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SORT SL OUT! FED UP RESIDENTS SLAM LINDEN LAB

BY CARRIE SODWIND

NEARLY 4,000 angry residents have signed a letter to Linden Lab complaining at the 'intolerable' conditions in SL. Project Open Letter, created by Cristiano Midnight, slams the Lindens for failing to fix important technical aspects of SL. See page 3.



UNDER PRESSURE: Cory Linden

INSIDE OPINION

"While a third of women say they've been escorts, less than ten per cent of men admit using them. Somebody isn't being truthful! But sex in SL can be healthy."

RANDI BARRACUDA p.5



"SORT it out! That's the message nearly 4,000 people have sent Linden Lab this week.

It's the clearest signal residents have given the Lab - either tackle the persistent problems now, or face the consequences."

REGIS BRAATHENS p.10



WRITE FOR THE AVASTAR

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

LINDENS UNDER FIRE



PIC By POMPO BOMBACCI

LINDENS at the town hall meeting were alarmed to see an armed resident had sneaked in. It was a sign of the rising tension between LL and residents. See p3

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THE PEOPLE TELL LINDEN LAB: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!



PIC BY DAEDALUS YOUNG

UNDER PRESSURE: Lindens put on defiant face (From Left: Jeska, Cory, Yoz, Torley, Heretio and Claudia Linden)

FED UP RESIDENTS SLAM LINDEN LAB OVER SL PROBLEMS

By CARRIE SODWIND

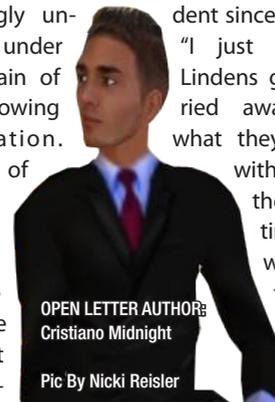
NEARLY 4,000 angry residents have signed a letter to Linden Lab complaining at the 'intolerable' conditions in SL.

Project Open Letter, created by Cristiano Midnight from SL Universe, slams the Lindens for neglecting to fix important technical aspects of SL. The main bone of contention is that the problems, including excessive lag and inventory disappearance, are causing unacceptable financial

loss for residents.

WILDFIRE

The signature list, which is growing larger by the hour, testifies to the widespread concern over the future of the world, the strain of the growing population. News of the letter has spread like wildfire since it was re-



OPEN LETTER AUTHOR: Cristiano Midnight

Pic By Nicki Reisler

leased on a specifically-created web page on April 30. Those who have put their names on the letter include veterans as well as newbies.

INEFFECTIVE

Artemis Fate, a resident since 2003 said: "I just think the Lindens get so carried away seeing what they CAN do with SL that they sometimes forget what NEEDS to be done." The document

also cites the ineffective search engine, grid instability, and unreliable building tools as causes for concern, while the size of the campaign has forced a reaction from the Lindens. At the town hall meeting Cory Linden said: "I thought that [the letter] did a good job of coalescing issues into one thread."

RacerX Gullwig is one of many sceptical residents, however. He said: "I've never had a response to any question at a town hall came true."

“SEX IS A DRUG“

By RANDI BARRACUDA

LETUM ZUMA used to own the raunchy Pimp n Ho Club in SL, and now runs digiluv.com, an in-world dating service based in Hawaii.

The AvaStar: What makes your dating service work?

Letum Zuma: “The sim has a lot of aloha. One guy just asked his girl to marry him on the beach.”

TA: Why do people crave love in SL?

LZ: “The feelings are real. Sometimes we can love someone in a way we fear to in RL. We open our hearts without the fear of being hurt.”

TA: What have you learnt about sex in SL?

LZ: “It lets you get to know the other person on a different level. Sex in SL can be very erotic. Some feel safer learning about a person from afar. Some ‘cheat’ on their RL partners and don’t think it’s immoral.

“SL Sex can be like a drug, a temporary feel-good fix to a crazy RL life.”



DIGILUV-ER: Letum Zuma

“I’VE HAD SEX WITH 750 MEN“



REVEALED: RESIDENT SEX HABITS IN SL

SL SEX: Widespread

By RANDI BARRACUDA

MORE than a third of women have been paid for sex - according to astonishing research results.

The AvaStar carried out a survey of 50 male and 50 female residents to find out what they REALLY think about sex and relationships in SL.

PAID SEX

The survey underlined the booming sex industry in SL, revealing a massive 36 per cent of women have worked as an escort. One, who wanted to remain anonymous, claimed she had had sex 750 times in five months. “It’s a great

way to make easy money”, she said. But although less than ten per cent of men have been paid for sex, they are not shy when it comes to jumping into bed, with 77 per cent compared to 45 per cent of women having had sex in SL.

One resident even claimed to have had straight or gay sex as both man and woman more than 1,000 times in total.

SEX TOYS

The AvaStar survey provided another boost to the sex industry, showing that over half of all women own sex toys.

LOVE

But SL is clearly not all about sex, with two thirds of women and around half of all men saying they have been in love in SL. And tying the knot in SL is quite common, with 16 per cent of women claiming to be married. Incredibly it seems most residents remain faithful to their SL partner with only eight per cent of either gender admitting to cheating on a lover.

SEXUALITY

SL is also a place for experimentation and openness, our survey revealed. Alternative sexualities were better represented among

women, with 28 per cent saying they were gay or bisexual compared with four per cent of men.

SECRETS

But ladies are more secretive about their bedroom activities, with 44 per cent keeping the RL person closest to them in the dark about what happens in SL. Only 32 per cent

of men gave the same answer.

Lillani Lowell owns the Dictatorshop, a popular bondage business in SL. She said: “The survey results are not surprising overall, but I think at least

one number is off — the six per cent who have changed gender to have sex. It may be a bit higher!”



NOT SURPRISED: Lillani Lowell

Randi says:

“While a third of women say they’ve been escorts, less than ten per cent of men admit using them.

Somebody isn’t being truthful! But sex in SL can be healthy as long as no one is hurt, and that’s something everyone can celebrate.”

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

DO YOU ENJOY SEX IN SL?

“I think a lot of people in SL are in here just for the sex. I mean, look at all the strip clubs. And if you hang out at the entry areas, that’s all they talk about.”



Adrian Williams:

“It can be very empty at those crazy free sex places. I hate that. I’d rather do it with someone I’m friends with.

And the private parts for men are, uhm, sometimes ridiculous.”



KC Kanno:



Barbi Sands:

“I really enjoy sex, and here I can have all I want! There are no diseases, no possibility of accidental pregnancy, and perhaps even no commitment.”

“The good part about SL sex is that you have a nice visual back-up when you share your fantasies with someone else. And man, did I learn some stuff I never knew existed in here!”



Lucius Templar:

“I never suspected cybersex could be that great. As you interact with real people behind the keyboard, the interactivity and fantasy make it amazing!”



Deedee Dodo:

INITIMATE ANIMS

By BABA COEN

THE Rendezvous animation, to be released on Sunday, will allow couples to explore SL in a more intimate way. We talk to the creator.

The AvaStar: Where did the idea for Rendezvous come from?

Valdarica Vale: “I was frustrated I couldn’t wander in SL with another person and communicate at the same time.

“Rendezvous breaks new ground - you can walk and talk with another avatar, you never lose one another while flying and you can even swim together.

“People naturally want to be close - why should that be so difficult in SL?”.

TA: Our survey shows many residents have been in love - surprising?

VV: “No, not at all. The experience of SL is surprisingly real on an emotional level, and when everyone is gorgeous, its easy to fall emotionally for someone.”

WALKING IN THE AIR: The new Rendezvous anims on sale at Muse Isle



NEWS BITES!

MANIA LAUNCH

MANIA TV has announced this week that it will begin broadcasting live concerts in SL. 'DV8-Live Cyber Festival' will be the first in a series of shows from the Colorado-based TV company.

NEW SL PRIMS

LINDEN Lab has announced the forthcoming arrival of sculpted prim. The new prim version will be the first since the ring shape in 2004.

TICKETS ON SALE

TICKETS for the Second Life Community Convention have gone on sale. The event will take place in Chicago in August, with a series of guest speakers as well as live SL music and a masquerade ball.

CENTRE TO OPEN

AN art museum is to be opened in Second Life, it was announced this week. The Cocomore Center for Applied Arts will open on July 12 with an exhibition devoted to furniture.

SL HOURS GO UP

HOURS spent in-world by residents increased 27.8 per cent in March, according to recent Linden Lab data, whilst the number of residents increased by around 20 per cent.

ACTION: Sandwoman Petion at the audition with Verhoeven Writer



MOVIE MAGIC IN SL

By BABUWRITER and LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

A FEW PLUCK UP COURAGE FOR AUDITION WANNABE actors flocked to the **Drop Zone 4 sim last week for an open casting session held by famous RL film director Paul Verhoeven.**

He was in SL to promote the DVD release of his movie 'Black Book', about a Dutch Jewish girl who joined the Resistance during the Second World War. Appearing as avatar Verhoeven Writer, he conducted the auditions in connection with a contest for aspiring actors. The lucky winner will be announced on Dutch Liberation Day, May 5, and will then spend a day on the set of Verhoeven's next film.

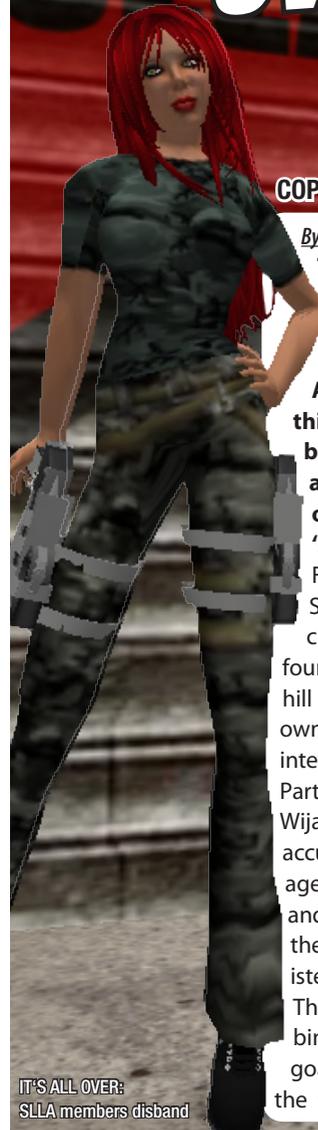
Verhoeven, whose avatar was designed by Angel Horsefly, paid a visit to Our Virtual Holland's Queens Day festival on April 30. Verhoeven said: "SL is an interesting medium, although still in its infancy. My curiosity is aroused and I am anxious to see what the future will bring." Although the auditions were heavily publicised in RL in Holland, Verhoeven was apparently distressed more people didn't try out. Among those who did have a go were Sandwoman Petion and 2E Leven. Sandwoman said: "I prepared by



HOLLYWOOD STAR: Verhoeven Writer

making an action book, 'draaiboek' in Dutch, with all the lines and movements I might need. "Most of all, it's not for the winning, but just out of curiosity." 2E said: "It was a great chance to meet Paul Verhoeven, who I admire. I prepared by rehearsing in the night while it was empty. "I was nervous when I actually had to do it in front of him - totally chaotic!"

SLLA SPLIT OVER 'SPY' ROW



COPORATE 'SPY' SCANDAL AT CENTRE OF SLLA BREAK-UP

By BILBO WINKLER

THE controversial 'terrorist' Second Life Liberation Army broke up this week amid bitter infighting and accusations of corporate 'spying'.

Former owner Solidad Sugarbeet claims that SLLA founder Marshal Cahill is actually the RL owner of a corporate intelligence firm. Part-owner Smoke Wijaya said: "These accusations damaged the integrity and credibility of the SLLA's very existence." The headline-grabbing SLLA, whose goal was to achieve the vote for avatars,

shot to fame after launching in August 2006 before setting off a 'virtual atom bomb' and attacking high-profile victims such as American Apparel and Reebok. But its demise will not signal the end of the fight for democratic rights for avatars, The Avastar can reveal. A new organisation made up of two separate factions - the open SL Democratic Movement and the closed SL Democratic Front - has already set up. Wijaya added: "We will not be an army in essence. There will be no more attacks under the name of our organization, but we remain active." The new organisation will target Linden

Lab, fascists and "RL corps in general", according to Wijaya, and the goals of the group will remain the same. "We still believe in a direct and horizontal democratic structure in SL." Despite the goals of the SLLA not being achieved, Wijaya says the disbanded group will leave a legacy. "We have created a discussion, both in and out of SL, on avatar rights."



'NO MORE ATTACKS': Smoke Wijaya

IT'S ALL OVER: SLLA members disband

MAY DAY SL RIOTS

RIOTS: The fighting escalates

NEWBERLIN SIM SUFFERS SAME FATE AS RL EQUIVALENT

By ZELMO BOUCHER

RIOTING broke out on the newBERLIN sim on May Day, echoing the traditional events in the German capital city in RL.

Mass fighting took place on the sim's virtual Alexanderplatz, a perfect replica of the area. Visitors were also faced with burn-

ing police cars during the first virtual version of the traditional May 1 trouble in Berlin.

Cobblestones and Molotov cocktails were thrown, and red flags were flown from the train station and the base of the TV tower. The heavy fighting between police and demonstrators climaxed in the early morning SL time, late afternoon in Germany, and was witnessed by many pedestrians.

The day finished on a high note, however, with demonstrators and police dancing together in the streets.



BERLIN: Traditional May Day scenes



PROTEST: Red flags



FIRE: Police vans ablaze

BREAKING NEWS IN-WORLD

SKY NEWS ENTERS SECOND LIFE WITH A UNIQUE LIVE BROADCAST

By BILBO WINKLER

BRITISH media giant Sky News has announced it will launch in SL next month at The Guardian Hay Festival.

The firm has been working with leading content creator Rivers Run Red to develop a news centre in which user-created content will take a leading role. Visitors will be able to create their own news reports, as well as upload videos and pictures of their own 'news'.

At the festival on May 27, SL residents will be able to take part in a live broadcast of Sunday

Live with Adam Boulton and ask questions to a RL TV panel, the first event of its kind.

In-world visitors will also be able to take away free virtual televisions.

John Ryley, head of news at the channel, said: "Second Life presents Sky News with new and exciting opportunities to deliver news and information, by allowing users to

get even closer to news events. We hope that through our virtual newsroom users will be able to connect better with the day's news stories."



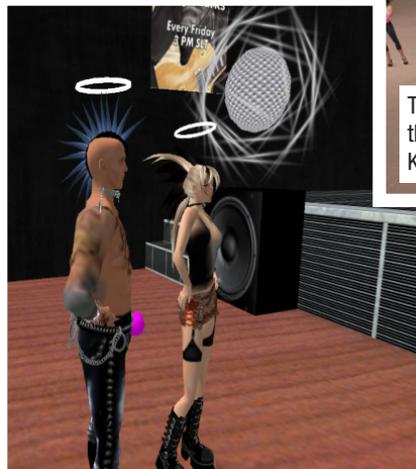
WATCHING: Sky News in SL

L\$500 PICS OF THE WEEK

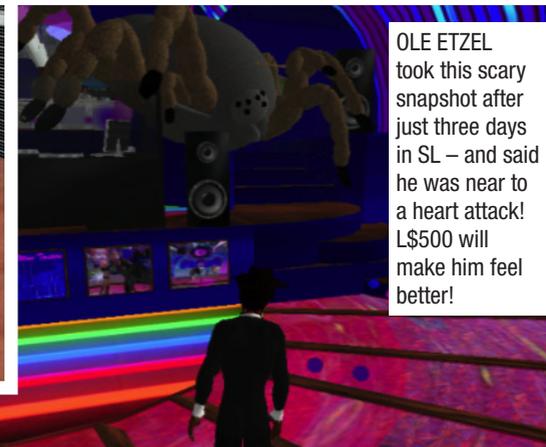
yourphotos@the-avastar.com



THIS whale, spotted by ANYUSHA LILIENTHAL, became something of a tourist attraction when it washed up on the beach at Kreiss.



THESE two unlikely-looking 'angels' were spotted at the Dan Octavian concert at the Crazy Sharks on April 28 by Dylan Miles.



OLE ETZEL took this scary snapshot after just three days in SL – and said he was near to a heart attack! L\$500 will make him feel better!



ORANGE was the colour of the day on April 30 as Dutch residents threw a massive party to mark Queen's Day in the Netherlands, as captured by ILLUSION IGALY.



READER ARTEMIS KEEN took this picture of a spider queen at Gypsy Moon, an innovative sim which he says is definitely worth checking out.



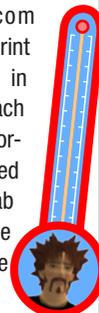
REGIS BRAATHENS

THE LINDEN LAB THERMOMETER

NEXT week, we will start a Linden Thermometer in this space, to see if the Lab is blowing hot or cold in its efforts to improve SL.

We want YOU to keep an eye on the Lindens and the problems going on in SL, as well as giving them a helping hand in making SL better.

Send us your praise and your protests to regis@the-avastar.com and we will print the best ones in the paper. Each week we will forward all received mail to the Lab to help them see what people are thinking.



COME AND RANT IF you want to talk to us, discuss a story or simply have a rant, then head down today and tomorrow to The AvaStar stand at the Joysco Convention Center. Alternatively you can often catch me or the staff in our offices on AvaStar Island. If we're not there, it's because we're writing next week's paper!

LAB GETS WARNING

FIX THE PROBLEMS, DEMAND RESIDENTS

SORT it out! That's the message nearly 4,000 people have sent Linden Lab this week.

It's the clearest signal yet that residents have given the Lab - either tackle the persistent problems now, or face the consequences.

SHAKEN

The open letter looks to have clearly shaken the Lindens - and looking at the list of people who signed, you can see why. These aren't just outspoken critics or disgruntled troublemakers, but a who's who of some of the biggest names in SL.

Next to the signature of Cristiano Midnight, a member of SL since 2003 and the founder of Snapzilla, are respected veteran residents such



SIGNED PETITION: June Dion

as Aimee Weber and Anshe Chung, leading fashion business giants such as Torrid Midnight, Rebel Hope and June Dion, and influential SL bloggers such as Lordfly Digeridoo and Rik Riel. These are people who love and live SL, who play a massive role in actively shaping this world, and many of whom have a big financial involvement. And when they say enough is enough, then they mean it.

FINANCIAL LOSS

When technical problems cause such people uncompensated financial loss and little enjoyment you understand why they are no longer going to sit back and accept it.

Alarm bells are now ringing in the corridors of the Lab. Unlike a forum thread the united voice of the community can't be blocked. When the people are discontented the worst thing you can do is ignore them. That's why

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

the Lindens reacted straight away to the letter on their blog.

FORCE

The AvaStar has often been critical of the failures of the Lab in the past, breaking stories on numerous occasions on the shortcomings of grid stability, inventory loss and transaction problems among others. But should it really take a petition to force the Lab to act?

WARNING

I signed the petition as I see it as constructive criticism. "We remain fully supportive of SL and are more than willing to continue doing our part to help" reads the letter. Changes won't happen overnight but "it also cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely".

This is a positive warning from the residents, but a serious one as well: Either improve SL or watch people heading for the exit.

your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

CR-ABSOLUTELY GREAT!

Hey Regis, I AM writing to say that the feature on imaginative avatars in last week's AvaStar stopped me from making a very foolish mistake and left me with a warm glow inside my crab shell.

As a full-time SL crustacean I have been recently feeling somewhat lonely and out of place in a world populated by barbie girls and beefcake boys.

Unfortunately and surprisingly it seems most people don't think like me. This sad realisation made me seriously consider abandoning my trusty shell altogether to revert back to being a regular Joe. However, your feature stopped me from making such a insane error.

L\$500
E-MAILS
WRITE TO:
YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

me that not only am I not alone in my unusual guise but instead skulking along the seashore like an outcast, I should be shouting my individuality from the rooftops: "I am a crab and proud of it!" I hope it has also encouraged countless others to shed their human skins, let out their inner eccentricities and live their second lives to the fullest!

By K.S

IDIOTS RUINING SL FOR NEWBIES

Dear Regis, FIRST of all I just want to say congratulations for a great SL newspaper.

I've been an SL user since March 3, and I have so far had to experience numerous newbie attacks from these 'hackers' - during one of which I lost L\$10,000.

I hope these idiots get caught, before people start to lose interest in SL. Personally, I would find it a pity to have to leave SL because of such stupid people.

By Tobias Flanagan

CALLIE IS RIGHT ON THE MONEY

NORMALLY I couldn't care less about fashion in SL, but Callie's 'Goth' column last week made me take notice, because I'm cool at last!

Having lived most of my life as a goth, it's great to see the fashion bandwagon has arrived at gothic wear. Ms Cline's style predictions are obviously on the money, cos I am seeing loads of people in Goth wear now!

By T.G.

DISGUST AT GRIEF ATTACK

Dear Regis, I WAS disgusted, but not shocked, to see your story on the Nazi grieving attack last week.

Targeting people because of their race or religion is probably the most half-witted thing you can do. Does it make them feel big? Superior? Clever? The time it took those losers to build some Swastika balloons, they should have used to read some history

books and discover the real meaning of racial hatred. The guy whose land they attacked is Jewish. So what? These



people make me angry, it is just so DUMB. Why do they have to bring this crap into SL? By all means, start a conver-

sation with the guy, and THEN if you don't like him, well then you might be a bit closer to having a reason to grief him - no one's an angel and we all get into disputes. But targeting a dude cos he wants his SL avatar to look Jewish? Please. Live and let live. What a shame these cowards have to perpetrate their filth from behind computer screens, like the pathetic cowards they are.

By Bjornny Holmer

BIZ BITES:

SL RADIO BLOW

RADIO stations in SL are set for a massive blow, after the US Copyright Royalty Board announced it would enforce a dramatic increase in the royalties internet radio stations must pay to play copyrighted music. All stations must comply with the new rules by May 15.

CHARITY VISION

MARKETING firm Infinite Vision Media has announced it will be offering its services free of charge to non-profit organisations, by assisting them in setting up in-world.

GOOD WEATHER

ACCUWEATHER has created a Head Up Display named PAWS (Personal AccuWeather Service), into which an avatar can types his or her real life location to get the corresponding weather in-world.

SEARCH IN SL

TWO new in-world search tools are to make their way into SL. The Smark is to be officially launched this week, while an updated version of the Meta Mart has also been announced.

EXPO ON THE CUTTING EDGE



INNOVATIVE: Business leaders at the expo

GOOD SAMARITAN GROUP GATHERING IS A HUGE SUCCESS

By **BILBO WINKLER**

CUTTING edge SL technology was on display at the Joysco Convention Center this week for the Good Samaritan Group Gathering.

The AvaStar was among 40 firms giving residents the chance to meet SL's most innovative minds. Good Samaritan founder Johnny Austin said: "My main inspiration to do this show was to create a collaborative environment for new business owners as well as large established companies in SL."

INNOVATIVE

From the Second Life Cable Network to Spirit Virtual Printing and Sun Microsystems, residents had the opportunity to check out some of SL's most interesting and innovative



FOUNDER: Johnny Austin

IMPRESSIVE: The AvaStar's Stand



ideas. Most projects on show were purely for in-world purposes, such as new software called 'SmooG' that allow residents to share bookmarks more easily, and a new version of the Meta Mart HUD, a handy search mechanism.

The products of vendors listed with the Meta Mart are classed into 'favourite' or 'irrelevant' categories, to make searching for things easier, while they can also be reviewed and purchased without leaving your current location.

ENVIRONMENT

One of the most innovative products on display was the Holodeck from Inside This World - a device that lets you store different SL scenes including furniture, pose balls and generators and rez them whenever you want, depending on your mood.

Company rep Biscuit Carroll said: "It means you can put a hundred rooms in one space, using only the prims from one room. Why walk around when you can just change your environment?"

SLAM DUNK INTO SL!

RESIDENTS FLOCK TO NEW NBA SIM WITH THE CHANCE TO PLAY VIRTUAL BASKETBALL

By **BILBO WINKLER**

BASKETBALL arrived in Second Life with a slam dunk this week in the shape of the NBA.

The National Basketball Association is the first professional sporting league to have an official headquarters in-world, having drafted in the Electric Sheep Company to create the four-sim HQ.

Visitors can try out the T-Mobile Arena, where they can pick up a ball and play basketball themselves, as well as trophy rooms and an area for watching classic RL matches.

The NBA shop, a replica of a RL store in New York, is also included.

NBA commissioner David Stern said: "The NBA is engaging its fan community at a whole new level, and bringing fans together from around the world."

The sims are already proving the mass appeal of basketball. NBA greeter Curtis Kraft said: "Most of the people coming down are RL fans. Even though we're not on the clock right now, we are hanging out here because we just love the sim!"



PLAY FOR REAL: The T-Mobile Arena

POPULAR: The NBA sim



GREETER: Jazmine Burks

GREETER: Curtis Kraft

ADVERT

CUBIK CIRCLE FURNITURE STORE



ROSSA (139, 63, 27)



A-STAR GOSSIP
Jenza Misfit

A-STAR GOSSIP

HOLLIVALS WOWS SMALL CROWD

VIDEO LAUNCH PARTY A SUCCESS DESPITE A LOWER THAN EXPECTED TURNOUT

By JENZZA MISFIT

MUSICIAN, singer and composer HolliVals Allen held a video launch event at the House of Shaea Goth and Rave Club.

A smaller than expected but still enthusiastic crowd cheered HolliVals on at the performance on April 27. Although HolliVals is a beautiful woman in SL, in RL her keyboard operator is a man who has been writing music for

15 years. She said: "I tailor-made her to my own fantasies – originally as a model." As for the event, she added: "I have worked hard on promoting it over the last few days and not many showed up. BUT, it went great."



MUSICIAN: HolliVals Allen

BLACKMOON MANAGER: Dorthe Bamboo

CELEB B'DAY

CONGRATULATIONS to **Chrissy Cordeaux**, the owner of the Barcelona sim, a replica of the RL Spanish city, who turns one on May 8. Many happy returns, Chrissy!



SL MUSIC STARS OUT TO HELP CHILDREN'S CHARITY

By ILLUSIONIGALY

A BENEFIT concert at the Second Sweden sim in aid of sick children raised more than L\$500,000.

FroggMarlowe, Jaycat Nico and Mel Cheeky – who was at times disguised as a frog - were all at

the bash on April 28. The lineup of artists included **Natalie Moody** and **Ross LeShelle**. Proceeds raised went to a children's cancer research charity.



ARTISTS: Jaycat Nico and Mel Cheeky



CROAKING: Mel Cheeky in frog form



PARTY: In full swing



SCANDINAVIAN: The Second Sweden sim

SPOTTED!

SL flute player **Thom Dowd**, known for his Renaissance multi-voice music, was spotted by Dylan Miles on April 30 at the **Mel Cheeky** concert on Heron Island.



PERFORMANCE SPACE

A-STAR GOSSIP

MARATHON PARTY FOR DJs

12-HOUR ELECTRONICA EVENT MARKS THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE URBANE SIM

By BABU WRITER

ELECTRONICA fans partied for 12 straight hours to celebrate the one year anniversary of the Urbane sim.

The international festival was hosted by DJ **Doubledown Tandino** and **Dnel DaSilva**, owner of Urbane, on April 28. **Nitron Xi** was among the DJs spinning

their stuff. DaSilva said: "Ten DJs and three continents coming together to throw an amazing event that would be a hell of a party to go to in RL." Tandino lasted the festival – although his last words were "I can't see straight".



HOSTS: Dnel DaSilva and Doubledown Tandino



MARATHON: Electronica fans

DJ: NitronXi

YOU'VE GOT MAIL!



LAUNCH PARTY: Getting started

BY BILBO WINKLER

DEUTSCHE Post, the German postal giant, wrapped up their launch in SL this week with a party.

The company's snazzy skyscraper HQ at its Post Island sim hosted a variety of activities on the different floors throughout the launch day on May 3. While a press confer-

ence was held downstairs, visitors were given the opportunity to try out a new scheme to send postcards from within SL to be delivered to a RL location. There will have been some tired postmen the day after the launch party as guests danced away to **DJ Subjunk's** electronic sounds until the early morning.

CHANGE ON THE GO

Tired of having to nip home between each sim, just to change into a new outfit?

stay glam? Find a simple suit that you like and accessorize to adapt it for different occasions.

By **CARRIE SODWIND & ISABEL BROCCO**

Basic business suit with trousers, skirt, jacket and shirt

By First Impressions
Shepherd (221, 34, 25)

L\$100

Briefcase which opens and closes

From Cutting Edge
Plush Rho (67, 170, 22)

L\$150

Black leather shoes

Marzipan's Closet
Business Bureau Isle (220, 119, 36)

L\$300

Necklace and earrings

Siemens (84, 107, 22)

L\$400

Black sable scarf

By Ookami
Baeogae (16, 13, 74)

L\$100

L\$100

Hat

By Dejavu designs
Siemens (95, 126, 22)

Flower totebag

Shaka (151, 224, 29)

L\$50

L\$100

Cell phone

Send messages to other cellphones from the same maker
Hells Kitchen (215, 194, 30)

Ballet slippers

By ETD
ETD Isle (218, 147, 25)

L\$175

Killer heels

Goguryeo (194, 204, 58)

L\$75

callie cline's STYLE HOTLINE



SINGING BLUE'S PRAISES

GO CRAZY OVER ONE COLOUR THIS WEEKEND - I RECOMMEND BLUE!

I LOVE the colour blue, from the waters of the Caribbean to cobalt glass.

It's calming, soothing, relaxing and emotive - and recently I was experimenting with some new hair when I just went crazy over blue!

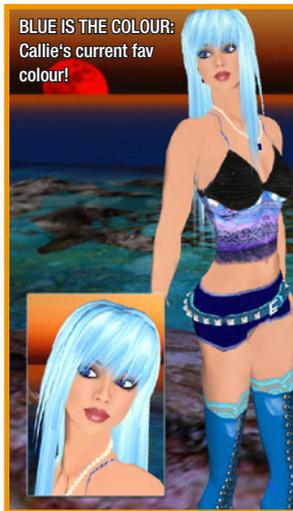
Some of my favourite songs have the word blue in them, like "Kid" by the Pretenders - "your eyes are blue but you won't cry" - and blue is probably the most sung about colour, used for the expression 'feelin' blue', and so for this week, blue is the new black. I have never been much of a fan of coloured hair

in SL, but after putting on this wig, I thought: "Why have I been so boring as a blonde and brunette?"

This was so much fun, I still haven't taken off the outfit. It's sort of a 'club' type look, and I wore blue eyes too, and had a great time mixing and matching stuff from in my inventory!

Since I get a lot of IMs about what I'm wearing from this article, I'll tell you here. Hair by Kin Kinko, eyes, shorts and top by me, boots by Nevermore

Studios, jewellery by Sue Stonebender and stockings by Lollypop. I hope you'll all try 'going blue' this weekend. I'm having so much fun, I can't wait to try another colour!



BLUE IS THE COLOUR: Callie's current fav colour!

WHAT'S HOT! ANIMAL ATTRACTION

By **CARRIE SODWIND**

GRRRLS! Get your paws on some fantastically detailed animal print patterns. Anubis Hartunian is flaunting a wonderful risqué animal-print dress in this snapshot taken at the Good Samaritan expo this week. Ireland Barrymore shows off a hot leopard spot bikini. And don't miss White Rabbit's animal print stilettoes, for a strut on the wild side.



GRRREAT: Anubis Hartunian



GRRROOY: Stilettoes, left, and bikini, right

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK SINNOCENT MIRABEAU

By **ISABEL BROCCO**

I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"This outfit is called Outlaw's Bitch, made by Digital Knickers. I love her shop because she has tons of different funky/sexy stuff to choose from. Plus she rocks as a person, so I like to flaunt her stuff in my hair ads, and out and about."

I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"I can't wear the outfit without this funky jewellery. It is also by Digital Knickers. They do such a wide range of accessories too. I love the details, done to perfection."

I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"Cake has my favourite skin line. I found it hard to find skins in lighter tones with soft natural looking lips. My lips are my most noticed feature in RL, so I like them to look great here too. I don't cake goopy lipstick on my lips in RL, and I hate heavy make-up in SL."



STYLE BITES!

ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL OPENS

By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

THE SL School of Architecture officially opened its doors this week.

The building, at Nitida (28, 17, 108) sets new standards of innovative architecture in SL.

Horizontal objects make up the walls and rooms without being vertically connected. This makes it easy to fly up and around the school.

ICON

You will also find separated rooms such as a gallery with selected building projects, as well as free textures for those attending classes.

The lead architect, known as 'The treasurer', said: "I want it to be an icon for what SL architecture can accomplish."

Classes ranging from basic architecture to industrial design will be held live and in audio, starting in June.

ICONIC: The new SL School of Architecture

LINEAR: The building's sleek lines

STAR CRIBS

By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

HONEY BENDER

1



POOL:

LESTAT is the building talent. He transformed the once simple prefab house into a villa with pool and private beach.

ABOUT HONEY BENDER

Born: 8/13/06
Activities: Pin-up model and dancer with ASpiRE
Home base: Galileo
Rooms: Large beach side house with swimming pool and hut tub, two floors with living area, kitchen, dining area, entertainment room, bedroom plus hut tub and two terraces. Honey and her husband Lestat Laperriere are reliving the Sixties in their beach house.

2



INTERIOR:

HONEY is the decorating talent. With great attention to detail, she composed a Sixties-style interior with furniture from the Loft.

3



BEDROOM:

ACROSS from the erotic hot tub is the master bed with Honey's best friends - her teddies.

4



RELAXATION:

THE couple enjoy their solitude after they are done with work for the day.

DESIGNERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Iris Ophelia

SL Birth Date: 3/12/06

Famous for: Meta fashionista and fashion writer

By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

The AvaStar: What are you working on at the moment?

Iris Ophelia: The second issue of my poetry/art magazine, CO-MA. I do all my projects to satisfy some creative impulse I have, be it writing, art, or what have you. I create for aesthetic reasons and write for more serious sakes.

TA: Does fashion create sub cultures in SL?

IO: Oh definitely, tons of them. Grunge, neko, clubbers, hand-

drawn... I wouldn't say I'm attached to any particular group.

TA: Which one is the biggest scene at the moment?

IO: By sheer numbers, I would say the 'blinging clubber' scene which I totally reject. Bling is very, very rarely tasteful. In RL, bling means it's a well cut gem, in SL it has no such meaning, it's just tacky and adds to lag. Bling and the big unrealistic looking clompy hooker heels drive me insane. They work for some people and that's their choice of course, but just not for me.

TA: Are SL trends independent from RL?

IO: Definitely! Neko is a great example of that. Neko, wearing cat ears and a tail, is completely separate from SL's furry culture. You would be hard pressed to find a fashionista who doesn't own a pair. There is

even a group of them in the RP area of Midian City called the Catwalkers.

TA: How did you create your SL identity?

IO: I didn't create one, really. Not consciously. I just stayed true to myself. Everything is based on my RL identity, just taken to the next level. You can do anything you want in SL, and that's great, but it's still best to stay true to yourself to some degree.



FASHIONISTA: Iris Ophelia

ICING ON THE CAKE



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

Floral Wedding Cake
Attach the fork to eat the slice of cake.
By Casandra Jackson
Voti (196, 43, 23)
L\$400

Purple Wedding Cake
From Angel Kisses
WeddingsBlackhawk
By Claire Glitterbuck
Paratopia (38, 31, 71)
L\$300

Strawberries and Cream Cake
By Lizzie Daguerre
Euhrix (166, 11, 22)
L\$450

Wedding Belles
Large cake and stand
By Carrie Grant
Insanity (15, 74, 21)
L\$550

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NEW SIMS

CHECK OUT TWO RL RECREATIONS AND A SPACE
VENUE, THIS WEEK'S FEATURED NEW SIMS.

SALZBURG



NESTLED in the Alps, the Austrian home of Mozart opened to the public this week, the town square and charming cathedral squeezed in next to rows of traditional housing. The giant Museum of Second Commerce overlooking the quaint square is a little strange.

Salzburg (173, 176)

DETROIT LIFE



DETROIT, the sixth biggest city in the US, is on the verge of opening its SL doors. The 'Motor City Inside the Metaverse', as makers Loud Baby are calling it, is designed as an interactive playpen for the city's residents, businesses, artists, and everyone else - not to mention you! It all kicks off with the opening gig on May 15. *Detroit Life* (128, 128)

SPACEPORT BRAVO



THE International Spaceflight Museum added to its already large chunk of real estate by creating Spaceport Bravo to complement Alpha. The NASA sim was ram-packed with recreations of rockets and lunar landing gear as it was - and it just got even more extensive.

Spaceport Bravo (122, 20)

MY TRAVEL TIPS

By *BILBO WINKLER*

AERIS SHENLIN is an up and coming SL artist who recently held an exhibition of work inspired by religion and myth.

The AvaStar: Which sims have you explored recently?

Aeris Shenlin: Artropolis is a sim full of art and nicely landscaped.

TA: Where do you hang out and relax?

AS: I love going to the Particle Laboratory, especially the Cloud

Chateau. At the Chateau you can sit inside a big sphere and watch a fantastic particle show to ambient music, or if you like, dance amongst the particles... pretty relaxing stuff.

TA: Where do you party?

AS: I go to the Piranha, Rave Island, The SUB, and Club Revolution, depending on my mood. I also like going to Phat Cat's when I feel romantic, and if I feel up for a lot of lag!

TA: What sims do you find the most creative?

AS: This question is pretty hard to answer, if only because of the sheer amount of fantastic sims I have seen so

far. My personal favourite would be Future Perfect and its adjoining sims, but I also appreciate places like Midgar and Toxia.

TA: What are your top tips for exploring SL?

AS: My top tip would be to head for Midnight Reflections or Secret Reflections... they are some of the most wonderful places to explore, and places I keep returning to to replenish myself.

TRAVELLER:
Aeris Shenlin

TOP TIP: Midnight Reflections

TAKE YOUR PICK

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

CHROMA KOLACHE

DOUBLE H RANCH
Solway (15, 81, 27)

ANY horse furies looking for a few stable mates or simply a place to hit the hay should trot on over to this rustic hangout.

With its stores, bar, stables and even a vet, it caters for every need a hooper may have.



PSYRA EXTRAORDINAIRE

**THE FALLING ANVIL,
LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE**

Caledon Tamrannoch (232, 104, 23)
LIVELY chat, wild stories and songs washed down with a drop of local ale is the order of the day at this old-fashioned tavern, set amongst the leafy Victorian splendour of Caledon.



MEMNOCH MATZERATH

SEASONS ALTER
Seasons Alter (131, 90, 24)

RESIDENTS looking to revert to a more ancient and ritualistic existence, or who simply just miss the seasonal cycle of real life, can find solace in the spring sunshine and stone circles of this beautiful pagan sim.



new sim opening soon!



women's fashion & beauty items, accessories, shoes, "mainLine" for men, "home" by caLLie cLine and more.

now in PLUSH LAMBDA



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

DEAR RANDI



MY MAN'S NEW GIRL

HUSBAND IS SPENDING FAR TOO MUCH MONEY ON HIS FEMALE AV

Dear Randi: MY RL husband and I joined SL together in February, and he has become very enthusiastic about his life here. When he told me he wanted a female avatar to live his second life as a beautiful woman, I told him I had no problem with it. But he has begun spending a lot on 'her' look, probably ten times more than I have spent on my own. What should I do? — G.V.

Randi says: It's great that you're so open-minded about gender, but it seems to me that the issue here is the money. If he wants to have a knock-out wardrobe for his 'lady', insist that he find a job in SL to pay for it all himself. With enough time and effort put into it, even the lowest paying ones should enable him to earn enough L\$ to take care of any monthly bills he is racking up trying to find that perfect look.

SUPERMODELS AREN'T FOR ME

Dear Randi: I RECENTLY read in The AvaStar that a lot of residents are sick of so many avatars here looking like supermodels. My own SL friends are always on at me to dress better and buy better skins and adjust my shape, and I'm getting tired of it. I'm an educated professional woman who doesn't think looks are everything, and I've carried that outlook into SL. Is something wrong with me? — T.I.

Randi says: Not at all! It's obvious many of the avatars in Second Life are representations of the way their typists wish they could look, and that's fine. But SL is about free expression, and those like you who don't want to be in an ongoing beauty contest have rights as well. Stand your ground.

FRIEND REFUSES TO REPAY LOAN

Dear Randi: I'VE made plenty of money with a service I perform in SL, and a good friend always seems to be short on money. Around Christmas time I gave him a L\$10,000 loan so that he could buy a few fancy presents for his new fiancée. He said he would pay me back, but when I mentioned it recently he said he "didn't remember" the loan. How can I get repaid? — C.U.

Randi says: That's a tough one. There is a chance that he simply doesn't remember you lending him the money. Informal loans are almost always a bad idea, but if you do make another one to anyone else at least get a notecard promising repayment. You have learned a hard lesson.

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK WEEK 2

Kath catches up with her beau Scott...





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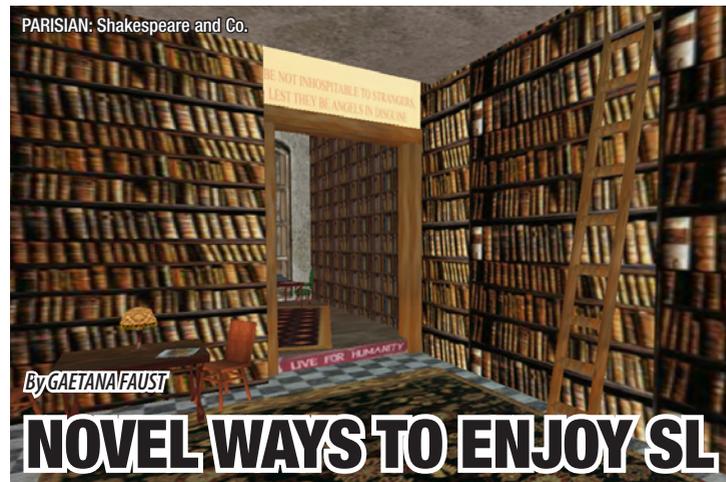
OR IM MANTA MESSMER

THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: BOOKSHOPS

PARISIAN: Shakespeare and Co.



NOVEL WAYS TO ENJOY SL

THE BEST IN-WORLD BOOKSHOPS AND LITERARY HANGOUTS

IF literature is your passion, you'll find a host of book stores in SL to share your love of reading with like-minded folks.

Start exploring at the Book Publishing Village in Wallaby (184, 94, 53) where you'll see books from dozens of SL and RL publishers, from SL Guides to London Leben. There's also a Speaker's Corner for book enthusiasts. Snowbooks in Sled (244,169,141) is a ski lodge where you can pick up some volumes for your virtual bookshelves. Click the snowball beside a book to see an excerpt and link off to a website if you like what you read. Bergman Books in Nemesis (110, 81, 30) has a variety of interesting stuff, including free copies of Cory Doctorow's 'Someone Comes to

Town, Someone Leaves Town'. If you enjoy getting lost in books, try the book maze upstairs at the colourful Book Off in Shibuya (92, 203, 22).

Shakespeare and Company Bookshop in Mill Pond (230, 177, 22) is a copy of the much-beloved store in Paris where Hemingway and Joyce hobnobbed with other famous literary figures. It's full of cozy nooks for reading and writing. If you're seeking a quiet place to read or connect with other lovers of literature, visit the Reader's Garden in Cybrary City II (38, 244, 22). There's a lovely garden and cafe, and you can plant a flower in the garden to find someone who shares your interest in a particular book or author.

BEGINNERS' BOOKS ARCHEBOOKS



A wide variety of volumes are available at the ArcheBooks store, as well as a free chapter of 'A Beginner's Guide to Second Life'.

Where: Taesot
(171, 30, 123)

RELAXING READING BANTAM DELL



Enjoy a coffee and browse the shelves at this recreation of a RL bookshop.

Where: Sheep Island
(121, 30, 25)

SECONDHAND STORIES BOOKMOOCH



Includes a forum for exchanging used books.

Where: Kula 1
(41, 87, 22)

5.4. - 5.10.

DON'T MISS! –



OPENING

SPACEPORT BRAVO

The International Spaceflight Museum hosts the grand opening of Spaceport Bravo, featuring the Apollo module and a shuttle.

When: May 5, 09:00

Where: Spaceport Bravo (122, 20)



ENTERTAINMENT

SKYDIVING CONTEST

If you have a head for heights then pay a visit to Cubey Terra Aeronautics, where they are staging a 24 hour skydiving contest with a first prize of L\$10,000.

When: May 6, 00:01

Where: Ellesmere (80, 100, 147)



SPORT

ENCHANTED FISHING COMP

Head to Hearts Enchanted for fishing, SL-Style. Participants will be provided with a free rod.

When: May 10, 19:00-20:00

Where: Hearts Enchanted (203, 192)



EXHIBITION

NYC ART

The GHava Center for the Arts presents a collection of works from talented New York artists.

When: May 10, 17:00-20:00

Where: Haenim (11, 114, 550)



DEBATE

AMERICAS DISCUSSION

Come to the Conscious Lounge to debate current world-affairs.

When: May 7, 14:30-15:30

Where: Isle of Genesis (247, 39)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

STRONG VISIONS GALLERY

The gallery's new annex, housing themed exhibits and the StrongTuck-Love permanent collection, will open with a show called 'Pure'.

When: May 5, 13:00

Where: Snafu (230, 5, 32)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK



ENTERTAINMENT

FIESTA LATINA

Come celebrate the Mexican holiday Cinco de Mayo at the Forced Entry fortress where DJ Audrey will put on a vibrant selection of Latino floor shakers.

When: May 5, 10:00

Where: Sugar City (195,21,21)



ENTERTAINMENT

1950S SOCK HOP

Put on your winkle pickers and poodle skirt because the 1950s are back at BUCKET Beach. A DJ will spin the 45s, and a prize is up for grabs for best outfit.

When: May 4, 18:00

Where: Nowhereville (100, 83, 26)



ART

MOBILITY AT XXXTENXION

A real life art exhibition displaying the work of artists from Bohemia and Bavaria will be on show in Odyssey. Listen out for the mixed reality concerts.

When: Until 18 May

Where: Odyssey (20, 247, 23)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

SUPERHERO AND VILLAINS PARTY

Catwalk City is the place for a fashion show with a twist, where a superhero and villains show will be followed by partying.

When: May 4 13:00 and 20:30

Where: Catwalk City (81, 32)



FASHION

MOULIN ROUGE FASHION SHOW

Twelve models will parade E.C Designs' new fashion collection down the catwalks of Triphosa, and then join fashion fans for the aftershow party.

When: May 5, 12:00

Where: Triphosa (50, 65, 55)

WANT TO SEE YOUR EVENT HERE?

DO you have an event which you would like to see published in The AvaStar's Events section? If so, email us details at news-desk@the-avastar.com.



By Deeep Witte

How to...

Everything a newbie needs to know!

HOW TO... FIND THE RIGHT BUSINESS PARTNER

IN a world where everyone can be anonymous, extra care should be taken before forming business relationships.

Someone's past record of bad (or good) behaviour is wiped clean, just as their appearance can be completely different from real life. So how do you pick a partner for a business?

The best advice here is to find someone you know well in real life, so you already know their real name and more.

But what if you meet someone in SL who seems to have similar interests? As in real life, giving

time and getting to know them is the key. Meet their SL friends, hang out and see how they deal with others, be with them in different situations - they will be getting to know you better too. Do they

have a lot of good friends? Do they have skills which they have shared with others? These questions take time to answer. Even at that, it is difficult to be sure of someone. It helps considerably to have RL contact with a potential business partner. Phone conversations, references and

a website shows they have nothing to hide and helps you get to know them better. When it comes to money, be careful and conservative. Do not put yourself in a situation where you could lose a lot of money with someone you do not know well. Trust takes time.



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

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



My First Day in Second Life

FLY UP HIGH IN THE CLOUDS

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

AVATARS can normally fly up to just less than 200m high.

With a flight assist script, however, you can continue to soar upwards to apparently limitless heights.

A scripted flight assist gadget also makes it possible to zoom through the air more quickly, from one side of a big mall to another, when you have finally found that pair of shoes you were looking for and can't wait!

You can still grab a free AvaStar X-flight pin and other free stuff at our stand at the Good Samaritan Group Gathering

appears on your jacket and enhances your flight at the same time.

If you want to know more about your way of flying, you can use the FlightFeather with the Cyberflight 1.2 open source script by Argent Stonecutter. You can find it in his shop (LostFuresdAlliez 104, 6, 529) for the symbolic price of L\$31 and it has the transfer permission enabled so you can give it away as a gift. It appears as a white feather on the bottom of your screen, and when you start flying it tells you your exact position and level above the ground, direction, speed and flying state.

(Convention Center 134, 113, 29) which ends on May 6. The pin



FLY: The FlightFeather

DO



DOS AND DON'TS: YARD SALES

By GAETANA FAUST

DON'T

- + Search Events to find yard sales. Often these events are scheduled early in the SL day.
- + Teleport around to yard sales to browse for bargains.
- + Pick up some of the plentiful freebies you'll find.
- + Browse for discounted designer clothes, furniture and more.
- + Sell items you don't want by boxing them up and clicking the For Sale button in Edit.

- Be fooled by fake yard sale events that are just ordinary stores.
- Buy without comparing to the regular sales prices.
- Spend a lot of time at a yard sale run by an individual. Group yard sales are bigger and have more of a selection.
- Purchase the first thing you see at a yard sale.
- Count on finding a specific item at a yard sale.

LIZBETH LADYBIRD is the creator of Underwater Love, a Motorati Dance Club.

How was your first day in SL?

I was at a total loss, just wondering what the hell I was doing here. Ultimately I ended up on a deserted island, where I almost fell off a cliff before I was rescued by my secret prince. The story continues from there.

What was your most embarrassing moment as a newbie?

The first time I went dancing. I was being animated by a friend and she made me do a squat - and it turned out I wasn't wearing any underwear!

What was your funniest moment as a newbie?

I guess meeting my best friend here in SL, Noblesse Beauchamp, certainly must be one of them. We used to spend a lot of time in the Ahern Welcoming Area. And boy do we have a laugh - until tears run down our eyes! Our favourite line is: "Damn, yer cute... Let me check you out!"



EX-NEWBIE: Lizbeth Ladybird

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THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

CANIMAL ZEPHYR

IS A WELL-KNOWN SL DESIGNER WHO PRODUCES A RANGE OF CUTE TEARAWAY GEAR.

By *BILBO WINKLER*

PROFILE

NAME:
Animal Zephyr
BIRTH DATE:
9/16/2004
PROFESSION:
Designer
ATTITUDE:
Cheeky

The AvaStar: What is your best feature?

Animal Zephyr: I think it's my 'don't give a f***' attitude', but then again I think it's me being a good friend - they compete for first place.

TA: What is your favourite place in SL?

CZ: It's tough to say because things keep getting demolished.

My fav spots were always ones that had lots of cool people hanging out but they get knocked down as fast as they're created.

TA: What would you change in SL?

CZ: Hands down the lack of support from Linden Lab. It's unfathomable that considering how much of their company is based on work from users, how little interest they express in helping residents out with problems, such

as not fixing bugs. Their whole attitude is probably the only thing I'd change. Well that, and I'd add a virtual reality head mask for fun!

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

CZ: Mostly making stuff or hanging out with my friends. Sometimes both at the same time if I'm lucky. And I explore and shop too.

TA: Which personal achievements are you most proud of?

CZ: My store. I'm so

proud of all I've made because when I started out I didn't think I could even make a decent T-shirt.

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

CZ: Ack, a tough one. I think my 'Friends' photo album. Cos everything else you can buy back, but not memories.

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

CZ: Whoever's most likely to colour SL pink and fill it with kittens!

