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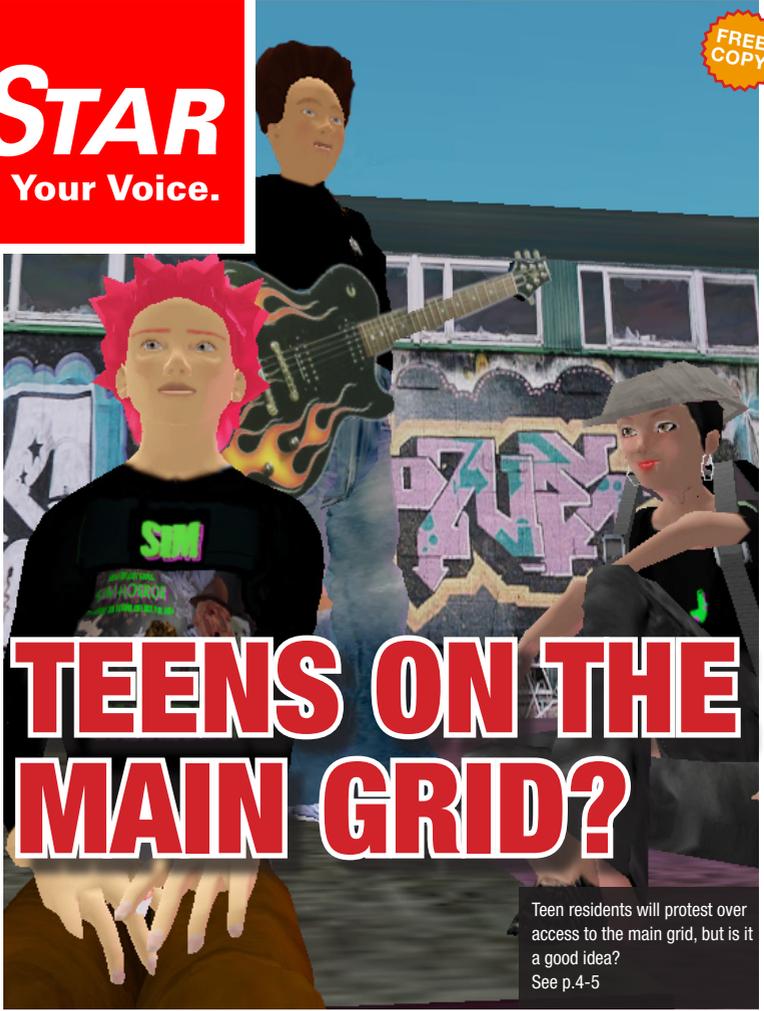
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VICTIMS TAUNTED BY CRUEL THIEF

- **CRIMINAL HAS STOLEN THOUSANDS**
- **VICTIMS MOCKED OVER LOSSES**

By CARRIE SODWIND

A THIEF is causing more misery for his victims by taunting them about his crimes. *Full story - Page Three*

INSIDE OPINION

"People from all over the world, from different cultures and legislations, come together in SL. It would be necessary to verify in whose jurisdiction a resident is living in RL."

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"Surely, when giant, real life pictures of a tortured and bleeding cat fall out of the sky on Mournier Beach, as happened this week, something more needs to be done than the usual shrug of the virtual shoulders?"



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WRITE FOR THE AVASTAR

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

E-MAIL OF THE WEEK

500 LINDEN DOLLARS

your@mail

yourmail@the-avastar.com

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.

ANTI-WAR CUBE GRIEFING



LUIGI ROSCA spotted these anti-war cubes falling from a ceiling in Dokkaebi last week, and told The AvaStar they took more than 18 hours to clean up.

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CRUEL THIEF HITS SL



By CARRIE SODWIND

VICTIMS TAUNTED AFTER LOSING THOUSANDS OF L\$

VICTIMS:
Whirligig Rutabaga
and Bartelby Pegler

A HACKER who stole thousands of L\$ is causing more misery for his victims by taunting them about his crimes.

The criminal even went as far as tele-reporting Whirligig Rutabaga to goad her about the L\$15,000 he has taken from her, and to demand: "Put more money in your account."

MYSTERY

Whirligig only met the hacker, who uses a number of alts to commit his crimes, so she could call Live Help, but got no re-

sponse from Linden Lab. The hacker, who says he is from Africa, accessed the login server database last August and stole Whirligig's password. He logged in as her and created a scripted object which gives out L\$500 when clicked, and hid it somewhere in the grid. Its location remains a mystery, and LL say they can't do anything to find it.

CRIMINAL

Whirligig has been trying to stop the thief from accessing her account for more than

eight months, but is now giving up hope. "When the Lindens ban him, he just creates another alt, and he told me himself he can spoof a MAC address if they ban him that way too... he's a serious criminal, not some kid griever." She now keeps her money with an alt, but the hacker managed to empty her main account on stipend day last week before she could transfer it out.

Her husband Bartelby Pegler has also spoken to the thief. He said: "When I talked to him,

he said he wouldn't stop because it was 'free money.'"

SUED

Among the hacker's other victims are 0100 001001110010011000 01011011 Omlet, who had his house and contents deleted, and Amber Holt, who left the game because of her losses. Whirligig is concerned about the impact of this scam on LL. She added: "I want them to address the problems, because eventually this will happen on a big scale and they'll get sued out of existence."

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

SHOULD TEENS BE ABLE TO VISIT THE MAIN GRID?



Brenda Connolly:

“Absolutely not. Although some adults may get in there, and some teens may get here, it would be asking for trouble to allow it on a general basis.”



Deevyde Maelstrom:

“The idea that people are somehow immature at the age of 17 years and 363 days, and then able to do all sorts of other stuff a day later, is ludicrous.”



Ginger Marseille:

“We need to be able to protect our children as best we can. If they came here they would be hit on almost immediately by pervs.”



Pushy Fitzgerald:

“Why don't the Lindens find things on the main grid that fit in to the teen grid and offer the person who made it some L\$ to place it on the teen grid. That would make it more interesting for them.”

TEENS PROTEST OVER MAIN GRID ACCESS

CHILDISH: The welcome area for teens when they enter the main grid



By MANTA MESSMER

MARCH TO CALL FOR BETTER LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO SLS

RESIDENTS from Teen Second Life will stage a protest next month calling for access to the main grid.

The announcement, which appeared on the Global Kids website, has provoked intense debate in both versions of SL about whether teens should be exposed to a world littered with gambling sites and pornographic images.

Currently, Linden Lab bans anyone under 18 from joining the main SL, and anyone 18 or over from signing up to the teen grid. But many teens feel they have a lot to contribute socially and creatively and want to

learn from their avatar elders. They also think they are missing out on the exciting sims that SL has to offer.

INTENTIONS

They will be supported in their protest on May 6 by plenty of adult residents. Jane Zhaoying, who is a RL parent, says the idea of Teen SL as a haven away from the adult world is flawed, and some kind of integration therefore needs to occur.

“I feel as a mom, the parent should ALWAYS be there when a kid is online, even in so-called kid places. My findings show most kid places are filled with people with bad or wrong intentions.” Teen SL is open to peo-

ple aged 13-17, and forbids mature content such as strong language and nudity.

UNIFICATION

Unlike for adult residents, signing up to Teen SL requires a credit card, PayPal account or phone with SMS. This measure was introduced in August 2006 in an effort to stop adults from entering the juvenile world. The protest is in direct response to an open letter by prominent Teen SL personality Alex Harbinger proposing unification between the two grids. Harbinger calls for teen access to the main grid's PG sims, and to allow adults to visit the public sites in Teen SL.

GRIDS NEED TO UNITE

LL'S POLICY OF SEPARATE GRIDS WILL NOT WORK IN THE LONG RUN



THE separation in Second Life between the main and teen grids is unique within virtual worlds, to the best of my knowledge.

Only those aged 13 to 17 are allowed on the teen grid; only adults of 18 years or more on the main grid - although these rules are hard to control. This distinction has been criticised lately and it seems more and more absurd to me.

STANDARDS

This separation is just an attempt by Linden

Lab to conform to US legal and moral standards. In the long run this won't work.

So should minors be allowed on the main grid? Perhaps that's a surprising question coming from a long-time SL resident and father of a young boy in primary (elementary) school. The usual answer is “No! Of course not”, as we all know how much ‘adult’ content there is in SL.

BARRIERS

The question is not that simple, though. Look at the web for example - there is no ‘teen web’, and all the content available - if it's not protected by passwords - is in principle accessible to anyone. Depending on local laws, information

providers are required to build barriers so that minors can't access certain types of content.

LEGAL

There is a huge problem with this approach, though, which the web shares with SL: its content doesn't reside in any one country. The servers might be in the USA today, but what if LL decides to host them somewhere else tomorrow?

The only solution which seems plausible is to make the provider responsible for ensuring that his content is legal in the nation where he is located.

JURISDICTION

People from all over the world, from different cultures and legislations, come together in SL.

It would be necessary to be able to verify in whose jurisdiction a resident is living in RL. Land owners will have to make sure that any contact on their land is legal in their locality. If I am not mistaken, Linden Lab is planning exactly that - see Robin Linden's post on the official blog from April 5.



GAMBLING: One of SL's many adult vices

BUFFER ZONE

By MANTA MESSMER

QUIDIT OFLYNN has been a resident of SL since the Beta phase, and founded the PacRimX Teen SL education project. He proposes a ‘buffer zone’ between the Main and Teen grids.

The AvaStar: How would a buffer zone help?

Quidit Oflynn: Interaction with adults in a somewhat controlled environment. I have my three 15-year-olds in RL actively engaged in the PacRimX project, otherwise we would not be able to co-exist in SL on the same grid.

TA: Will teens be allowed onto the main grid in the future?

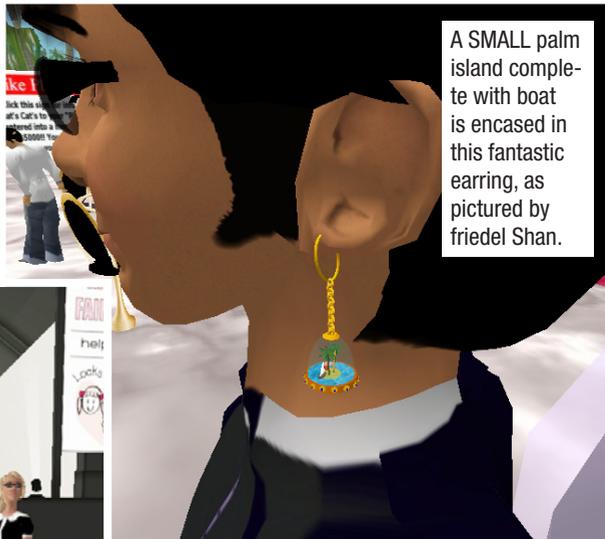
QO: They will never be allowed onto the Main Grid as it now exists. There is far too much adult content on the Main Grid. How do you limit remote viewing between a PG grid and an R zone? The liability to Linden Lab would be too great.

TA: How will LL respond to the protest?

QO: It would be incredibly short sighted if the residents of the Teen Grid voices were dismissed outright. I believe this virtual world can only evolve and grow if it draws on the ideas of all of the residents, not just the adults.

L\$500 PICS OF THE WEEK

yourphotos@the-avastar.com



A SMALL palm island complete with boat is encased in this fantastic earring, as pictured by frieled Shan.

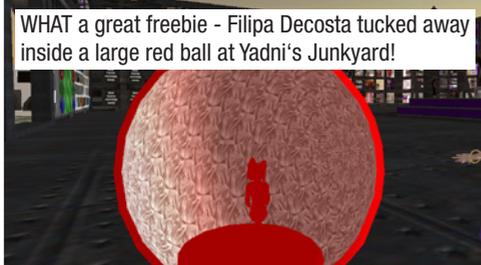
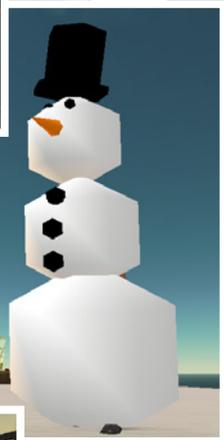


CLAUDINE Jewell captured designers Sachi Vixen (Adam n Eve) and Mystikal Fadoul (Mystikal) at Hair Fair 2007.

ELLE Linden was photographed trying on skin at Naughty Island - S.D.



A SNOWMAN on the beach? That's what you find at the Japan Resort Life sim, and it's what has earned Lecky Clary L\$500!



WHAT a great freebie - Filipa Decosta tucked away inside a large red ball at Yadni's Junkyard!

A REVELLER enjoying the amusements at Sweden Beach Club this week - J.H.



THE WORLD OF GOR

GOREANS: Master and slaves



By ZELMO BOUCHER

THE MYSTERIES OF GOREAN SOCIETY REVEALED

THERE is a place in SL full of warriors and 'kajirae', where slavery plays a central role in the lifestyle of thousands of people - Gor, the other side of SL.

Nadja Avalanche and Samantah Vacano have their master's name engraved on the metal collars around their necks. They live as kajirae, and their satisfaction comes from the pleasure of others - even if it sometimes means pain. Their collars and 'brandings' are a part of traditional Gorean

rituals; insignia of the special moment when a master accepts a woman as his slave. **RESPONSIBILITY** As Nadja and Samantah both agree, domination and submission are the ying and yang of Gor, although it doesn't always appear that way. A kajira is a self-confident woman who serves with strength and pride in all aspects of Gorean life, and of her own free will. Masters bear a huge responsibility to their slaves, so the intense relationship between

them matters much more than just sexual role play. Nadja said: "BDSM plays a smaller role in Gor than many might think." Slavery is also very important to the economy in Gor. Kajirae can change ownership for more than L\$40,000. The women don't receive a cent, but it does not matter to them. Nadja added: "I'm not a kajira to make money."

DOMINATION Although Gor is about role play, it tends to reflect RL. "Many are slipping into roles

GOR EXPLAINED

Kajira, the name for a Gorean slave girl, is taken from fantasy novels by John Norman. The world is characterised by a code of honour, sexuality and struggle. Women deliver themselves as slaves to the physical and mental supremacy of men. Gor is often said to be connected with the world of SM because of the aspects of domination, submission and punishment. There are an estimated 25,000 practising Goreans in RL, with many more in SL.

that correspond to their nature", Samantah said. "It gives us the chance to practise what we can't in RL." Being a slave means more to kajirae than just domination. Nadja said: "Now I know what it means to be free. Free of compulsions, shame, responsibility and decisions."

PRIVATE EYES



By RANDI BARRACUDA

THE DETECTIVE AGENCY TRACKING DOWN THE CHEATS

ON THE TRAIL:

Netty Koenig and Jenna Ling

NETTY Koenig didn't like the way one of her best friends in SL was being treated by a cheating husband.

So she decided to do something about it. Koenig and her personal assistant Jenna Ling run the Hot Chicas private investigation agency, investigating possibly philandering lovers on behalf of their worried partners.

When Koenig first came to SL she was in the escort business as well as managing an estate. She's still an estate manager but no longer has to be an escort. Instead, she and Ling employ ten female 'Hot Chicas' and four male 'Hot Chicos' who go to great lengths to expose bad behaviour.

Koenig said she and Ling currently spend most of their time marketing their new trade. Their stable of spies is just about full, including 'Chicas' who are willing to seduce and trap men in any of five languages — English, German, French, Italian or Spanish.

EVIDENCE

"There are more women interested in investigating men, just like in RL," she said, "but we will investigate women as well. No one has asked about a gay partner yet, but we would investigate for them also."

The 'Chicas' and 'Chicos' will spy, flirt and even have sex with the cheaters if necessary, bringing back photographic or text evidence according to

the customers' wishes.

FLIRT

Ling, whose RL typist is from Luxembourg, speaks four languages fluently, and says she is not really working in secret like the employees.

"My name is on the notecards and my face on the poster," she said. "I thought this was a great idea and fills a market gap in SL. And I also love the job. I am very open, and I love to flirt and seduce."



LL LAND AUCTION

LAB LOOKS TO RECOVER LAND UNUSED FOR YEARS

By BILBO WINKLER

ABSENTEE residents could lose their land after numerous complaints of inactive plots becoming dumping ground eyesores.

BLIGHT

Linden Lab will offer to auction off land owned by residents with lifetime accounts who have not logged in for 12 months. The proceeds would be put into the accounts of the former landowners.

Captain Gemini is one of the residents who has been most affected by the blight of disused

land. He complained to LL after a large plot next door to land he owns became a dumping ground for unwanted prims, including planes which were left to constantly fly around, and says this is not only annoying but a drain on resources. Attempts to contact the landowner to ask for auto-return to be turned on, or even to sell the land to him, were not successful.

MAGNET

Jopsy Pendragon, whose neighbour has not been in SL for more than three years, said: "A b a n - doned land is a magnet for sim-

lagging newbie scripts and objects that can't be returned without Linden help."

Despite support from most landowners, other residents in SL feel there is a lot more which can be done. Long term resident David Cartier says landowners should be able to more easily prevent building by others.

CLUTTER

Esch Snoats thinks there should be a clean-up of the entire grid, saying that sky-boxes are mostly a way of escaping the clutter at ground level.

"The grid is looking worse every single day because most parcels are just junkyards," he said.



NEWS BITES!

PARISIANS LOOK TO SL FOR HELP

DESIGNS created in SL for new gardens in central Paris are being requested by a local residents association. The winning idea will earn L\$275,000.

ARTISTS SET FOR RL EXHIBITION

ARTISTS in SL can take part in the first real and virtual world exhibition. ARTS PLUS wants designs inspired by their RL show Les Femmes Heroiques.

SL LIVE HELP TO BE REPLACED

SL's Live Help service will end according to Robin Linden. 'Help Request' will be replaced when the next beta is applied.

GERMAN DESIGN STUDIO LAUNCH

THE Munich-based design studio, TOCA ME, have asked residents to send them their SL creations, to display for free on their island's Watch Me area.

NEW ANT FOUND

A NEW species of ant has found a home in SL. Biology student Tectonic Nabob has programmed the insects to seek out and gather food.



LEIDER STEPANOV

THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT

IT is hard enough persuading some people that Second Life is not just about porn and gambling.

Try telling that to parents of children who want to explore SL, though, and I'm not sure you would get very far.

Naturally, parents want to protect their children from things they shouldn't see - things which are all too easy for youngsters to access on the internet.

TEENAGERS

It could be argued, of course, that SL poses far less of a threat to the little cherubs' innocence than the web, and indeed, kids who want to join up to SL have probably seen much worse than is available in-world.

But I think SL needs kids (starting with teenagers) in the long run, and now seems to be the right time to figure out how we can incorporate them into SL and make it a largely positive experience. That doesn't mean censoring adult sims, far from it, but it means working as a community to ensure there is a place for everyone in our world.

IT'S TIME FOR THE LAB TO SIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE

LL CANNOT IGNORE IN-WORLD EVENTS FOR VERY MUCH LONGER

AFTER hearing about some disturbing stories this week, I am starting to think Linden Lab should adopt a more hands-on approach to SL.

This isn't an anti-LL rant - their policy of not becoming involved wherever possible is at least consistent, and frequently beneficial.

But surely when giant RL pictures of a tortured and bleeding cat fall out of the sky on Mournier Beach, as happened this week, something more needs to be done than the

usual shrug of the virtual shoulders.

RESPONSE

Likewise, the story of whirligig Rutabaga (see page 3) is a scandal. Here is a successful and productive SL resident, who has had a large amount of money stolen, yet nothing is done. In fact, when she asked for help, there wasn't even a response!

In reaction to this story, a LL spokesman said... well, nothing. Not a word. So do they want to let residents deal with it themselves, or do they just not care?

BLOCKBUSTER RAMPAGE IN SL!

I WAS delighted to come across a machinima clip gleefully poking fun at new Hollywood blockbuster '300'.

The film tells how 300 Spartan soldiers



CHARGE: The 'Spartan Army'



COMEDY: On the rampage

overcame a Persian army numbering in the thousands, and its PR people, you may recall, promoted the movie in SL by giving away free shields, helmets and cloaks. So what better way to have a little fun than to gather your mates, dress up in underwear, the '300' gear and not much else, dub yourselves the 'Spartan Army' and go on a comedy rampage across SL? All set to music - Zorba the Greek, of course.

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

JUSTICE

Whether the Lindens are rolling around in big piles of money, laughing at others' misfortune, or whether they are silently seething, vowing to bring the perpetrators to justice, I don't know.

But LL can't stay silent for long.

FOR those who have enjoyed this week's column, bad luck - Regis Braathens will be back next week.

your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

STOCK SAGA IS A FARCE

Hey Regis,
 I'M very glad I read your piece on this saga involving heads of the rival stock exchanges in SL.

What a mess! It's hard to believe these people are in a position which requires honesty and trustworthiness, and no little intelligence. A back and forth 'he said, she said' medley is hardly what investors expect. There is real money involved here, and it is surprising the

parties involved carried this out in the public sphere - didn't each party expect retaliation from the other? Now a whole group of people are left looking like they have egg on their face - whether they are guilty of what the other said, or not.

E-MAILS OF THE WEEK

500 LINDEN DOLLARS

It is interesting that in the same issue in which you reported on the FBI probing gambling, the wider issue of regulation reappeared in this context.

The more money that's traded in SL, the more some serious checks and balances will be needed.

Does this need to be more heavily regulated? It might not be long before something more serious happens.

By Foxy Canning

WRITE TO: YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

FLOOD DID NOT HELP RAISE AWARENESS

Hey Regis,
 I RESPECT the efforts of Adventure Ecology to get people thinking about the potential effects of global warming with their SL floodings but all it got me thinking was how much fun it would be.

Me and a couple of mates headed over to the flooded Britannia sim the other week and had a whale of a time. Don't get me wrong, we're concerned about

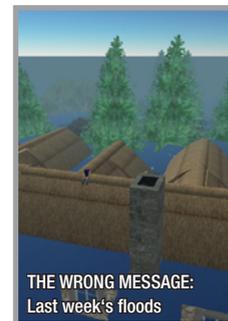
the environment and all that, and that was the reason we visited. But it was so peaceful and beautiful there - no damage, nobody in distress - so we started

jumping off rooftops, riding my inflatable dolphin and generally just messed around and had a great laugh for a while.

I went back a few days later and everything was back to normal.

I was feeling a bit disappointed, thinking how much fun it had been, and then I stopped and thought, is this really sending out the right message? I'm not sure that it is.

By Countvon Gazov



THE WRONG MESSAGE: Last week's floods

COLOURFUL SL

Dear Regis,

RE: Dos and don'ts of textures in Issue 16.

Saying "Dont always use white" when colouring is misleading. Colouring is only a 'wash' on top of the texture. If there is a light source nearby, it can either enhance your texture by creating a neat effect, or make it ugly because the lighting will cut through and make the 'colour wash' disappear depending on how close it is to the object. Use colour with care and double check colours and textures by forcing all the different lighting settings under the World menu.

By Loxtrisa Ray

DOODLE DESPAIR

AS an aspiring songwriter myself I was inspired by Cylindrian's comments last week on how she creates songs by doodling in a sketchbook with coloured pencils.

I had a go and all I created was a terrible song about multi-coloured stick men, but then I suppose that's why she's successful and I'm not.

Name supplied



A-STAR GOSSIP

LACOSTE SEARCH FOR TOP MODELS

By *BILBO WINKLER*

FRENCH FASHION GIANT LOOKING FOR BEST MALE AND FEMALE SL MODELS



STUNNER:
An example on Lacoste's website

A TOTAL of L\$1,000,000 will be shared by the winners of a new SL beauty contest. Only a matter of weeks after the 'Face of L'Oreal' competition for SL hotties, another giant of the French fashion industry is also making a splash in-world. In a contest running until May 2, Lacoste will hold a casting for the most attractive avatars in SL, assisted by web consultancy firm BETC. Three men and three women, selected from the best 100 entrants, will be chosen by the public on the Lacoste website. To keep it fair, they're including personality as one of the criteria for the winning residents. Once selected, the winners will take part in a future fashion photo shoot in SL, and will have their pictures displayed online and in an SL gallery from May 17 - as well as sharing out the cash.

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EARLY LEADER:
Maxxime Homewood

CELEB B-DAY

CONGRATULATIONS to one of SL's finest artists, **DANCOYOTE ANTONELLI**. The geometric sculptor and founder of the Museum of Hyperformalism turns one on April 19.



SPACED OUT FOR YURI'S DAY PARTY!

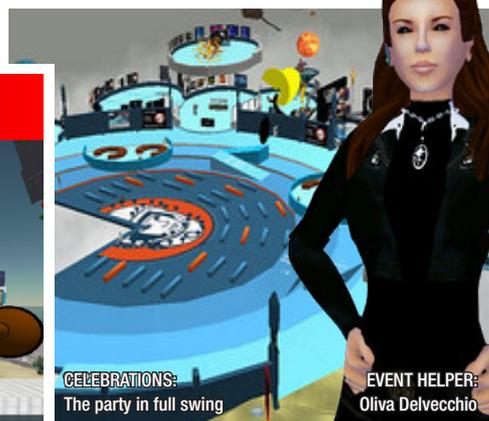
By *JENZZA MISFIT*

ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST SPACE FLIGHT CELEBRATED WITH A BANG
YURI'S Night was celebrated in SL with a 24-hour party, featuring a fashion show and live music.



GREETER:
JS Uralia

The event is a celebration of human space travel, held annually on April 12. It marks the historic first flight of Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin in 1961, as well as the launch of the first Space Shuttle 20 years later. The party was hosted by NASA Ames' Colab Island, the International Spaceflight Museum, and the University of Denver.



CELEBRATIONS:
The party in full swing

EVENT HELPER:
Oliva Delvecchio

SPOTTED!

NO prizes for guessing why endless victim Kenny from South Park was spotted in Second Life at Icedragons Playpen by Mike213x Dagger recently - it's impossible to kill an avatar!



A-STAR GOSSIP

DESIGNERS UP FOR GRABS!

CHARITY AUCTION IN AID OF RELAY FOR LIFE IS A MASSIVE SUCCESS

By *JENZZA MISFIT*

DESIGNERS joined the Shopaholics Relay for Life teams for an evening of good-natured fun at the island sim of Nuku Hiva in a landmark event. Ten of SL's highest profile designers and content creators were date-auctioned to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Bidders packed the sim, eager to try and snap up a designer for a date. Host Ryan Darragh said the event had gone extremely well. "The auction event raised L\$1,105,037 for Relay For Life! That contributed toward a daily total

of L\$1,337,467, which is apparently some kind of record. It's kind of crazy when you think how a virtual event like this translates into real money that goes towards a great cause."



UNDER THE HAMMER:
Bidders do battle

HOSTS: Canimal Zephyr and Ryan Darragh

MYTH AND RELIGION IN ART

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT IS AMONG THE WORK ON DISPLAY BY ARTIST AERIS SHENLIN

By *BILBO WINKLER*

ARTIST Aeris Shenlin launched her new exhibition of work inspired by myth and religion this week at Aster Island.

Displayed in a cave-like environment in the clouds, the residents who went along to the event

took the time to take in the work, as well as read the support material provided. From a meticulously reproduced Ark of the Covenant - where the Ten Commandments were

small but impressive display is a valid addition to the ever-growing amount of quality craftsmanship in SL. kept - to angels, doves, and a stunning display of colourful flowers in bloom, the



METICULOUS:
The Ark of the Covenant



STUNNING: Flowers in bloom



ARTIST: Aeris Shenlin

SASSY SILVER & GLAM GOLD

BE FUTURISTIC AND DIFFERENT. SILVER AND GOLD SHOULD NEVER BE WORN TOGETHER, BUT MIXING UP SILVER WITH WHITE, AND BLACK WITH GOLD, CAN CREATE POWERFUL AND STRIKING COMBINATIONS. *By CARRIE SODWIND*



L\$300

DARE OUTFIT
In white and silver
Solange, Wall
(232, 187, 102)



L\$250

SEVELLE SHOES
Asari, Le Cadre
(120, 234, 31)



L\$750

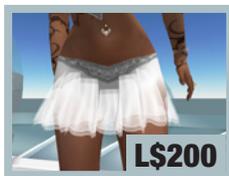
LOCKET
Put your picture inside for L\$250 *Yummy Lockets, Tableau* (94, 162, 17)

Women and vines tattoos
for L\$500, *Trumbull* (135, 40, 66)



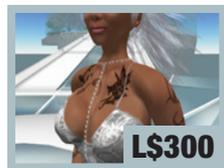
L\$350

ENTWINED BOOTS
SM, Sylfie
(15, 56, 23)



L\$200

SCRIPTED BELLY RING
Evertide (26, 173, 36)



L\$300

JEWELLERY
Choker, earrings and bracelet set
Digital knickers, The Sirens Grotto (110, 208, 28)



L\$200

SHOW YOUR ROOTS HAIR
Pack of two
ETD Isle
(201, 177, 27)

L\$325

THE SPECTATOR SUIT
Choice of six jackets and shirts
Dazzle (80, 163, 22)



L\$250

TAWNY HAIR
In shiny white
Sinsation, Hairspray (105, 30, 54)

callie cline's STYLE HOTLINE



RUTH-LESS FASHIONISTA

HOW TO SPOT WHEN YOU'VE BEEN 'RUTHED' - AND HOW TO FIX IT

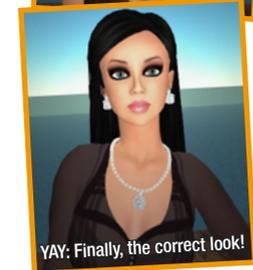
RUTH? Who is Ruth? Well if you've been in SL for more than a day, and travelled anywhere with a group of people, chances are you've not only seen 'Ruth' but have even been 'Ruthed' and not known it! 'Ruthed' is a term for when this crazy SL thing happens and you look, uh, ugly! You will be shorter, less shapely, have a large head, two kinds of hair - and this happens to men too! So what can we do when 'Ruth' arrives uninvited? First, try changing your group title, this often works, second, go into Appearance and out, this works once in a



YUK: The full 'Ruth'



STILL WRONG: Bad eyes and shirt texture



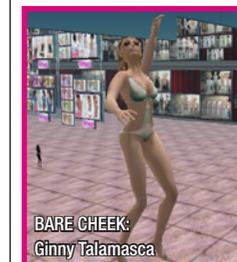
YAY: Finally, the correct look!

while. If that fails, try to TP somewhere, and if that doesn't work, just relog. For these photos, I had to relog three times to get rid of Ruth! In one photo, my eyes stayed dark, and part of my shirt disappeared. This was a new phenomenon which I will call 'dark Ruth'. Being 'Ruthed' is not how most of us want to walk around in SL, so it's always polite to let people know. However, you may see someone 'Ruthed' who is not 'Ruthed' to others or visa versa... that's what makes 'Ruth' so special - an uninvited fashionista who really needs a makeover!

WHAT'S HOT! LABOUR LINGERIE

By ISABEL BROCCO

FASHION goddess Ginny Talamasca likes to work in the bare essentials. The celebrity designer of Dazzle was spotted by The AvaStar this week getting down to some work, expanding her store, dressed in just her skimpy all-in-one underwear suit. The stylish Ginny was shoeless and jewellery-less, but looked elegant as she floated around her store **Last Call by Dazzle Haute Couture, in the tight spandex silver costume that barely covered her body.



BARE CHEEK: Ginny Talamasca

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK VIVIANNE OF LYNN OF DIVIVITY *By CARRIE SODWIND*

I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"...My Glimmer Shoes. I have all the colours of Asra Falcone's shoes. She was the first one to make a decent pair of shoes in SL with the animation.



I splurged for one pair at L\$450 a pop... then eventually got them all."

I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"...This prim pentacle set is perfect for me since I am a RL



witch. I rarely wear any other jewellery. AnneDroid Lily is the creator. As far as I know, she was the first to make fine prim jewellery."

I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"...This skirt is one of the first by Aimee Weber from Preen, before she was famous. Years ago, I entered a dance contest in this skirt, and it was the night the famous Aces Spade first hooked up with her man Friday. He was watching, and I Med me to say he thought my skirt was a nice turn on!"



STYLE BITES!

HAUTE COUTURE

THE 'haute couture' illustrations of French designer Julien Fournié have gone on display at a new fashion gallery. Julien has worked for prestigious fashion houses including Torrente and Jean Paul Gaultier, and exhibits his latest work here. For updates on Julien join the Supporters of Fashion Art group or visit Cote Azur (20, 87, 26).



FRENCH STYLE: Julien Fournié

ARTISTIC SL SEX

ARTIST Lilou Lomba has launched an exhibition of digital artwork which she claims represents a new genre, dubbed 'pornart'. She says that her work at Cumbi (89, 183, 66) is more erotic than erotic art and more artistic than pornography.

"I hope that there is a huge difference between me and rude sex in SL clubs." Lilou tries to tell her message of sensuality and desires in sexuality – to her the woman is never an object.



ARTISTIC: Lilou Lomba

STAR CRIBS

By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

ALLIEZ MYSTERIO:
Born: 4/22/2004
Activities: owner of dAlliez Estates, currently managing 50 estates
Home base: Castle at Paradise dAlliez
Rooms: Office, living-room and bedroom in one large space

AT HOME WITH ALLIEZ MYSTERIO



ALLIEZ MYSTERIO, owner of dAlliez Private Estates, reveals her castle home at the top of dAlliez.

PROTECT YOUR OWN SPACE

Alliez welcomes everybody who is looking for calmness and intimate spaces to the dAlliez sim. Well protected from strangers, she shares the spooky looking castle where she lives with business partner Tony Becket. "I don't like to have to use security at all, this used to have no doors but it bothered me to see people in my bed when I came in."

WARMTH BEHIND THE IRON DOOR

The interior of the castle melts with a mysterious and exotic look, with romantic and dark textures. Two roaring fires in the living area offer light and cosiness, creating Alliez' favourite place. "I believe it shows the warmth that I try to show. The house was already there but it was my job to make it welcome for people."

THE HIGHLIGHT

The picture hanging in the living room area of a baby in deep meditation is surely the highlight. A painting by artist Gottfried Helnwein is also an eye catcher, mysterious and touching like everything else.



RELAXING: After a hard day at work, Alliez chills out on her office hammock designed by Baron Grayson.



CENTREPIECE: The centre of the castle is one of the couple's favourite areas.



ROMANTIC: The four-poster bed which never fails to remind Alliez of her wedding day.

DESIGNERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT Equitus Bosch

SL Birth Date: 12/5/2006
Famous for: Up and coming designer

By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

LL: Tell us about your latest project.

EB: It's the new Mood Lounge, a new space for people to relax with ambient music.

LL: What was your inspiration for its design?

EB: I had to come up with a theme that wasn't too cliché. The original name was Buddha Lounge, so you can see that influence. The task was to have nature all around. I wanted to also give



EQUITUS BOSCH

the impression that the lounge is being carved into a canyon.

LL: What do you aim for in your work?

EB: My goal is always to leave the client happy, and I'll adapt to whatever they like. My own preferences, the houses I've made, are very much inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright - Prairie Style.

LL: What makes a design successful?

EB: I think focal points are essential... something to catch the eye of the user as he/she moves about.

LL: How do you feel about competition in SL?

EB: In general, I think competition is a healthy thing. It makes us all strive to do better with each project. I'm not paying a whole lot of attention to "the competition" and just doing my thing. I'm my own competitor, my own worst critic, you might say.

LL: Are some builders more skilled than others?

EB: Of course, skill with these things matter a lot. But at the same time, I think a good designer must also keep a bigger picture in mind, and coherent concept of how it all goes together.

A builder who can handle both should do very well.

LL: Have you always been able to realise your visions?

EB: I think the most creative design comes when there are limits imposed. Designing within constraints, it is called. I started building in 3D many years ago when processing power was limited and learned to do a lot with a little. So just by habit I'm pretty efficient with prims and textures.



AMBIENT: The new Mood Lounge

A SPRING IN THE STEP

By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN



HIGH HEEL LEATHER PUMPS

In six different colours with sexy walk AO and shoe base
 By Awori Cassini
 Boksik (52, 248, 79)



L\$300

TINA (PURPLE)
 Including sexy walk and colour change system
 By Estrelle Fauna
 Heavenly Soles



L\$25



L\$275

FALLINGWATER CELLARDOOR SPRING STILETTOS

Choose from 18 different colours
 By Fallingwater Cellardoor
 Shiny Things, Shiny Falls (165, 177, 37)



L\$350

PINK FLOWER HEELS

From She's So Unusual Shoes
 By Rowan Carroll
 Swain (242, 142, 160)

GRENDEL'S CHILDREN

A WONDERFULLY CREATIVE NEW SIM OPENS ITS ORNATE AND MYSTERIOUS DOORS

By **BILBO WINKLER**

AN ELABORATE new store perched way up in the clouds, Grendel's Children is set to be a hit.

Floating at 200m above sea level, the extensive display is a creation of the Grendel group, on the sim of Avaria. But if there is one thing visitors to this place will tell you, it's that Grendel's Children is far more than a store.

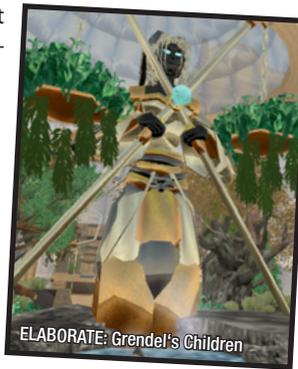
Walking down the narrow corridor after teleporting in, guests arrive at a great hall, ornately decorated from one end to the other.

Fantastically dressed avatars are prevalent throughout the building, where form is a mere palate for the zany and wondrous creations SL residents dream up.

A quick stroll around during more busy times and you may come across crows, snakes, spiders, crabs, fish and monsters, all of who come to

browse the great work of the Grendel group.

These creations are on display on the walls throughout the main hall, and you can't help but be impressed. Staff are usually on hand to answer any queries, and after marvelling at the complexity of the group's creations, this could well happen. The group also accepts individual requests - so for all the residents who find their building skills lacking, this may be the perfect place to find what you're looking for.



ELABORATE: Grendel's Children

ADVERT

YOUR Photos L\$500

yourphotos@the-avastar.com

Did you spot something unusual? Have you got exclusive snapshots of a SL celebrity? Were you at a great event or party? Have you seen something new that you want to share with others? Then send us your photos and you could earn yourself Linden Dollars. For each photo published in the newspaper the author will receive 500L\$.

TRAVEL FEATURE



ARTWORLD MARKET

By **MANTA MESSMER**

ARTWORLD MARKET IS THE FORCE BEHIND THE SLART MAGAZINE.

Which sims have you explored recently?

Besides being a beautiful design, this new twin towers gallery complex, the 'Artisan Galleria', also showcases a wide variety of really interesting artists. I have also seen some great new programming in Oyster Bay.



BEAUTIFUL: Artisan Galleria

Where do you hang out and relax?

Right here in Artropolis. It's a wonderful low-lag environment, and many of our artists live here. I also spend time with other people, such as scientists, poets and even dog groomers. They all inspire my work - everything is grist for the mill.

Where do you party?

Wherever Komuso Tokugawa is playing his hot rockin' blues. I prefer live music to discos, although I do occasionally mellow out at jazz discos, like the Coffee & Pajamas Jazz Show.

What sims do you find the most creative?

That changes daily. I've been



to some phenomenal ones, and gone back a few days later and they were gone. Artropolis was built by Esch Snoats, who really made a place that's a pleasure to be in.

What are your top tips for exploring SL?

Start a magazine, then everyone will send you landmarks! Otherwise, when you see someone interesting, look at their profile and see what groups they are in and join them. Also look at their picks and visit them.

TAKE YOUR PICK

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



ISLE OF WYRMS

Limbo (140, 187, 71)

A HAVEN for artists and free spirits, the Isle of Wyrms is a mystical and Gothic corner of Limbo, with dragons and other mythical creatures lurking in the mists atop the turrets of the colossal cathedral.



THE GREAT WALL

Tyta (227, 241, 114)

VISITORS can explore for hours in the seemingly endless corridors inside this set of ancient walls and multiple tunnels built by Xenon Linden - in fact many may still be there, looking for the way out!



FURNATION WORLDS PRIME

FurNation Prime (146, 175, 25)

IN tranquil moments in this furry oasis you can visit the awe-inspiring Ark, and when you want to let your fur down you can party at the famous Club Fur, the original SL furry club.



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

DEAR RANDI



OVERSEAS PASSION

I'VE MET THE LOVE OF MY LIFE - BUT WHAT ABOUT HIS JEALOUS EX?

Dear Randi: I recently met a man in SL whom I think might be the love of my life. Since we live an ocean apart, we are planning to get married here first and eventually meet in RL and see how it goes. The problem is his ex-girlfriend, who has found out about us

and sent insults and threats my way every time I signed on until I muted her. Should I be worried about her? —A.L.

Randi says: I wouldn't worry about her a bit as long as she doesn't have your RL identity. I am much more concerned about the SL-

to-RL plan. Before you actually meet your love in RL, you should find out as much about him as possible and have several extended telephone talks. And above all, have him be the first to cross the ocean to meet you and not the other way around!

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK WEEK 4

Emma feels an uneasy spark start to fly...



MY GIRL WENT UNDER HAMMER

Dear Randi: I've been dating a girl from one of my interest groups and have been thinking of proposing to her in SL. She's a beautiful, amazing lady that any guy would want. Recently I was away from SL for five days. When I returned, I learned she had been a prize in a charity 'date auction'. She says the date meant nothing to her. But should she really have made herself available like that? —S.B.

Randi says: You need to trust her more if you really love her. If you aren't officially engaged, then you have no right to tell her whether or not she can date others. I say it's time for you to quit stalling and propose! If she's as wonderful as you say, if you don't snap her up then some other guy will.

BORING BETTING IS A BIT BLAND

Dear Randi: I am married here to a guy who is not only my lover but my SL best friend. Because of his irregular RL work schedule and a vast time-zone difference, our time here together is limited. Over the past couple of weeks he has begun visiting casinos, and now that seems to be all he wants to do. He always invites me to go with him and I do. But I find the whole thing boring. What can I do? —H.C.

Randi says: Ask him if he'll talk to you about it. There are plenty of things to do in SL besides gamble, and I'm sure as his wife you can easily think of one or two. He may eventually get bored with the casino scene unless he has a real gambling addiction, which would mean bigger problems for both of you.



to be continued...



natural skin

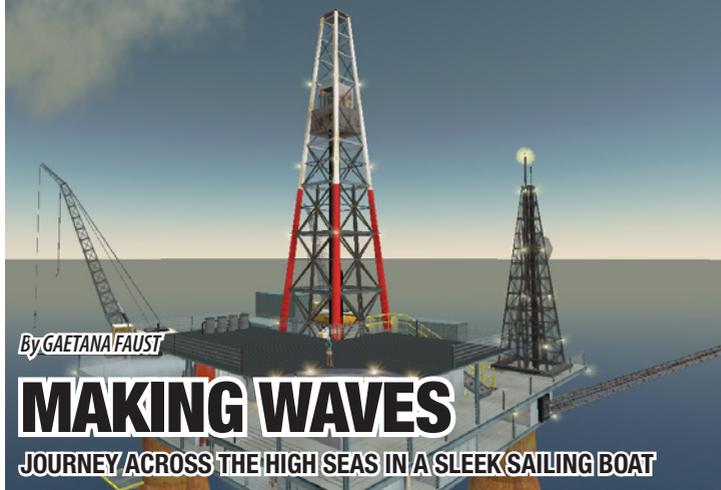
elim island

THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: SAILING

SMOOTH: ANWR



By GAETANA FAUST

MAKING WAVES

JOURNEY ACROSS THE HIGH SEAS IN A SLEEK SAILING BOAT

TAKE to the water in SL by learning to sail.

Starboards Yacht Club in Hollywood (97, 148, 25) hosts sailing classes for novices, and the club's proximity to the New England sims of Nantucket, Bar Harbor and Montauk makes it an ideal place to launch your boat. Try the Nantucket Yacht Club in Cutty Hunk (136,236,0) for a quaint stroll on the boardwalk or a tour of the old whaling boat.

TruCor Marina in Chong (251,49,22) is a haven for fans of catamarans. These colourful vessels line the harbour, ready for action. Right next door in Chong (164,85,24) is Flappy's Marina and Yacht Club, which has a great deck and even a high dive for swimmers.

Beginner sailors or those who just

want to test the water can get a free entry-level Flying Tako at Kanker's in Gray (33,152,22). Customise your boat at SZ Designs Sail Loft in Caddo (54,153,22), which features a variety of sails along with maps, globes and other accessories for your boat.

At ANWR (102,166,40) you can launch your boat off an oil rig in the middle of the water, and lots of empty water sims in the neighbourhood means smooth sailing. After a tough day sailing the seas, stop by Sanchon Pirate's Pub (138,30,31) for a mug of grog and some pirate talk with your seafaring friends. Vendors sell pirate gear and boats for future adventures in the deep blue yonder, and a poster alerts buccaneers to the symptoms of scurvy.

PICTURESQUE MARINA MOWRY BAY CLUB



Enjoy the gorgeous marina as well as the casual club with a comfortable dance floor.

Where: Mowry
(163, 217, 27)

LIGHTHOUSE VISTA RACE ROCK



Watch from the replica of a RL lighthouse as the boats race by.

Where: Race Rock
(194, 92, 31)

VINTAGE VESSELS TRUDEAU CLASSIC



Full of classic boats with sparkling wood trim and weathered sails.

Where: Eggar
(170, 200, 22)

4.13. - 4.19.

DON'T MISS! –



LIVE MUSIC

ALDOMANUTIO ABRUZZO

The experimental musician brings his electric guitar to the grand opening of the Museum of Contemporary Art.

When: April 15, 12:00

Where: Neufreistadt (177, 136, 182)



OPENING

COCA-COLA LAUNCH

Coke enters SL with two events to launch a competition to design a new form of vending machine.

When: April 16, 08:00 and April 17, 17:00

Where: Crayonville Island (128, 128)



ART

PHOTOGRAPHY

RL Photographer Harry Cannod will be showing off his work at the Vision of Trust mall.

When: April 15

Where: Vision of Trust (128, 128)



LIVE MUSIC

MANKIND

Vibe HQ will be hosting this well-known RL band, where rock meets soulful vocals and unique tempos.

When: April 19, 12:00- 1:00

Where: Shaea (223, 183)



LIVE MUSIC

MASHUP BOOTLEG PARTY

Simulcast live from San Francisco is the BootieSL Mashup Party.

When: April 15, 00:00-03:00

Where: Drive In (5, 141)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

RFL TEAM EROS LIVE JAM

A sizzling line-up of top SL musicians and MCs play at this event at Laguna Beach Club to raise money for the Relay for Life appeal.

When: April 14, 16:00-22:00

Where: Laguna (139, 48)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK



OPENING

NEW GAMESHOW

The first live game will take place at the Insula de Somni. Watch other contestants or enter yourself for a chance to win.

When: April 13, 12:00

Where: Insula de Somni (149, 138, 26)



ART

MONASTERY TOUR

The Monastery of Felix Meritis is filled with paintings from the early Renaissance. A German-speaking guide will be giving tours this Monday.

When: April 16, 12:00-12:30

Where: Lill Burn Valley (121, 6)



DANCE

SECOND LIFE BALLET

Olmannen is SL Ballet's first production, telling the story of a couple whose souls wait centuries to be reunited. Come and check out the popular show.

When: April 18, 16:00-17:30

Where: IBM 10 (20, 175)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

ANCIENT MUSIC PREMIERE

Thom Dawd gives a concert of Renaissance music – a new and unexpected sound in the SL music scene.

When: April 13, 12:00

Where: FuturePerfect (220, 66, 52)



OPENING

A NIGHT FOR MADONNA FANS

The opening of a shop devoted to the Queen of Pop. DJ Sasy will be playing Madonna tracks so you can have a dance.

When: April 14, 7:00-9:00

Where: Crystal Palace Mall, Bellatrix (35, 104, 32)

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 YOUR AVATAR LOOK DISTINCTIVE

YOU look like a noob, feel like a noob and are tired of it. But don't worry – changing your appearance is easy.

The cheapest method is to take a free class on appearances. Learn how to tweak your settings to get the shape and skin you want. Find classes by using the Education category in the Events part of Search.

Don't forget to look in the Library section of your inventory – Linden Lab provides you with several changes of clothes and shapes. You can also learn to change your appearance by reading the help files.

The easiest and most expensive way to change your look is to hire a makeover artist who can provide you with custom-made avatars. They might also help you find clothes and hair, etc. It will cost a bit of money but it is worth it. Shopping for 'off the rack' shapes and skins is cheaper, and it's just a matter of



searching in the index. You might also want to change the way you walk, sit and stand using an animation override, which is usually a HUD you wear which contains better poses for basic actions. There are thousands of animations and poses so you can stand in a sexy, manly, shy, bold, warrior or whatever manner you wish. Again, lots of shopping will reveal animation dealers with samples you can try. Do not feel overwhelmed. It takes time to find shapes, skins, hair, clothes, movement styles and gestures that suit you.

ADVERT



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.

TAKE A TITLE

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

DO you have an important message for the whole of Second Life?

Do you want everyone to know at once if you are in a good or bad mood? Or maybe you could do with some automatic advertising about your unique skills, or your brand new little shop?

If so, make sure you check out of the most beloved freebies in SL, FlipTitle by FlipperPA Peregrine (GNUbie, Indigo 226, 52, 31).

It is incredibly simple to use, even for the most inexperienced avatars.

Just wear it, and all the instructions will appear directly on your screen. Using a dedicated channel, you have only to write "title" and choose from ten different bright colours. Then, type your own message – as original, bizarre

and creative as you like. It will appear directly above your head.

For many of SL's older residents, this was one of the first gadgets they ever picked up, and plenty still use it now.

You can tell a lot about people through the words they choose to have above themselves.

If you decide to give a positive message, FlipTitle will bring you smiles and new friends – although be prepared for questions about your message!



DO

+

DOS AND DON'TS - MAPS

By GAETANA FAUST

DON'T

- + Check the Mini Map to see if there are others in the neighbourhood.
- + Use the Landmarks list in the map to zip to your favourite destinations.
- + Look for the green dots on the map to see where people are gathered.
- + Seek out the yellow and purple areas on the map to see Land for Sale or Auction.
- + Press a button to Copy SLURL to Clipboard so that you can IM a landmark to your friends.

- Check all the Map boxes unless you really care about the locations of Telehubs and Popular places.
- Rely on the map to locate your friends. You can only see them if they give you permission.
- Leave the red beam in place when you have mapped or landmarked a location. Click Clear to remove it.
- Keep the map zoomed all the way in. Zoom out to see regions beyond the default boundaries.

Reader's DIARY OF A NEWBIE

ANOTHER week in SL, another lesson learned.

Every newbie soon discovers that getting out of your standard clothes needs to be done pretty quickly. Searching around for freebies as soon as possible is pretty important in this land of the pretty.

Well, this week I found myself in a rather strange sim, not for the first time.

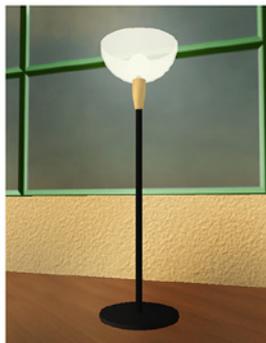
There were some free clothes here, and I put them on - just for a laugh. It seems, however, that not everyone finds Chinese military uniforms as funny as me - heading to the beach wearing a Red Army guard outfit is certainly not recommended.

"Aah, a soldier!", someone shouted. "No, wait", I pleaded, as I struggled to take it off - a mistake, as it resulted in me ending up stark naked on a crowded beach, which went down about as well as the uniform. So watch out newbies, military clothing and nakedness are not cool in the wrong place! Reminds me a bit of RL, really.



MILITARY: Chinese uniform

Swedish Quality Design



www.slslab.com Copy/Design: Boyer, Aronow and Phoenix (PetGirl) Bergman.



[EXAKT]

The household name for elegant, modern design. By Tina (PetGirl) Bergman.

[EXAKT]

currently features five product lines

- LAMPS
- SPOTLIGHTS
- INDOOR FURNITURE
- GARDEN FURNITURE
- ACCESSOIRES

(handbags, vases, scripted fans, rugs)

Bring some light (and modern elegance) to your (Second) life. Just visit my shop in:

EXAKT MAIN STORE, Verloren (216, 30, 33)

If you can't find what you are looking for or you want one of my designs in a different color, texture, smaller, larger... whatever... just send an IM to PetGirl Bergman.



Verloren 216, 30, 33.

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

ISABELLA SAMPAIO

IS A CREATIVE AND ADVENTUROUS STYLE GURU WHO WON THE INAUGURAL FACE OF L'OREAL PARIS COMPETITION EARLIER THIS MONTH.



By BILBO WINKLER

PROFILE

NAME: Isabella Sampaio
BIRTH DATE: 12/09/2006
PROFESSION: Model, Photographer, Writer
ATTITUDE: Free Spirited, Compassionate, Adventurous

THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?

ISABELLA SAMPAIO: I'm usually told my eyes, but I'll leave that question for others to ponder. I'm more outspoken about my interior features, and tend to believe my mind and heart are of equal weight and value and much nicer than my eyes.

TA: What is your favourite place in SL?

IS: Anyplace outdoors, preferably a beach with a scenic view - that brings peace of mind. Given the chaos and stresses that come with RL - and sometimes SL during technical meltdowns - I enjoy remote places where I can be alone with my thoughts.

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

IS: There are my friends, and there are a growing number of special people, as well as my work as founder of Style Guru, which assists individuals in

TA: What is your appearance upgrades.

Then there's shopping, which I do more of than I like to admit! **TA: What would you change about SL?** While I appreciate SL for its great diversity, where people can be themselves, I sometimes find myself wishing for an even greater influx of diplomacy, sophistication, dignity, respect, tolerance, support and service to society amongst its residents. These things will come in time, one would hope, as this world evolves.

TA: Which personal achievements are you most proud of?

IS: I'm proud of myself for striving to do my best in whatever I set out to achieve. I haven't been in SL long, but I've already carved out a marvelous experience for myself.

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

IS: I would vote for a leader who brings smarts, gusto, class, sophistication, heart, dynamism and a belief in giving back and giving to others. May I nominate Callie Cline?