tuesday for a lesson in reggae magic.

RL star Daddy Teacha, in the guise of his avatar Naphtali Hawks got the crowd going at the opening of the Playerz Live Event Club.

The venue on the Roo-

kery West Island throbbled with the sounds of the English star's great brand of roots and dub.

Many dreadlocked avatars were on hand to show their appreciation.



RASTA FANS: Shakin' it

SUPERSTAR: Daddy Teacha

BRAZILIAN CARNIVAL

SIZZLING FASHION YOU CAN WEAR TO THE SAMBA BEAT!

RIO CARNIVAL MAY BE OVER FOR ANOTHER YEAR, BUT BRAZILIAN DESIGNER FABIANO LOLL WAS INSPIRED BY THE COLOUR AND LIFE FOUND IN THE OUTFITS OF THE CARNIVAL. SHE HAS BOUGHT THE STRIKING COSTUMES, ALONG WITH THEIR THOUSANDS OF FEATHERS, BOUNCING INTO SL. SHOW THEM OFF WITH BRIGHT JEWELLERY AND HAIR, TANNED SKIN, AND A BELLY DANCE.

By ISABEL BROCCO

'Rainha debateria' costume
Brazilian Carnival Costumes, Brasil 1 (186, 191, 29)



L\$600



L\$700

'Onça' Yellow
Brazilian Carnival Costumes, Brasil 1 (186, 191, 29)



Necklace
colour changable, Purple Rose, Babeli (108, 223, 25)

L\$399



Earrings and necklace
in a set with bracelet, Cailyns, Gisborne (104, 231, 27)

L\$300



'Porta Bandeira' Green
Brazilian Carnival Costumes, Brasil 1 (186, 191, 29)

L\$1000



Skin
DragonFly, Oasis (244, 88, 25)

L\$800

Hair Pack of three,
Calla, Callatropia (125, 194, 24)

L\$200

Skin
Sin Skins (128, 126, 55)

L\$1000

Hair Saturated
By Taunt, Taunt (179, 79, 31)

L\$200



callie cline's STYLE HOTLINE



HAIR TO SHOW YOU CARE

PUT ON A BANDANA ON APRIL 14 TO HELP A GREAT CAUSE

I LOVE what the fashion community in SL comes up with.

It's an industry filled with creative people who not only create wonderful items of beauty to wear, but who also use their creative minds to give something back - and make it fun!!!

So this week, our 'hair sisters' in the design community have declared April 14, the last day of Hair Fair, to be Bandana Day - a day to wear no hair, but to purchase bandanas and wear them. Why? So that all the money goes to Locks of Love, an organization that provides real hair to

people who have lost theirs due to cancer treatments.

What better way to look fashionable in your favourite designer's bandana, and for your purchase to help a wonderful cause?

This is a great way to end Hair Fair, to take it all off and honour and support those who don't have hair.

I hope you will all check out Hair Fair and also get a bandana or two (or three) and tell everyone you know about this fun day. Fun, creative, and one that gives from the heart!

I take off my hat,

err, I mean, hair, to all of my sisters and brothers in the hair world who created this day! Here is one of the bandanas I created especially for the event. Can't wait to see you all there on the

14th! Happy Easter!



GOOD CAUSE: Callie with her bandana

WHAT'S HOT! A VINTAGE BLUE VISION

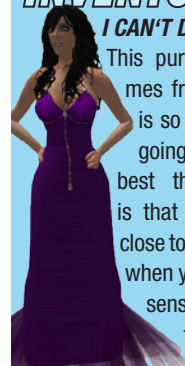
By Isabel Brocco

HONEYDEW Hilite, Diva Style fashionista, was spotted in EDT this week in a vintage 50s-style dress. The bold flower print in cornflower blue was so striking on the redhead that it had other shoppers stopping in their tracks to see who it was. A nice high waist-line can be shown off beautifully with a belt. Matched with a brooch, Honeydew carried off a great look from the past with class.

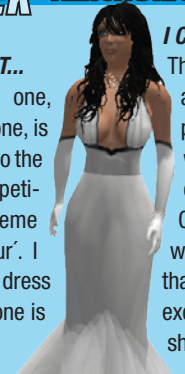


CLASS: Honeydew Hilite

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK ALISSA BRIGHT By ISABEL BROCCO



I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...
This purple dress comes from Simone. It is so elegant. I love going out in it. The best thing about it is that it clings very close to the body, even when you move. I like sensual things like this.



I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...
The white one, also by Simone, is what I wore to the L'Oreal competition. The theme was 'glamour'. I have a real dress fetish - Simone is wonderful.



I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...
This necklace is such a beautifully detailed piece of jewellery. It was given to me by the designers at Random Calliope so that I could wear it to the contest. I was so upset that I couldn't wear it because my outfit exceeded the prim level. But I really love showing it off.



EGG-CELLENT GIFTS!

ALL THE BEST STUFF ON OFFER IN SL TO CELEBRATE WITH THIS EASTER

By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN



Chocolate covered eggs wrapped in foil

By Karamel Madison
Kitchen Korner sim

L\$150



Row of Easter Tulips in different colours.

By Sister Liliths
Hrath 1 sim

L\$199



Easter Bunny white/lilac with basket

In four different colours
By Arda Fauna
Montara (93, 31, 34)

L\$75

Cute cut-out train Easter decoration

Lots of different cute cut-outs which you can resize!

By Blonde Vixen
Mullet (174, 145, 145)

L\$10



Divivity Easter egg candle in purple

By Vivianne OFlynn
Minna (69, 121, 29)

L\$69



Easter egg colouring "In The Making"

By Karamel Madison
Kitchen Korner sim

L\$150



Easter Bunny kit

By Geddy McGettigan
Eventide (21, 200, 35)

L\$100



NIRVANA - Baby chick adoption pack

Five varieties with sound - very cute and well done!

By Carrie Grant
dementia (167, 157, 23)

L\$595



Boiled eggs, Divivity Three Minute Egg - mauve

Scripted for avatar holding/ unlimited dispense of spoons and eggs for avatar eating

By Vivianne OFlynn
Minna (69, 121, 29)

L\$69



Pink Easter Bunny

Small or large in three colours
By Stefani Gorham

CyberKitten Designs-
Easter Item, Titian (63, 20, 25)

L\$30



MUSICIANS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Cylindrian Rutabaga

SL Birth Date:
1/29/06

Famous for:
Soulful folk music

By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

LL: How would you describe your music style?

CR: It has been labelled soulful acoustic folk and is compared to Sarah McLachlan/Joni Mitchell/Joan Baez infused with the soul/rawness of Janis Joplin... I just think I sound like me.

LL: What do you like about giving concerts in SL?

CR: I love the interaction with people - the marketing aspect is huge. The fact my songs are being heard and purchased and I have requests from people all over the world to come tour leaves me incredibly thankful. I dislike when the SL Client doesn't pick up the audio stream

and people have to open up an external player to pick it up.

LL: How do you connect with your audience in SL?

CR: I simply talk to them, read their reactions. I try to play requested songs if I happen to see an IM.

LL: How has SL influenced your music?

CR: Creativity in SL has challenged me to learn new forms of songwriting - goodness it's hard to explain what I do now. I write in a sketchbook, start with one colour, make some freehand scribbles and as words come to me, write them amongst whatever picture has begun to form, no rhyme or reason to it at all, but it has wielded four songs so far.

LL: What technological advances would you like to see in SL?

CR: I'd like to see more real life movement in performers' avatars that were more indicative to their natural style. I am hoping to work with some people to make more life-like animations, like playing the guitar faster and moving the mouth.

I'm hoping to be able to video stream a live show sometime, but the places I play usually don't have a high enough speed connection to house SL, audio stream, and video

LL: Do you think people identify more with your avatar than with your RL self?

CR: I like to think I behave the same in SL as I do in RL. I am not a role-player in here, I am trying to market a real life product, my real life music, which is me, so I have to really try and maintain that sense of self. It has been a challenge.



BOOST FOR SL ARTISTS

By BILBO WINKLER

BUDDING young artists in Second Life will now have the chance to exhibit their art for free.

The with the central focus point being the Vision Mall. In all, 10,000 square metres will be made available free of charge

Vision Estate Group will provide space for selected artists on the Vision of Hope, Vision of Dreams and Vision of Trust sims,

and Vision of Trust sims, To kick things off, SL sculptor and artist Cheen Pitney has an exhibition running until April 22.

The scheme's organisers hope it will be the beginning of a fruitful relationship between the group and the growing numbers of talented SL artists and art lovers.

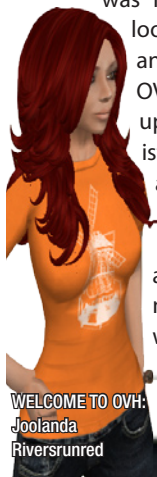
Wanted to see more real life movement in performers' avatars that were more indicative to their natural style. I am hoping to work with some people to make more life-like animations, like playing the guitar faster and moving the mouth.



ABOVE AND LEFT: Sculptures by Cheen Pitney

HOLLAND COMES TO SL By MANTA MESSNER

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THE NEW 'OUR VIRTUAL HOLLAND' SIM WITH the virtual mini-state 'Our Virtual Holland' due to officially launch on Sunday, The AvaStar was invited in for a look at the much anticipated sim.

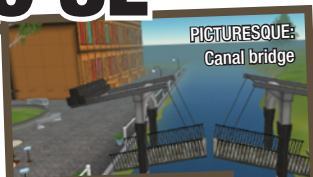


WELCOME TO OVH: Joolanda Riversrunred

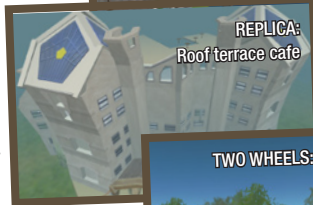
ADVERT

OVH has been set up as both a tourist destination and a community for creative residents and entrepreneurs. However, with the new residents yet to establish their settlements, it is the tourist's

image of Holland as a land of tulips, canals and bikes which currently dominates the landscape. For instance, one of the most eye-catching constructions is the Kinderdijk-style windmill. There are nonetheless already some imaginative new buildings dotted across the windswept lowlands. In addition to a handful of futuristic offices, the central sim features a replica of the striking Amsterdamse Poort Office, and houses an art gallery and roof terrace cafe.



PICTURESQUE: Canal bridge



REPLICA: Roof terrace cafe



TWO WHEELS: Bike hire



STRIKING: Amsterdamse Poort Office

TRAVEL FEATURE

By MANTA MESSNER

POMPO BOMBACCI, THE MAN BEHIND SLAB DESIGNS, REVEALS HIS TOP TRAVEL TIPS. Which sims have you explored recently?

The Weather Channel opened five new sims recently and the surfing and mountain biking are great there. Also, the Idea City sim has great advanced



URBAN: Midian City

POMPO BOMBACCI



GRAFFITI: Subway train

tutorials on texturing and building tips.

Where do you relax?

Relax? I pretty much work here at SLAB Designs and that's it... I guess it's time to go on a vacation in SL - how about a cruise with my wife Giada?

Where do you party?

I used to party a lot at Club Extreme; great people, great dancing and Slingo, which I love.

What are the most creative sims?

One of my favourites is Svarga. It's very primordial and populated with A-Life plants, bees, birds, lush vegetation and a cas-

tle. There's even a guided tour in six different languages. Also on my list is Midian City, an urban roleplay sim. Watch out for the gangs and check out the graffiti on the underground train.

What are your top tips for exploring SL?

Rely on tips from friends and The AvaStar because if you go by traffic and the 'Popular Places' all you gonna find is campers and window washers. Otherwise I just open the map and look for intriguing sim names.



Pompo Bombacci

TAKE YOUR PICK

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



AIMEE WEBER

Save the Children Yak Shack

Midnight City (38, 222, 26)

A great ranch-style dwelling, where you can ride a shaggy-haired bovine whilst raising money for the Save the Children charity. In fact, you can buy, customise and even chat with your yak.



KRIS RITTER

Seacliff Northeast

Seacliff (162, 195, 41)

The force behind the Heaven and Hell sims likes to hang out at the home of the wood elves, an eccentric and colourful cliffside settlement in a location which is definitely more heaven than hell.



REUBEN MILLIONSOFUS

Regina Spektor

Millions of Us (71, 58, 25)

You can immerse yourself in Spektorworld, and enjoy soaking up the ambience of an artist's New York brownstone loft while being entertained by the folksy Russian singer's new album.

Patou Dumont presents
Official launching of the blog
Second News! Brasil
<http://www.Second-News.Net>
 With DJ Chinoso and others
 5.000 L\$ scattered around the castle
 Find one of the 66 Crowns with values of
 50, 75 and 100 Linden Dollars !!
When: April 07, 01h30 pm (SLT)
Where: Castle Triskelion, Starax (38, 143, 35)



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

DEAR RANDI



MY ESCORT SISTER

RANDI'S PHOTO
 CASEBOOK
 WEEK 3

A new man enters
 Emma's life...

I THINK IT'S MORALLY WRONG, DESPITE ALL THE MONEY SHE MAKES!

Dear Randi: MY RL sister, who recently divorced, and I joined together two months ago. I wanted to make money as a fashion designer, while she said she just wanted to make friends. Two days ago I discovered she has been working as an escort, and has four

times as much money as I have. We have both attended the same RL church all our lives, and I think she's morally wrong. Should I tell her? — M.M.

- and not yours. She is entitled to do as she pleases, and it will be better all round if you keep your opinions about your sister being an escort in SL to yourself. Don't go telling your RL friends about it either - that can only lead to much bigger problems.

Randi says: No. What she does in SL is down to her, and is none of your business. It's her life - both in SL and RL



FIANCE DOESN'T KNOW I'M A MAN

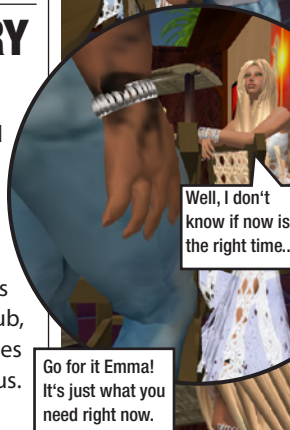
Dear Randi: I AM a gay man in RL who has used a female avatar ever since joining SL six months ago. Using my alter-ego, I have started a modelling career and recently became engaged. No one in SL has a clue about my RL identity, and things were going great until my fiancé said he wanted to meet in RL. Obviously that's impossible. What should I tell him? — B.G.

Randi says: Don't tell him the whole truth, but don't lie. Just tell him you keep SL and RL completely separate for your own reasons, leave it at that and stick to your guns. If he won't accept that, then perhaps the relationship will have to end. But if that happens, do not reveal your RL gender to him in any case. The break-up would be difficult enough.

SEX CLUB WORRY OVER HUSBAND

Dear Randi: MY RL husband joined SL two weeks ago, closely followed by a female online poker friend of his. Now he spends more time in-world with her than in RL with me. He has admitted going to a SL sex club, and now I wonder what he does with her. He says I'm just jealous. Should I be worried? — T.L.C.

Randi says: No one else can tell you how you should feel. I think you're already both jealous and worried. Your husband is the only one who can give you insight into whether or not there is reason for worry. So take a moment to tell him how you feel and ask him what's really going on. Listen to his answer, decide whether or not you can accept or believe it and then proceed.



Go for it Emma!
 It's just what you need right now.





natural skin

elim island

THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: EXOTIC DESTINATIONS

FAR-FLUNG: The RL World Map



By GAETANA FAUST

A TASTE OF THE EXOTIC

FROM TURKEY TO INDIA, SAMPLE SOME STRIKING SIMS

HIDDEN amid humdrum casinos, malls, and clubs, there are a host of exotic destinations to spice up your Second Life.

Start your trip by visiting the RL World Map in Taber (98, 104, 22) to see the stick pins marking where your fellow SL residents are from. Stop by the International House of Style in Son (129, 162, 27) for an extensive line of international styles for men and women, including colourful saris from India and sarongs from Indonesia.

Grab an Info Fez as you arrive at Virtual Morocco in Casablanca (141, 87, 26). The Fez will describe the sim as you wander around. In the marketplace you'll find Moroccan goods such as henna tattoos, tajines, and tea glasses.

Dahab Sinai Egypt in Orthon (112, 76, 22) is an exotic resort filled with comfortable cushions and blazing fires along the beach in this beautiful place. Lovers of beautiful textiles will be enraptured by Roberto's Persian Carpet Emporium in Sibine (127, 164, 71), where magnificent rugs line the floors and walls.

Club Bey Saray in Yosu (45, 90, 52) has international flair and features Turkish music. Sit back on a luxurious pillow in the courtyard and click on the genie's bottle to make puffs of smoke appear. For an unusual twist on global music, cap off your day with a stop at Desi Beatz Bollywood Music in Plush Theta (45, 149, 23) to jam in some energetic Indian techno music.

DESERT DESTINATION DAHAB SINAI EGYPT



Shops sell art and lamps and there are stone paths by the sea at this beautiful and exotic resort which is filled with comfortable cushions.

Where: Orthon
(112, 76, 22)

FULL-ON FEZ FUN VIRTUAL MOROCCO



Marvel at the detailed mosaics or get lost in the winding streets.

Where: Casablanca
(141, 87, 26)

BHANGRA BEATS DESI BEATZ

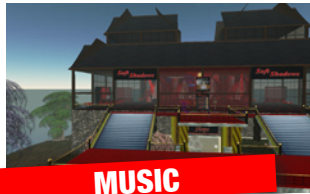


Dance to the great sounds of the energetic Indian techno music.

Where: Plush Theta
(45, 149, 23)

4.6. - 4.12.

DON'T MISS! –



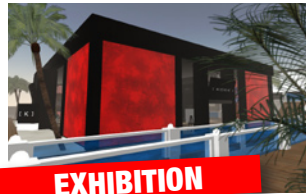
MUSIC

NATALIE MOODY LIVE

Soft Shadows presents the wonderful Natalie Moody with some great tunes. Go along for plenty of dancing and a friendly atmosphere.

When: April 9, 12:00

Where: Starax (199, 217, 43)



EXHIBITION

BRAZILIAN ART

Haemetz Mizser, the Brazilian expressionist artist, composer and bass player, presents his first individual exhibition at the [KODE] gallery.

When: April 6, 16:00

Where: Envy (164, 138, 22)



OPENING

ARTS CENTRE GALA

The opening gala of the Multi-Media Arts Centre. For invitations contact Gala@TheMMAC.net.

When: April 7, 17:00

Where: Somerset (231, 199, 66)



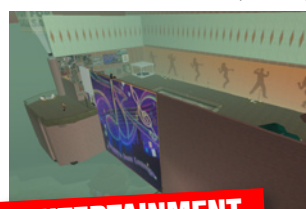
EDUCATION

DEALING WITH GRIEFERS

If you're having problems with griefing, come along to pick up tips on dealing with them.

When: April 8, 13:00-14:30

Where: Fisherman's Cove (37, 232)



ENTERTAINMENT

JAZZ ROMANCE

Listen to some great jazz courtesy of DJ SexyJade Echegaray.

When: April 10, 21:30-00:30

Where: Haeoreum (209, 60)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

DATE A DESIGNER

Ten high-profile designers are being auctioned off to benefit cancer research, so make sure you're there to stake your claim.

When: April 7, 12:00

Where: Nuku Hiva (128, 93, 22)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK



EDUCATION

ALL ABOUT FURRIES

Curious about furries, even one yourself? Come along and discuss furries and the history of the furry movement.

When: April 8, 17:00

Where: Okemo Canyon (219, 135)



CHARITY

ART AUCTION

Get your hands on some SL art and help a good cause. An art auction will be held to raise money for the Virtual Angels Wellness Fund, an SL charity.

When: April 7, 11:00

Where: Kona dAlliez (38, 199, 22)



MUSIC

KIRSTIN CORLEONE

The up and coming vocalist will be performing some old favourites by famous RL artists including Madonna and Gwen Stefani.

When: April 11, 19:00-20:00

Where: Clyde (124, 165)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

AERIS SHENLIN

A fascinating exhibition by the mystical Aeris. She has recreated the Long Lost Relics which are now shrouded in mystery and legend.

When: April 7, 11:00

Where: Aster Island (141, 126, 21)



EDUCATION

PREJUDICE DISCUSSION

Come to the Thinkers Discussion event to discuss why prejudice exists in SL and RL.

When: April 10, 15:30-16:30

Where: Support For Healing (212, 142)

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.



By Deeep Witte

How to...

Everything a newbie needs to know!

HOW TO... MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN IN SECOND LIFE

SO you want to make friends and influence people? Doing this in SL is not unlike in RL. There are many ways to gain popularity, some expensive, some not so expensive, but all take time.

To start, you could buy a sim and make it fun and exciting, perhaps even give it your name.



For inspiration, look around SL at the sims you like best.

If you have no money, try volunteering for beta tests, a good way to meet Lindens and other forward-thinking people.

You could also go to work for a large organisation. Dreamland's employees, known as angels, meet loads of new people everyday.

Always remember to be friendly and outgoing, and talk to people you see. You can help others by volunteering for a non-profit cause, which will also help you meet more people.

Opening your own business

can be a good way to make your name. If you want to start a nightclub, for example, visit a few existing and successful ones first to see how they do it.

When you have made a few friends, remember to go through your list and chat with them every once in a while.

If you have learnt a skill, you can pass it on to others by teaching a tutorial – there are plenty of educational establishments around, like the Academy of Second Learning.

You could even become a famous AvaStar reporter so thousands see your name in print!

ADVERT

WHAT'S ON!

THE AVASTAR EVENT LISTINGS

If you want **YOUR** live concert, art gallery opening, radio show, or any other event to appear in The AvaStar's new listings section, send an email to info@the-avastar.com.

CONCERTED FUN

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

LIVE music is a great way to enjoy Second Life without having to splash out too much of that hard-earned cash.

The music scene is buzzing, with venues like Bliss Basin, Thousand Rooms, Bibi's, Muse Island, Mediaculture, Oyster Bay and many others giving independent musicians the unique opportunity to share their work with a wide audience, even for those who don't have a contract with a major label.

Enjoying this freedom is simple, just pick the kind of music and the artist you prefer, and remember to show your appreciation when they are playing.

A nice freebie which adds to your live music experience is the Concert HUD by Kaklick Martin, now in its second version (St Martin 102, 238,



412). When

worn it will appear in the upper part of your screen, with five buttons. Two of them let you mix animation and sound – you can show your reactions as a whole crowd (you can also boo, but be nice!) or, on your own, you can shout encouraging or disapproving words.

Two animations let you sway to the music or blow a kiss to the artist. Finally, a particle launcher allows you to send kisses, hearts or smiles towards your idol.

If you are in a really adventurous mood, you can even throw five different kinds of panties onto the stage!



DO



DOS AND DON'TS - TEXTURES

By GAETANA FAUST

DON'T

- + Use high quality textures to make your prims look fantastic.
- + Pick Select Texture in the edit box to change the texture of just one surface on your prim.
- + Play around with settings like Repeats Per Face and Rotation.
- + Try out the Transparency and Full Bright options to make some cool glass and light objects.
- + Use a graphic design program to create your own textures.
- Leave the boring default plywood texture on your prims. You'll find some great free Linden textures in inventory under Library/Textures.
- Use many different colours and complicated textures together.
- Always leave the colour white.
- Have a lot of Repeats Per Face with metal and wood textures or they will look unnatural.
- Upload big textures, which take longer to load.

Reader's DIARY OF A NEWBIE

FREEBIE SHOCK

LIKE most Newbies I didn't have a lot of money and I was hunting for available money trees and lucky chairs on a regular basis. At the same time I was saving for a beautiful pair of boots I had seen in a wonderful store.

Occasionally I would go to a freebie outlet and look for things I needed, without having to spend too much of my money. One day, after buying one of the boxes, I suddenly noticed there was a huge hole in my savings.

A store had put a L\$100 shoe box between the L\$1 and L\$0 boxes, where you certainly wouldn't expect it. I was shocked. Of course I sent an IM to the store owner right away, but it didn't help and nothing was done about it.

I was stuck with a strange pair of purple shoes that I couldn't wear and had to wait for my beautiful boots a little longer. Newbies, look twice before you buy at the 'freebie' outlets!

DO you have a story to tell of your first days in SL? Email it to newsdesk@the-avastar.com and you could earn L\$500!

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

SAMY JO AH

IS A TALENTED SURFBOARD DESIGNER WHO RECENTLY BECAME SL'S FIRST SURF CHAMPION, SEEING OFF THE COMPETITION AT THE NAMIKO PRO IN STYLE.

PICS BY EMMENTAL

By **BILBO WINKLER**

PROFILE

NAME:

SamyJo Ah

BIRTH DATE:

12/5/06

PROFESSION:

Designer and Surfer

ATTITUDE:

Creative beach bum

THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?

SamyJo: I put a lot of effort into making sure my av looks natural for life here in SL. So I made myself fairly small with nice curves! I'm going for the Xena/Barbie look.

TA: What is your favourite place in SL?

SJ: I like beaches, especially the ones with

big waves. I learnt to surf on Quan Li, but I would also recommend Chi, Hedonistic Isle and Surf Republica

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

SJ: I really like to surf a lot. Outside of the grid I create textures, mainly for surfboards.

TA: What would you change in SL?

SJ: The stability of the grid leaves a lot to be desired. I noticed this especially at the surf contest, but luckily everyone else had the

same problem! As well as that, SL seems to revolve too much around business.

TA: Which personal achievements are you most proud of?

SJ: Well, being crowned the first surf-champ in SL - No one can take that away! I've become a part of SL history, even if it is a very small part!

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

SJ: I have some tools in my inventory which position textures clearly on objects, and

they're important. But the most important thing is a mody copy device which Heather Goodlife gave to me, after working together on how to practice texturing boards.

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

SJ: Well, from my tight circle of friends I'd have to go for Schrottvoegel Wei. He has the job of looking after my PR, and has also given me plenty of help in designing in the past.

