

THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

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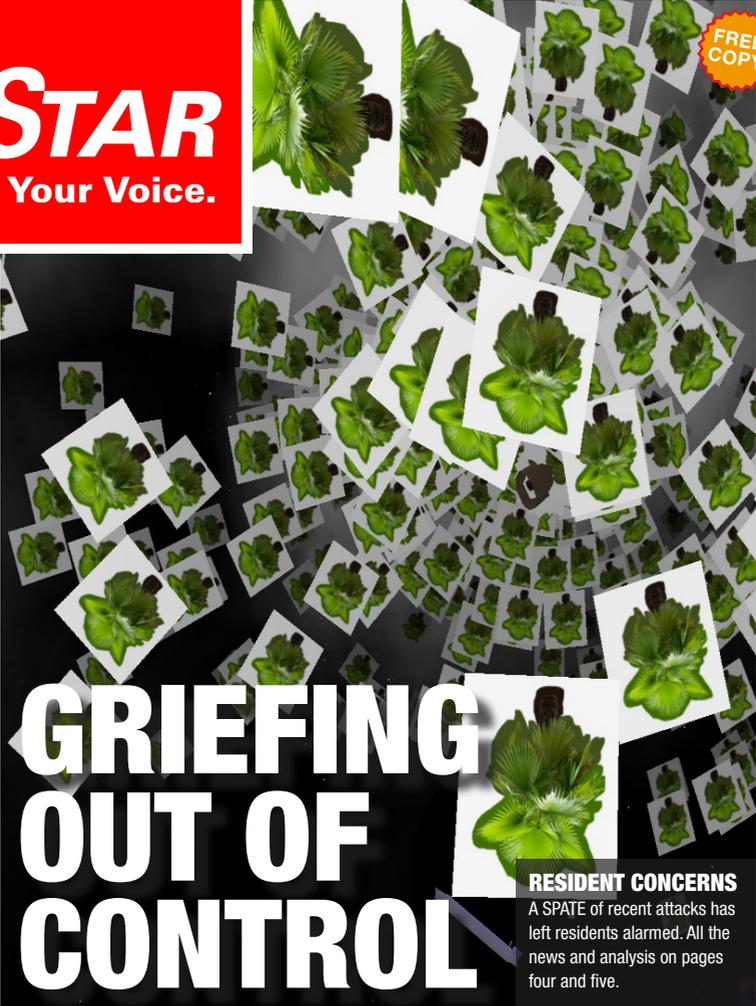
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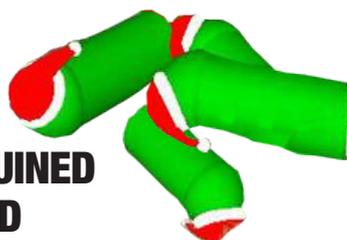
GRIEFING OUT OF CONTROL

RESIDENT CONCERNS

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CHRISTMAS DAY ATTACK



- **FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS RUINED**
- **LINDENS SHUT DOWN GRID**

By LEIDER STEPANOV

CRUDE SYMBOLS
flew around the grid and littered the ground forcing shocked residents to log out.

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LINDEN LAW

"Reproducing the real life 'pillars of the house of law' with professional staff in SL would cost millions. Anyone willing to pay taxes in SL?"

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ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY

"The culture of creating multiple alts is also leading to a potentially yet more dangerous development in the world, namely a lack of responsibility and ethical standards."



Regis Braathens
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WRITE FOR THE AVASTAR

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

E-MAIL OF THE WEEK

500 LINDEN DOLLARS

your mail @

yourmail@the-avastar.com

DO you have something you want and opinion. The best emails will to tell our readers? Is there an issue that angers or moves you? We can also earn L\$500 - each week one email will be picked as the .email of the week' and featured in the paper.

LINDENS TO THE RESCUE



HERMIA LINDEN SURVEYS THE CHAOS AS BIG RED PARTICLES FILL THE SKY OVER SIPIWESK (190,192) ON THURSDAY

THE AVASTAR STAFF

CEO

Gregor Ginsberg

BUSINESS MANAGER

Ikarus Santos

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Regis Braathens

WRITERS & CONTRIBUTORS

Pham Neutra, Deeeep Witte, Marco Manray, Lionila Lightfoot, Randi Barracuda, Gaetana Faust, Tina Petgirl Bergman, India Obviate, Carrie

Sodwind, Ikarus Solomon, Gavin Pertwee, Isabel Brocco, Leider Stepanov

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Ronsen Sungsoo

DISTRIBUTION

info@the-avastar.com

ADVERTISING

advertising@the-avastar.com

ONLINE WEBSITE

www.the-avastar.com

ATTACK OF THE GREEN-GOO

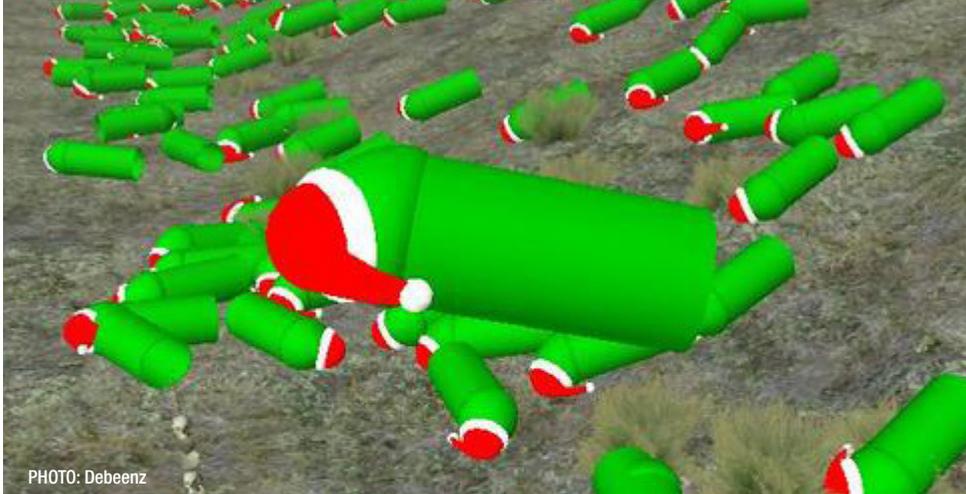


PHOTO: Debeenz

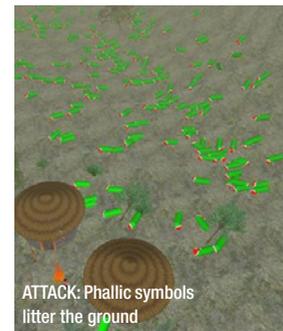
CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATIONS RUINED BY GRIEFER ATTACK

By LEIDER STEPANOV

CHRISTMAS was spoilt for many residents this year by a phallic green self-replicating object wearing a christmas hat.

The crude symbols flew through the air, littering parts of the mainland. Many alarmed residents who received the object with the message "Felis Navidad" were forced to log off.

Parts of the grid were shut down and scripts disabled



ATTACK: Phallic symbols litter the ground

as Lindens sought to contain the spreading menace. Lag in other regions also forced

celebrating residents to abandon Christmas day festivities.

Prompt Linden action responding to the abuse report around 9am PST ensured that within a few hours affected regions had been cleared.

However, whilst the attack caused relatively little damage to the grid, it is the latest in a string of malicious griefing attacks that have marred recent months.

ANTI-,FRONT NATIONAL ' PROTESTER ASSAULTED

By BUG ROGERS

A GROUP has been set up to protest against the continued presence of the French extreme right party in Second Life. The 'FN out of SL' group have taken up posts outside the Front National Youth offices and demonstrate with banners and shouts against the extreme right-wingers. Founder of the group, Riccardo Chevalier, has already been banned from the building. Riccardo revealed that he had been harassed, pushed and insulted by FN members. When talking with a reporter outside the FN building, Jerome02 Kaminski suddenly exposed himself in front of the demonstrator. "They called me a 'coco' and a 'Pédé' meaning a communist and a gay" said Riccardo. But the Frenchman is determined to kick out the extremists from SL - "I don't want these dangerous people in SL."



PROTEST: 'FN out of SL'

GRIEFING OUT OF CONTROL

By LEIDER STEPANOV

RESIDENTS UNHAPPY WITH FAILURE TO TACKLE PROBLEM

THE Christmas attack is the latest in a string of incidents following the griefing of the CNET and Text100 events last week. And these have been but a drop in the ocean of grey-goo experienced this year in SL, from Super Marios to Sonic rings and other griefing attacks. Added to the significant increase in everyday general griefing, with abuse reports having reached around 2,000 a day, unrest amongst residents unhappy with the lack of preventative action taken by the authorities is rapidly increasing. Many have blasted the Lab for persisting with free unverified accounts, which allow low banned griefer to simply return. One disatisfied resident J. Yue claimed "until LL implements verifiable accounts so that griefers can be brought to justice, I will not buy any land." Despite quick reaction times and effective dealing with attacks, LL remains under fire over its inability to tackle the root causes of griefing.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Pete Marellan: „I think it would be good if they would have a better system of finding out exactly who is doing it, and take care of them.“



Solomon Flax: „I'm all for harsh punishments, but you know they'll just be back. They can always assume new guises if banned.“



Rakeem Buaku: „LL should not do anything, the good thing is that they do not do politics. This would just mean more laws and that is what is so interesting about SL, it is what people make of it.“



Sporked Friis: „I do believe the Lindens have made some strong steps in the right direction. The grey-goo handling has dramatically improved, and the no push settings on parcels is another good move.“



Parizad Parisi: „We need better self-regulation. I think LL should give us the tools to handle it ourselves.“



LINDEN LAW

By PHAM NEUTRA

PHAM NEUTRA ANALYSES THE SECOND LIFE SYSTEMS OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE FUTURE OF 'PEOPLE POWER'

SECOND Life is largely a lawless society. Very few rules are laid down in the Linden Lab Terms of Service (ToS), fewer are enforced at all. Many of the abuse-reports to LL lead to „he said, she said“ situations, real investigations of many cases become impossible, and those reporting abuse are mainly unhappy with the lack of action. In fact the ToS covers just the simple cases, mostly regarding griefing, weapons abuse and display of „mature content“ in PG sims. There are no laws for many of the serious issues: business fraud, land ownership arguments etc. Yet this might change; LL is planning to hand over some of their powers to resident run institutions on private estates like Dreamland, Otherland or many of the smaller real estate firms. Some local laws will be written down in 'Covenants' - the estate management may be able to investigate

violations and decree a ruling – perhaps even punish the offender. But don't expect these new tools to bring „the law“ to SL; at least not modern democratic law as we know it. Why? Because put simply, it would be too expensive. Law making and law enforcement involves a lot of institutions and a lot of people all working together. Reproducing the real life 'pillars of the house of law' with professional staff in SL would cost millions. Anyone willing to pay taxes in SL? Estate owners are starting to lay down basic laws in their „Covenants“. These tend to concern building regulations and basic codes of conduct. But these will soon be expanded to include principles of dispute resolution with committees to oversee them. Some Covenants will be highly elaborate and may provide a kind of justice similar to RL. The „Confederation of Democratic

Simulators“, governing the sims Neufreistadt and Colonia Nova is attempting just that - with an enormous load of work, enough to doom any commercial operation. That's why most private estates will probably feature more autocratic and certainly less elaborate systems. And with law and dispute resolution in the hands of resident run institutions there won't be one law governing SL but many local laws. So what does this mean for you? Choose wisely where you settle down. If you value your freedom most and can live with mainly mild anarchy, the mainland is best. If you prefer it a little more orderly, quiet and secure, check out the renowned real estate firms. Even without new tools promised by LL they already achieve some kind of law and order. But always check the Covenant small print - it's too late to complain once a dispute arises.

THE JURY IS OUT ON RESIDENT POLICE GROUPS

RESIDENT law enforcing groups have often met with scepticism. With no official power they have been labelled as ineffective roleplayers and even accused of griefing.

Yet Ikiru Shinji, Deputy Chief of the recently launched POLICE SWAT, thinks his group can make a difference: „Noone is role playing. We dont see ourselves as a superpower against greifing, we just want to help as much as we can.“ POLICE SWAT has twenty officers on patrol to ‚keep the peace‘. But what exactly can SWAT do? „If contacted we send an officer to the scene and in cases of abuse, we speak to the person asking them to leave, letting them know that they will be reported. As POLICE SWAT has no official recognition from Linden Lab, it runs risks too. Shinji said: „Myself and the other chiefs would like to cooperate with LL in some way but this seems impossible.“





REGIS BRAATHENS

GRID IS NOW OPEN...GRID IS BACK DOWN

"Get some sleep, go for a walk, give your First Life a chance!" This is the advice from the official Linden blog in response to failing to get the grid online for, as this paper goes to print, the last nine hours. Grid maintenance is expected to continue for at least another five hours.

I have nothing against getting some fresh air. But SL is for me and for many others, not playtime, but work. Thousands of shopkeepers, designers and builders are being kept from doing their jobs in SL today. And that is not acceptable.

Maintenance of course needs to be undertaken, and we all respect that. But the frequency with which the grid goes down is beginning to grate with many residents. There has to be more stability in the system.

GRID DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE
GRID DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE

ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY

FAILURE TO VERIFY ACCOUNTS IS LEADING SECOND LIFE DOWN THE WRONG PATH

Free user accounts are a positive thing – they allow people to explore SL and grow interested before committing. Free unverified accounts however, are putting a serious strain on the residents and endangering the essence of SL.

Those that grieve the system are laughing all the way to the login screen for their next alt. And many residents are left scratching their heads trying to understand the point of it.

Verified accounts, for instance using a credit-card check, would make it possible to stop teens infiltrating the grid and to ensure the abusers of the system are permanently banned. In real life it is very hard to be convicted of a crime and simply change identity to go on living

the same life as before. Why should it be made so easy in SL?

Of course LL wants the world to expand as rapidly as possible for a variety of reasons, many of which are understandable. But somewhere down the line the strategy falls apart if the rise in grieving makes it unbearable for residents to live how they please. And general sentiment at the moment is that there is a danger of the world heading in this direction.

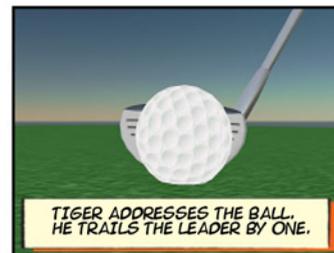
The culture of creating multiple alts is also leading to a potentially yet more dangerous development in the world, namely a lack of responsibility and ethical standards. It leads to situations where people no longer take responsibility for their

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

actions.

Cowardly residents can hide behind alts to criticize, get revenge or slander others. Alts are used to divulge confidential information. something they would not dare do if they had only one SL identity. It leads to a lack of honesty in SL that breeds insecurity in the world. And this is a change that is much harder to reverse if it is left to grow and become a part of the system.

I for one refuse to set up an alt. We must all take responsibility for this fantastic and rich community and for our actions and views within it. And we must make those new to SL aware of their responsibilities too, by verifying their accounts.





YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
ASKBIZ@THE-AVASTAR.COM

from
Deeep Witte

ask BIZ!

LINDENS ARE THE SAFEST WAY TO BUY & SELL

Can I use other currencies besides Lindens?

BIZ! says:

At the moment you can only buy products and services in Second Life with Lindens.

This is going to stay like this for quite a while, until the Lindens open up the whole world and economy and free up all sectors for third-parties. However, it will likely be a long time before that happens.

You can of course pay for tier and rent using Paypal. However, whilst you have real life transaction records which you can contest, there are serious disadvantages. The buyer of any virtual product has only to write an email to Paypal to retract their purchase and claim their money back, and it will be done. Those are Paypal's rules.



What do I do with my excess Lindens?

BIZ! says:

If you have more Lindens than you can spend in a short while, then it is advisable to invest them. There are several places where you can deposit your extra Lindens and get a serious return on your investment. In the search window

look for SL Banks or SL Funds and you will find a list of many institutions that will take your money and offer you interest on it. Among them are several larger banks which are more secure. To mention a few: Bank of Lindens (Huin 144, 208, 0), Ginko Bank (Ross 186, 60, 41), My Second Bank

(Nangrim 116, 135, 76) and SL Bank (Do-toorak 23, 238, 107). Some banks offer only deposit accounts, but others such as SL Bank also offer more complex investment funds and other options. However, there are no guarantees and your bank manager could close up shop with your money anytime.

write to: ASKBIZ@THE-AVASTAR.COM

THREE STEPS TO COMBAT FRAUD

I have been ripped off, what can I do?

BIZ! says:

Being conned does occur more often than is heard about, most often concerning rent-

ing and buying land. There are a few things you must do.

- 1 Report the matter to the Lindens - but don't expect any help.
- 2 If the transaction has taken place in the real world (i.e. rent paid

by paypal or credit card), then contact paypal or the credit card company to contest the payment. You will need to provide documentation, so it is advisable to store the conversations you

have had with people in notecards or use the log function in the new SL Client.

- 3 If you live in the USA, you can file a complaint with the FBI on their website: <http://www.ic3.gov/>

Land rush!



BY PHAM NEUTRA

FINDING AFFORDABLE LAND IN THE WINTER OF 2006

THE AVASTAR Analysis LAND prices have nearly doubled in the last few months. And whilst those new to SL may not have noticed, it is causing concern to veteran residents. Tiny plots of 512sqm in the middle of nowhere, on which you can barely build a decent house, go for L\$10,000. 1024 sqm of waterfront might cost you L\$30,000 plus, whilst 'roomy' parcels of 4096sqm will set you back a whopping L\$80,000 to L\$120,000 depending on the terrain type. That's about 370 very real US Dollars. Old (pre-owned) land is a little cheaper - but usually more laggy, too. And even the average prices listed on SL's statistics pages have nearly doubled in the last two months.

What is happening? A speculative bubble is rising. Some time ago Linden Lab announced a substantial raise in the prices for private Islands; both for the initial setup price and for the monthly rent. Many residents expected the mainland to rise in price, too - and some acted accordingly, paying higher prices at LL's land auctions and raising the resale prices a little. Others jumped on the bandwagon, bought mainland and raised the prices a little more. And so it spirals.

This business is rather profitable for wannabe real estate moguls: At the land auctions, where LL is selling fresh land, a full sim of 65,000sqm could be had for some US\$3,000 in

the last month. If you cut this land up into 64 parcels of 1024sqm each and sell them for 20,000L\$ each, you earn some L\$1,280,000. Convert that into US\$ and you get a healthy profit margin of 50%. Despite the owner's tier costs of US\$195 a tidy profit remains. And that's why many get-rich-quick guys are suddenly entering the real estate market. So what should you do when looking for a decent piece of land?

1) Compare! Shop around, as you will find big differences in land prices. With patience you can still find land in a good neighbourhood for 10 - 12 L\$/sqm.

2) Check out the private estates. Renowned real estate brands like Dreamland, Azure Islands, Otherland, d'Alliez and a few smaller firms offer their land at less than half the going rates on the mainland. And this land is no less attractive than Linden-operated land. But don't forget to check their covenants. Private estate land comes with rules that often limit what you can build there.

The other alternative is to accept the sky high prices and hope for even higher land prices in the near future. However, every bubble like this has an end. And if someone is making a profit of 50% there is always someone else who is satisfied with „just“ 40%. Prices won't rise forever, and those who hold their estates when the peak is passed may lose a lot of money.

FESTIVE SPIRIT BOOSTS DAILY SPENDING TO 1 MILLION US\$

BUSINESSES have been enjoying a merry Christmas in SL as the daily turnover in US dollars soared over the 1,000,000 mark during the festive season. Resident shopping sprees have continued to boost sales with spending reaching around US\$1,100,000 on Thursday. The Linden Dollar has been relatively stable around L\$270 to the US dollar.

TV CHANNELS RUN RED

By GAVIN PERTWEE

Rivers Run Red this week launched virtuallife.tv, a Second Life television service coming soon to 400,000 screens grid-wide.

The system, which celebrated its start with a showing of the 1997 film "Velocity Trap," currently only has four channels, including the Sci-Fi channel.

Rivers Run Red plans to increase to over one hundred channels by the end of 2007. An SL news station and programming in several languages is also in the pipeline.

*a feeling that
lingers on*

*Heavenly
Soles*

coming soon

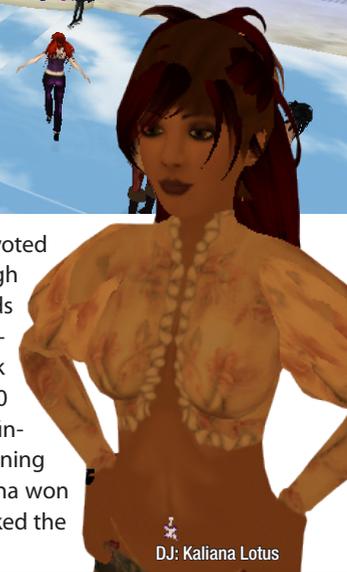
CELEBRITIES & GOSSIP

CLUBBERS HEAVEN: DJ BATTLE



RAVERS were in Heaven over the Christmas holidays as they gave their support to the festive DJ battle held in SL. Crowds went wild running back and forth across a rope dividing the upstairs dance-floor of Heavens Hell, to hear two different DJs battling against each other. Dropping and scratching tunes, the skilled DJ Kaliana won the crowd's vote and pocked the L\$3,000 prize money.

The sweaty clubbers voted their favourites through the first two battle rounds leaving Kaliana Lotus pitted against Jon Schack in a sudden death 30 minute battle. With her fingers nearly raw from spinning, the skilled DJ Kaliana won the crowd's vote and pocked the L\$3,000 prize money.



DJ: Kaliana Lotus

LONG RANGE CONCERT

LOREN MILKIC got her hands on one of the 600 available tickets to see Long Range, feat. Phil Hartnoll from Orbital, rock the specially-built 16 acre Sine Island. But not only did she get to listen to the pioneer of British electronic music spin chilled, jarred and broken beats – she also got L\$500 for her photo! yourphotos@the-avastar.com



YOUR PHOTOS

L\$ 500 for each photo we print!
yourphotos@the-avastar.com

UP CLOSE: Long Range

NEW YEAR'S EVE SPECIAL

COMPLETE YOUR TUX LOOK

GENTLEMAN'S SHOES:

QUALITY patent shoes to go with your tuxedo including a men's walk available from L\$300 Y.S Design, Prim Adonna (35,112, 26)



TOP STYLE:

IF you going for a tux you may as well go the whole way. You can pick up a classy top hat for L\$50 at Creation Clothing, Barcelona del Oeste (128,50,25)



RED ROSE:

WIN her heart with a beautiful bouquet of a dozen red roses. Detailed roses with a prim bow and flexi ribbons at Bahama Mama's (136,32,22)



WATERLILLY BUTTONHOLE:

NO suit is complete without a fine buttonhole. At Tres Beau Designs you can pick up a fresh waterlily for L\$30.



PRINCE...

TRADITIONAL & STYLISH DRESS IS ALL THE RAGE THIS NEW YEARS EVE

By TINA PETGIRL BERGMAN & CARRIE SODWIND

SMART & SMOOTH:

These top quality tuxedos look fantastic in black and white. Complete with shirt and waistcoat for L\$500 at Tres Beau Designs, Eternity Isle (53, 233, 26)

SILKY STLYE:

This patterned silk jacket looks great with black trousers and smart shoes. Modifiable for different colours and patterns, you can pick it up for L\$450 at Vindi Vindaloo, Plush Kappa, (31,103, 23)

TOUCH OF GOTH:

Stylish black suit with red lining, complete with cummerbund, bow tie and buttonhole. L\$600 from Vindi Vindaloo



TABLE FOR TWO

TREAT your loved one to a posh meal this New Year's Eve with this deluxe animated dining set. It comes with an animated table, chairs, candles and food and is available from Kitchen Korner Showroom (230,46,42) for 650 L\$.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SPECIAL

PRINCESS...

DRESS TO IMPRESS THIS NEW YEARS EVE WHAT-EVER YOUR BUDGET

NEAT BUT CHEAP: UNDER L\$100

Midnight Sweetness, classic stylish, Chinhae (235, 72, 37) Cupids Yard sale L\$75



RICH QUEEN LUXURIOUS: UNDER \$5000

The Ice Enchantress, with striking ice eyes and fluffy warm scarf from Haute Couture, Dazzle (165, 155, 23) \$4000



CLASSY PRINCESS: Under \$1000

Blaze, Triumph (100, 139, 251) L\$600, pink sexy leg exposer



STYLISH & AFFORDABLE: UNDER \$500

Black elegant dress with feminine detail available for L\$500 from Picasso, (153, 18, 22) Details by Nonna Hedges.



YOUR PARTY ESSENTIALS

CHAMPAGNE: BETTER than duty-free - a free bottle of champagne in a bucket provided courtesy of Catherine Cotton.



GLASS OF CHAMPUS:

RAISE your glass at midnight with this animated glass of champagne, available at Kitchen Korner (204,71,42)



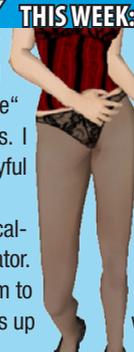
FIREWORKS: SINGLE use rockets - Firework Store Holt (215,241,44) priced at L\$19 for 6 sets or L\$999 for unlimited use.



INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK THIS WEEK: FASHIONISTA SALOME STRANGE LOVE



THIS hair has rarely come off my head since I found it! It's called „Patootie“ and is from Erika Tiramisu Designs. I think it comes across as both playful and professional. The stockings are from a little store called CGBG. Sean Gorham is the creator. They are modifiable so I can tint them to match my outfit and have sexy seams up



the back of the leg. I hardly ever take them off! The Shoes, „Wild“ Pather Black Stilettos, are designed by Sylfie Minogue from Prim Seduction. I was at a concert and I harassed a girl to tell me where she got them.



MEDITATE: Om your way to Nirvana at the Maitreya Temple on Zoe island



YOGA: Find your inner balance

By INDIA OBVIATE

MEDITATE INTO THE NEW YEAR

START THE NEW YEAR REFRESHED WITH THESE FEEL-GOOD DESTINATIONS

MEDITATION is the perfect way to get your inner balance back before another stressful year starts.

A variety of retreats offer meditation and yoga classes, buddhist teachings or simply a relaxing atmosphere to contemplate about the



BODHI TREE: Gathering place beneath the huge tree on Bodhi island

meaning of life. The Maitreya Temple (Zoe 63, 219, 40) is set against the breathtaking backdrop of the himalayan mountains. Pose on the yoga mat by the entrance to the temple and sit on the lotus flower inside following the instructions to the OM AH

HUM Meditation.

In a similarly secluded area surrounded by lush forest and waterfalls lies a small buddhist temple (Huch 34,225,68) offering peace and quiet.

For something more stimulating to get your mind back on track jump off the 700m high pagoda from the Tibetan Buddhist Base Jumping Association (Zoe 9,162,763) with a parachute. Free Terra E-Chutes available on site.

To recover from the skydive drink a cup of green tea at the Gogo-An Zen Buddhist Temple (Lunata 36,48,22) and chill on the veranda looking out over the sea.

Soon an entire sim will open for buddhism-maniacs. Bodhi island (138,121,21) has

not yet been completed but visitors are free to wander around or sit at the gathering spot beneath the impressive Bodhi tree – the same kind of tree where Gautama Buddha found enlightenment. The island will consist of four main parts including areas dedicated to the major branches of Buddhism: Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana. The portable Zen Garden from the Darling Valentine's Home for the Holiday Store (Pyeonghwa 32,241,43) for L\$200 is great for those with a hectic timeschedule.



SEA VIEW: Relax on the veranda of the Gogo-An Temple

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

DEAR RANDI



BED SWAPPER

MY GIRLFRIEND SLEEPS WITH OTHER MEN - I WANT IT TO STOP

Dear Randi: I HAVE had a romantic relationship with a woman in SL for quite some time, but she has told me many times she feels we should be open to seeing other people. At first I agreed to it, but now I can't stand seeing her go off and sleep with other men. It tears me apart. I love

her to bits and I want to be with her more than anything. I have thought about ending the relationship to avoid further pain, but my attraction to her is just too strong. What should I do? — C.R.

Randi says: It's common for a man to be more attracted to a woman than she is to him. You need to decide whether you want the limited relationship she offers, or if the idea of having a steady SL girlfriend is more important to you. Talk to her about it and tell her your feelings. But if she doesn't want to commit, then you need to cut your losses and move on.

FRIEND WANTS TO BE AN ESCORT

Dear Randi: I'M concerned about a new friend who recently joined SL. I'm worried because she seems to be so naive and is interested in becoming an escort or a stripper. There is so much disrespect for newbie girls here, and I worry that she might disrespect herself. What can I do to help her? — T.D.

Randi SAYS: She is lucky to have such a good friend as you. But other than talking to her, there isn't much you can do to help. It's her life and she can do as she pleases. In any case, there is a big difference between RL and SL escorts. All sex is safe sex as long as it stays in SL. Be there for her, but understand people have to make their own mistakes.

SHALL I MUTE OR BOOT HIM?

Dear Randi: WHEN I started out in SL I met a man who seemed very nice. He was a perfect gentleman and gave me many free things. Although I never saw him as boyfriend material, I would chat and dance with him often. But the longer I have been in SL, the more friends I've made and the more things I've tried. Taking long periods of time to chat exclusively to him, became tiresome. When I started turning down his TPs to dance he began insulting me and calling me names. Should I take him off my friends list? — P.M.

Randi SAYS: Your experience in SL is supposed to be enjoyable, not something that causes you virtual misery. Mute him.

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK

Isa is torn about cheating on her boyfriend...



Let's go somewhere a bit more private...

Well I should be... nevermind!



Isa, I know its going fast, but...



I want you so badly...

It feels so good...I can't stop him

to be continued

12.29. - 1.4.

'DON'T MISS!' –**NIGHTLIFE****New Year's Fairy Tale Ballroom Dance!**

Dance in the New Year in the halls of a fairytale Grand Ballroom.

Advice: dress accordingly!

When: December 31, 21:00-24:00

Where: Avilion Grove (20, 127, 22)

**ART & DESIGN****„Sea&Sky“ - A Sailor's Diary**

Photographs from 2002-2006.

A sailor artist captures the ever-changing RL seas and the skies.

When: December 31, 23:00-02:00

Where: Soyeonpyeongdo (70, 140, 764)

**SPORT****Holiday Regatta Series**

Spend the holidays sailing under the stars.

When: December 30, 10:00-11:30

Where: Cecropia (66, 62, 22)

**EDUCATION****Prim Sculpting with Bryon Curtis**

Take a class with the well-known and prize-winning SL designer Bryon Curtis.

When: January 02, 17:00-18:00

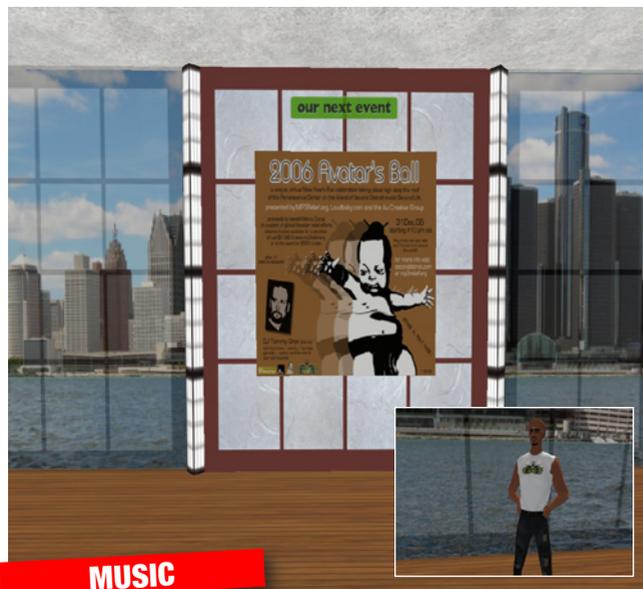
Where: SoHo (128, 128, 27)

**MUSIC****Shiger Seattle - Live Acoustic Rock**

Listen to excellent rock music and get a free Shiger Seattle T-Shirt!

When: December 30, 17:00-18:00

Where: Ross (204, 170, 36)

**MUSIC****Avatar's Ball 2006**

A New Year's Benefit Ball to support Mercy Corps disaster relief efforts.

When: December 31, 19:00-22:00

Where: Mangyeong (146, 34, 121)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK**NIGHTLIFE****Big Bambu Club**

Head down to Big Bambu to dance and chill with beautiful views. Check out the shark-tank with dance balls.

When: December 30, 16:00-18:00

Where: Pini (105, 211, 102)

**MUSIC****Amanda Leckrone Live**

The rising SL star appears once again at the Second String Cafe in Kuwol, singing country and folk while you dance.

When: December 31, 17:00-17:4

Where: Kuwol (141, 179, 97)

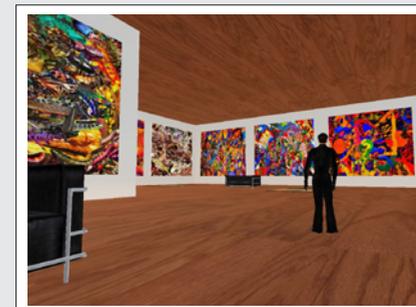
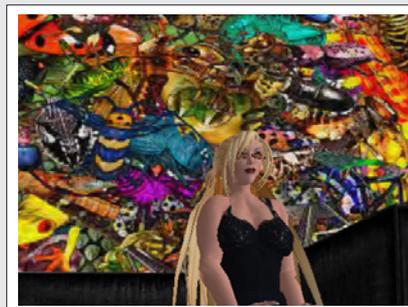
**ENTERTAINMENT****Show and Tell Night at Heck**

Bring your weirdest and funniest things to show fellow residents.

When: Januar 4, 18:00-21:00

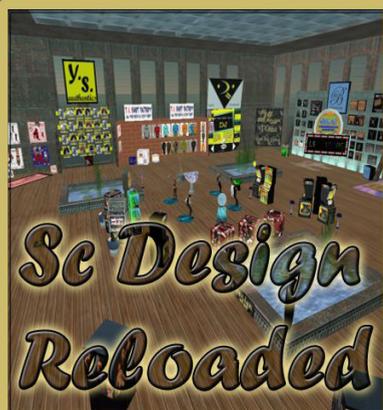
Where: Tamarack (94, 78, 160)

ADVERT



MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
The JJccc Art Gallery
3000 AD, 3000AD (77,169,500)

Sc Design Mall's best in shopping



NEWBIE-FRIENDLY



DIARY OF A NEWBIE

A Furry Tail!

I INSTANTLY felt that I was in a minority when I entered SL as a furry. On my first stroll around Help Island one human said to me 'Nice skin, lol' and his friend laughed. The first friendly person was a girl who 'sympathised' and offered me a human skin. She told me that was much better. I wanted to fit in but I was reluctant to give up my new bushy tail. I decided to try and find a better furry skin. But it's not easy. I had to look hard and ask lots of creatures as well as putting up with trying on the wierd and the ugly before I found what suited me. One outfit I tried was an enormous cat head which had even more people laughing at me. It's not easy being a furry - but I wouldn't change my tail for anything.

JULIA HATHOR owns two of the most beautifully designed islands, Shadow Brook and Serenity Falls. **India Obviate** spoke to the newbie-friendly designer:

The AvaStar: How was your first day in SL?

JULIA HATHOR: It wasn't too bad! I had fun finding money trees and people were kind to me. I was in awe of the creators of this beautiful world.

TA: What was your most embarrassing moment as a newbie?

JH: I spammed a club accidentally. The message went to everyone and the owner got mad at me. I didn't even know what I was doing.

TA: What is your advice to newbies?

JH: Explore the world and get to know this place.

TA: How long did it take you to feel at home in SL?

JH: Probably about 2 months, when I got my first place to live. Once you get a place to call your own, you are suddenly a serious member. You put your heart into decorating it.

TA: Which fun or beautiful sim must a newbie visit?

JH: Svarga, Gardens of Apollo and my sims. I am newbie-friendly and have a money tree for them because I remember how I depended on them when I first came!



NOOB BOOB: Spammed club

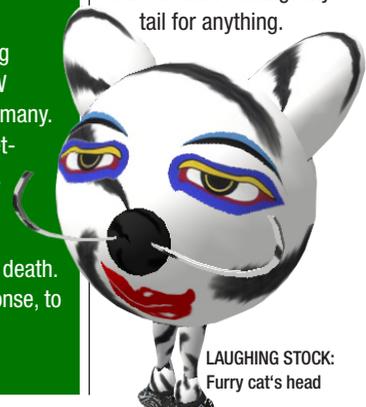
DO'S AND DON'TS: CHATTING

DO +

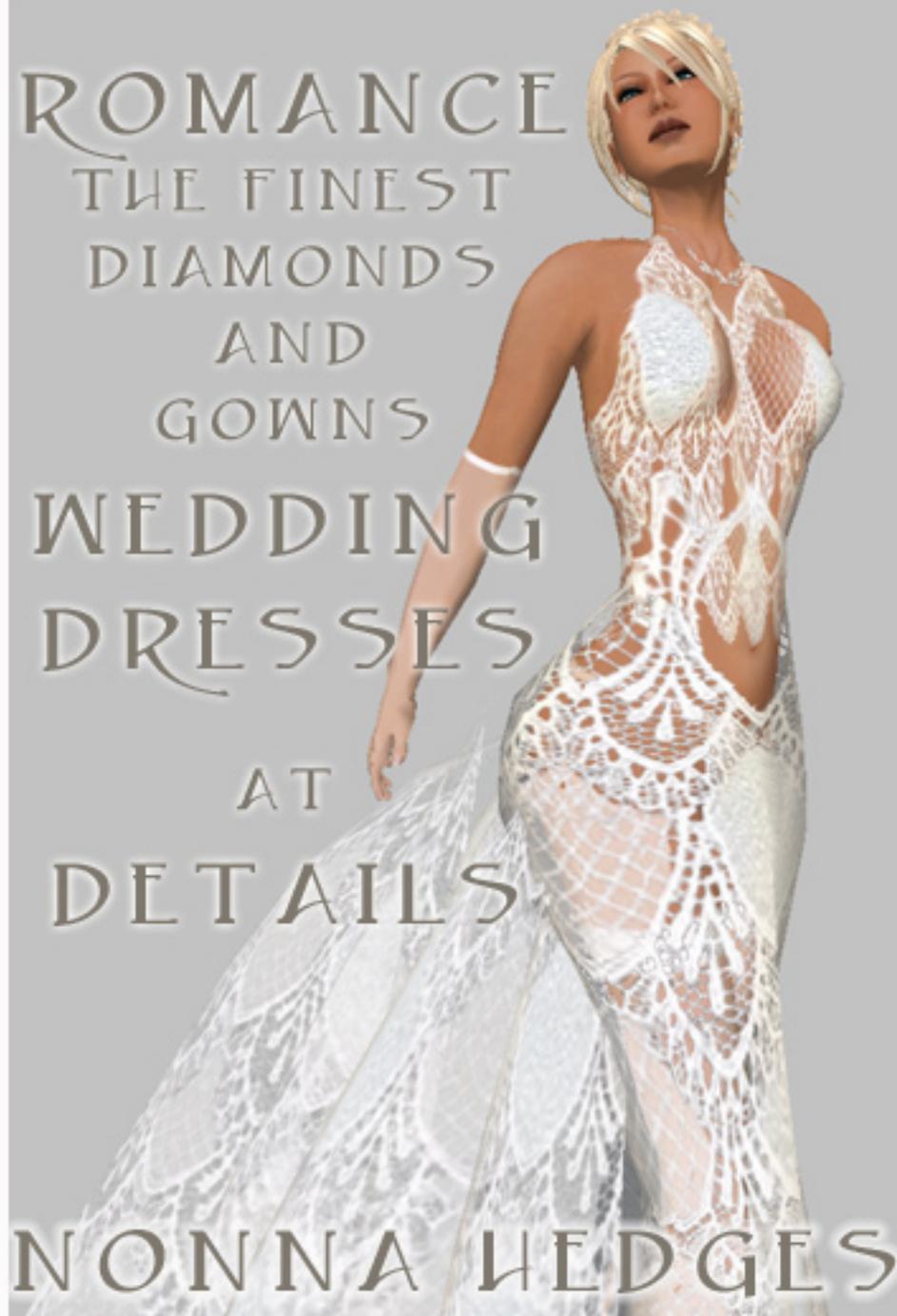
- Say hello when a new person walks into the room. It shows you are open and friendly.
- Address someone by name when in a crowded area, otherwise they won't know you are talking to them.
- Use fun emoticons to show your reactions and emotions :D
- Let others know if you're „away from keyboard“ (afk) or will „be right back“ (brb)

DON'T -

- Litter the chat with annoying chat spam. Every <HOWWWW WLLZZZZ> is one howl too many.
- Say in open chat what is better reserved for a private IM.
- Obsessively correct every typo.
- LOL and LMAO everyone to death. It's not a very original response, to put it mildly.
- Overuse Shout.



LAUGHING STOCK: Furry cat's head



THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

SUKU MING

WAS CROWNED CHAMPION OF THE 2006 PONTIAC
MOTORLYMPICS LAST WEEK. THE AVASTAR CATCHES UP
WITH THE FEISTY RACER

By INDIA OBVIATE

PROFILE

NAME:

Suku Ming

BIRTH DATE:

28th March 2005

PROFESSION:

Car racer

ATTITUDE:

Fast & furious

THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?

SUKU MING: I don't give up when I already have my foot in the door. It's one thing I really consider very important in life

TA: What is your favourite place in SL?

SM: A number of places, I actually feel really at home around Motorati though. My favorite place honestly moves with my friends. If they're somewhere, i'll likely show up there.

TA: What would you change in SL?

SM: Sim crossings, no question there! Imagine being able to drive from sim to sim with

zero lag. I don't think it's possible though. Oh! and more primes on cars you build.

TA: What do you spend most time doing in SL?

SM: Working on racing cars, or just driving aimlessly around a racetrack or two. I'm usually pretty close to my boyfriend, Toby wherever I go.

TA: What personal SL

achievement are you very proud of?

SM: I'm actually most proud of being able to maintain the race-track that I run. I never thought I could pull it off.

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

SM: A president? Do we really need one? I don't think I would vote for one!