



THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

NEWS	p.2-11
Sarkozy win sparks French celebrations in SL	
BUSINESS	p.12-13
US\$50,000 Amsterdam sale falls through	
STYLE	p.16-21
Lindens' Hawaiian party - a What's Hot special	
AVASTAR OF THE WEEK	p.31
Singer Kim Seifert on being a virtual star	

CHILD PORN: LAB DID NOTHING!



ROBIN LINDEN: Shocked

BY REGIS BRAATHENS

LINDEN Lab has allegedly come under investigation by German authorities over the child porn scandal that has rocked Second Life this week.

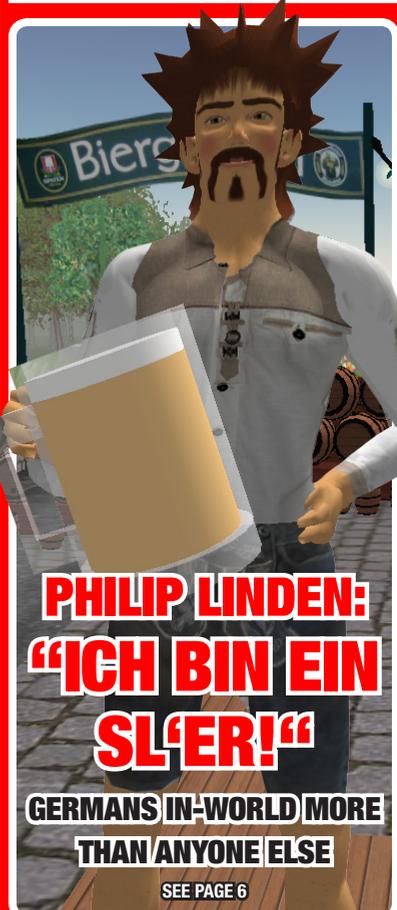
FULL STORY - PAGE 3

- LAB IS INVESTIGATED
- AGE PLAY NOW BANNED



FUTURE OF ADULT SIMS IN DANGER

SEE PAGES 4 & 5



PHILIP LINDEN: "ICH BIN EIN SL'ER!"

GERMANS IN-WORLD MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE

SEE PAGE 6

INSIDE OPINION

"I think age verification is a step in the right direction. As Second Life grows, it is becoming impossible for Linden Lab to control what is happening on the grid."

PHAM NEUTRA
p.5



"Only after the latest bout of media criticism has LL finally taken this welcome stance of a zero tolerance policy on Age Play as well as child pornography. "Age Play had been swept under the carpet for far too long."

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.

AMSTERDAM BACK ON SALE



THE US\$50,000 Amsterdam sale fell through this week (see page 13) - but will age verification make it harder to sell second time around?

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DIDN'T THEY KNOW ABOUT THIS?



SHOCKING: Sick photos of perverse Age Players

By REGIS BRAATHENS

LINDEN LAB'S LACK OF ACTION AT CENTRE OF SL CHILD PORN INVESTIGATION

LINDEN Lab will be investigated by German authorities for allegedly doing NOTHING to prevent the child porn scandal that rocked SL this week.

Officials from Germany's Central Office Against Child Pornography say they are determined to find out if the Lab knew of child abuse in SL before the recent revelations. Less than three months ago a Dutch court looked at prosecuting Age Players over incitement to child abuse. But the Lab's response was only half-hearted,

was not made official, and Age Play was NOT banned.

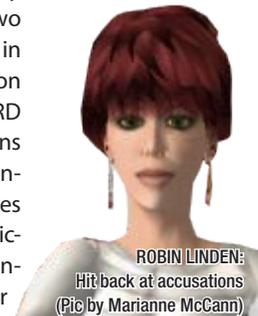
FURY

Since then the Lindens have done next to nothing to prevent twisted Age Players having sex with child-like avatars - only promoting it was illegal. Now they face not only the fury of residents ashamed to see SL's name dragged through the dirt, but also the possibility of charges. Peter Vogt, the agency's chief prosecutor, said: "The question is, how far does Linden Lab take action when they find out about

such activities?" Under-fire Robin Linden incredibly hit back at accusations that the Lab knew about the exchange of child pornography in SL, uncovered by a report on German TV channel ARD this week, and denied any wrongdoing on their part.

The Lab quickly moved to ban two residents involved in Age Play based on the evidence of ARD on May 3. "If LL learns that someone is engaging in... activities involving the depiction of sexual acts involving minors, their

account will be terminated", added Robin. But the German Age Player at the centre of the scandal, who handed over seven shocking photos of real child abuse and boasted he could deliver thousands more, is still at large. Robin admitted the Lab had so far been unable to locate the offender.



ROBIN LINDEN: Hit back at accusations (Pic by Marianne McCann)

VOX POPS IS AGE VERIFICATION NECESSARY?



Alison Sautereau

Escort "The measures seem a bit extreme, but age verification should absolutely be in."

DJ "Although I think too many controls lead to a big brother society, we have to take into account this place is growing quickly and soon there will be competition."



Jhereg Vollmer



BabyDoll LaFontaine

Underwear designer "I support what they are trying to achieve, but it's too late for it to work properly."

Founder of the 'SL'ers a gainst Age Verification' group



Chance Pennel

"There's a lot of people who don't want their personal information collected digitally."

AGE VERIFICATION: ADULT SIM OWNERS FEAR RUIN

LAB CRACKS DOWN ON UNDERAGE RESIDENTS

By CARRIE SODWIND

THE adult entertainment industry in SL is set to make heavy losses when age verification is introduced later this month.

Linden Lab have announced plans to 'flag up' sims containing adult material, and only allow residents who have verified their age to access them. The scheme, described by LL on the official blog as a "momentous change", is designed to protect kids from adult content. It may also help prevent problems like the child porn scandal which broke this week (see page three).

FEARFUL

Any site containing adult content - defined as "overtly, graphically or explicitly sexual or intensely violent" - must be 'flagged'. Anyone who wants to visit a 'flagged' site must pay a small fee and verify their identity to a third party company,

who LL have yet to sign a contract with. American residents must provide the last four digits of their social security number, and others ID or passport numbers.

LOST

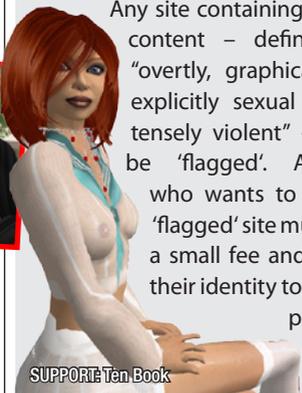
Many adult sim owners fear they could be put out of businesses. Dictatorshop owner Lillani Lowell said: "People who refuse to give up government records to a third party company will not have access to us. Many of our customers will be lost to us." A group called 'SL'ers Against Age Verification' has been created, and Adara Vilas has set up a petition to ask the Lab to reconsider the rule. Many have welcomed the news, however. Arsheba club owner Ten Book said: "Verification is long overdue. Not only should it reduce griefing, but if it is handled at Linden's level, it's much easier for us to do business."



BRIGHT LIGHTS: Only with verification



PETITION: Adara Vilas



SUPPORT: Ten Book

THE RIGHT STEP?

WHY AGE VERIFICATION COULD BE JUST A STEPPING STONE FOR SL

ANALYSIS PHAM NEUTRA



IN my column on the separation of the teen and main grids a few weeks ago, I concluded with the prediction that Linden Lab will add ways to identify certain characteristics of the people behind avatars, and soon.

Such a prediction does not require a sixth sense - the need is obvious. Indeed, it took LL just two weeks to announce the first such tools: owners of land displaying 'mature' content will soon be obliged to ban avatars who don't have their 'adulthood' verified. Robin Linden's posts about the introduction of this feature were greeted with an angry outcry, a common reaction to nearly every change of policy in our society. But actually I think this is a step in

the right direction. As SL grows, it becomes impossible for the Lab to control what is happening on the grid.

RESPONSIBILITY

Computer software just can't do this, and humans are much too expensive for policing a platform which is free for the majority of users. So it is necessary to shift this responsibility onto the residents. It is the fair thing to do, too: it IS the residents' responsibility to make sure that what they do complies with relevant laws. But to do this, they need effective tools - like age verification.

QUALIFIED

This is only a first step. Expect to see more kinds of 'verification' in the near future! Like in RL, we will be able to do most day-to-day activities without telling anybody who we are. But for some activities we will have to prove that we are 'qualified'. I am fairly certain there will be a way to optionally 'deposit' your complete RL identity with LL in the not too distant future, for example. At least for those of us doing substantial business within Second Life, RL tax authorities won't be satisfied with anything less.

ADULT SIMS: Soon to be restricted to residents with verified ages



KUDOS TO LL

STROKER SERPENTINE is a leading adult services provider, and founded the Amsterdam sim.

THE AVASTAR: Will age verification affect your in-world business?

STOKER SERPENTINE: From what I have read in the blogs the verification will be voluntary. So it seems to be rather up in the air as to its effectiveness. We as content providers must take the initiative to ensure that the system will be viable. **TA: How will other adult businesses in SL be affected?**

SS: I believe it will have a profound effect. I am sure many will not initially select 'Adult Content' for fear of lost sales. But at the end of the day, it should be of the utmost concern for all content providers to cover their 'ass'-ets.

TA: Is this a positive step from Linden Lab?

SS: In my personal opinion, it is a long overdue feature. Not only are there liability issues for LL, but as SL expands exponentially, there is a social responsibility as well. Under age posture is only one concern. But Kudos to Linden Lab.



POSITIVE: Stroker Serpentine

KAISER PHIL TO LEARN GERMAN?

PHILIP LINDEN:
How he might look as a German (avatar courtesy of Eggy Lippmann)



GERMANS THE MOST ACTIVE GROUP IN SL

By MANTA MESSMER

GERMANS have overtaken their US counterparts as the most active nationality in SL, according to a study.

According to the research by comScore, 209,000 unique German users logged into SL during March, compared to only 207,000 residents

from the US over the same period. The figures highlight both the diminishing influence of Linden Lab's home American population and the incredible growth in the number of German-speaking avatars, which saw a dramatic 70 per cent rise between January and March.

SL CULTURE CLASH

A CHANGING POPULATION MEANS AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR SL

Analysis
GWYNETH LLEWELYN



SO Europeans have started to outnumber Americans in SL. Something big is changing in SL.

This will inevitably lead to a culture clash, as Lindens get more input from Europeans than Americans. It will also mean that stringent US legislation which regulates certain aspects of SL will apply to the supposedly more tolerant and open-minded Europeans. Defining what 'adult content' is varies widely across the Atlantic.

DIFFERENCES

When Europe was a minor player in terms of population, this was an accepted fact. But now the influence of Europeans - and non-Americans in general - is becoming more important, how will LL deal with it?

The first changes are already happening. There are plenty of areas in SL where languages other than English are spoken. But other cultural differences are harder to implement. In large parts of Europe, for example, gambling and casinos are allowed, pornography is freely available and sex shops have windows open onto the street. For a European SL resident, seeing these things in-world is not a huge change of mindset since they are part of their daily RL. However, Californian law strictly forbids all of the above.

ILLEGAL

Consumers in Europe also generally have more protection when buying services over the internet. The laissez faire attitude of LL is definitely not enough to comply with European law. As the grid grows, and with a European

grid apparently being planned for as early as next year, the future is uncertain. Will the 'Eurogrid' have a different ToS? Will Americans be banned from it if by doing so they could engage in activities that are considered illegal in the US despite being commonplace in Europe? Will the European majority shun the US grid for being too limited?

POPULATION

It is hard to answer these questions, but LL has no choice but to try - Europe has twice the population of the US, so they need to figure out what they are going to do. Now imagine what will happen when the Chinese start to enter SL in large numbers...

FRENCH:
Large community



GERMANS:
Most active

NEWS BITES!

EMPTY BOX CON HITS RESIDENTS

A FRAUDSTER has convinced residents into buying empty boxes. Customers reported purchasing celebrity skins for between L\$2,500 and L\$3,000, only to find their items missing.

PHILIP SHAPES OUR RL WORLD

PHILLIP Linden's RL alter ego this week featured in the 'Time 100', the American weekly news magazine's list of the 'people that shape our world'.

BLOG USED MY PIC, SAYS DJ

SCI-FI.com has been accused of publishing a photo on their blog without permission. SL resident and DJ Callie Crimson claims the Sci-Fi Channel blog used one of her Flickr photos without asking.

40,000 AT ONCE DESPITE LAG

CONCURRENT Second Life logins passed the 40,000 mark this week. Recent problems with severe lag on the grid did not stop the total reaching 42,234 on Sunday.



NICOLAS SARKOZY:
A caricature by
Christophe Hugo

BY BILBO WINKLER

WILD celebrations were sparked among many French avatars this week as Nicolas Sarkozy was elected the new President of France.

The right wing Sarkozy defeated the challenge of socialist Segolene Royal after months of campaigning – which was also conducted in-world.

Sarkozy supporters were elated in the aftermath of Sunday's results. Patrice Shepherd, soaking up the atmosphere at Sarkozy Island the day after the vote, said: "We're all very happy with the victory."

Not everyone felt the same, though, as the HQ was again grieved with Swastikas – although jubilant Sarkozy fans partied on undeterred.

Emmen Tal, owner of Sarkozy Island, conceded that SL was

not the most important factor in the election, but predicted it could prove decisive in the future.

"I think that for the next election in 2012, the metaverse could be more important than the web."

CONTROVERSIAL

Trebor Luke, owner of the officially sanctioned pro-Royal Segolife group, said he was unhappy but had learned a lot and would continue to work for the defeated candidate.

"We worked hard in SL and it was a pleasure finding and inventing new ways to do a political campaign."

Segolife, he added, had cooperated with other in-world parties – including the controversial far right Front National

– to promote politics in SL. "Even with political opponents, there seemed to be the possibility of a dialogue that was not at all possible in RL."

Attention now turns to the American presidential election next year, with several of the leading candidates already having a presence in-world.

Cubsfan Pugilist, director of Democratic Barack Obama's official SL campaign, said virtual campaigning will soon be crucial. "I think SL and other

worlds will play a huge role in the presidential campaign of 2016 – and maybe even 2012."



ROYAL SUPPORTER:
Trebor Luke

your mail @ YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

HACKERS ARE GOOD GUYS

Hey Regis,

AFTER I read the last three issues of The AvaStar, I decided to write a mail about the definition of the word 'hacker'.

A hacker is a person who is trying to make a system better. They are intruding into a system, but they don't remove data or steal money! Hackers are helpers! They are nothing but curious people who are interested

in new technology. People who want to benefit by intruding into a system are called 'crackers'. These are the bad guys! They do everything to satisfy their personal needs. Hackers are something like the internet police and crackers are the criminals. So please, don't give

guys who steal money from avatars the title 'hacker'.

Me and some other guys feel disappointed when we read something like this, because people think the wrong way about us. We never steal or make jokes with a system and we would never manipulate data. We have no interest in

destroying a system or doing bad things in SL anyway.

By D.B.

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

SL SEX IS COMPLICATED!

Hey Regis,

YOUR sex survey last week certainly made enlightening reading, but as far as I'm concerned, it came too late.

After enduring a miserable RL sex life, stumbling from one calamity to the next, I decided to throw in the towel. But then I heard about the wonders of Second Life sex and its promise of easy uncomplicated 'virtual' liaisons and I thought, at last my troubles might

be over!

I took to the strip joints and sex clubs like a duck to water, I felt like a hyperactive eighteen-year-old again. It was great.

However my fun was not to last, and my RL traumas inevitably re-emerged.

Firstly I discovered that a sexy lady I was hooking up with regularly was not only a man but a man who spent his afternoons living in the forests as a bear. And then, to my heart break, my in-world true love confessed to me that I was "number 452".

I think I was a fool to treat SL sex lightly, because in reality it is as strange and complicated as its cousin in real life.

By Colly Qinan



SEX SURVEY:
Too late for Colly!

HELP COMBAT CHILD PORN

DUE to current events, and as we are a Second Life company, we would like to express our position on the issue of child pornography in SL.

SL is a virtual world whose content is created by its users. As in all areas of internet use, it is impossible to prevent criminal elements from entering and taking part.

As members and users of SL, we are of the opinion that the problem of child pornography can only be solved from the inside, by

the SL community themselves, who must prevent such content. For this reason we have formed the group 'Stop Child Pornography'. We encourage all SL users to join this group and play an active role in removing paedophiles and those that they do business with from SL.

The members of this group have taken on the task of banning from their land and reporting to Linden Lab any SL user who spreads paedophilic content in-world.

By YOUseeMEin3D, creators of the new-BERLIN sim



REGIS BRAATHENS

LIND-O-METER

DUE to recent mass criticism of the Lab, we will run a Lind-o-meter each week to see how Philip Linden is doing in his bid to make SL better.

And YOU determine if the Lab is blowing hot or cold. Send us your rants and praise to regis@the-avastar.com.

Lab-solutely awful!

Phil-ing blue!

Lagging behind!

IMproving

Sim-ply the best!



YOUR VERDICT:
Lab-solutely awful!



A week Philip will want to forget as the Lab comes under fire. The child porn scandal shames LL and reveals its lack of action over Age Play, and mass protests over verification have given Phil a massive headache.

PROACTIVE? GET REAL

WHY DOES LINDEN LAB ALWAYS WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE?

SEXUAL Age Play has finally been banned – but why the hell has it taken so long?

This sick fetish played out by perverts who claim to be having harmless fun, is an absolute disgrace. I was deeply shocked when I saw the ARD report on television. Anyone who claims that having sex or raping child-like avatars is in any way acceptable, needs serious help. There is very little difference between child pornography and sexual Age Play – both directly or indirectly abuse children, and both should have been prevented at all costs. But nothing effective was done.

CRITICISM

Robin Linden claims the Lab pro-actively contacts authorities regarding child pornography in SL, but I have sadly seen no evidence

of pro-active attempts to stop it. Only after the latest bout of media criticism has LL finally taken this welcome stance of an official zero tolerance policy with regard to Age Play as well as child pornography. This has been long awaited, with Age Play having been swept under the carpet for too long.

LACK OF ACTION

The question is why did they not officially ban it two months ago? Back then the SL and RL media demanded action after a Dutch court looked into prosecuting Age Players. But rather than banning it, the Lindens simply sent out notecards to some people saying promoting Age Play was banned.

DEPRAVED

The lack of transparency only led to confusion and allowed Age Players to continue their depraved practice. Robin also claims that child pornography has been found in SL

before, and that the authorities were informed. Yet why were the residents not told? And why was nothing done to stop it happening again like it has? The German prosecutor Peter Vogt rightly says – can it really be LL doesn't know what is going on in SL? If they don't, it's worrying. And if they do, it's outrageous that they have done so little to stop this when they had the chance.

PERVERTS

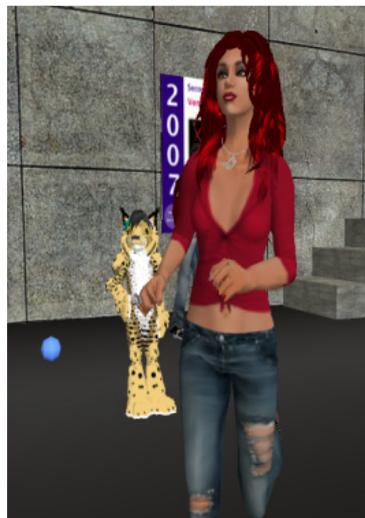
I argued in Issue 11, Age Play and child pornography must be stopped at all costs, and I stress that again: We must take a zero tolerance policy with these perverts. Will the planned age verification help? Probably not. What SL needs is for all accounts to be verified, in order to properly safeguard SL.

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

L\$500
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OF THE WEEK
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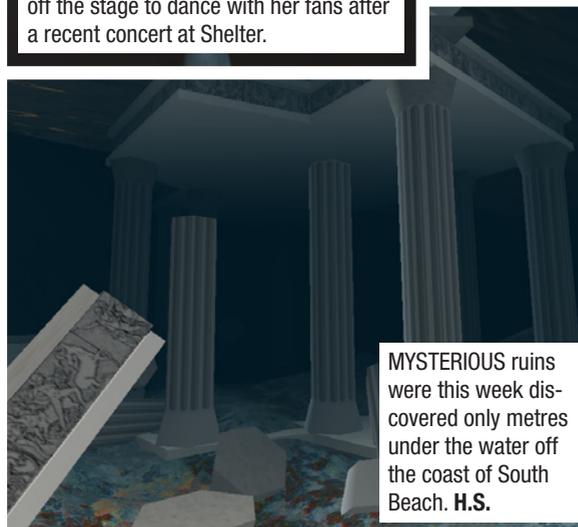


ELISHEBA ROSSINI captured PATROMINO PARAVANE giving a tour around his private collection at the new Museum of Avatar Art, which is spread across five locations at the eLumenata University.



SL singer and songwriter MEL CHEEKY was snapped by DYLAN MILES jumping off the stage to dance with her fans after a recent concert at Shelter.

KARATE and stilettos were the order of the day for SCUNCHBAG SPARK and INGO ATTENBOROUGH, who took this pic of them having fun with beach balls on Bishara beach.



MYSTERIOUS ruins were this week discovered only metres under the water off the coast of South Beach. H.S.



OLE ETZEL said he considered opening a Second Life restaurant – perhaps with a slow roast! It'll certainly be easier with the L\$500 he earned for getting his photo in The AvaStar!

MAKING SEARCH EASY

BY **BILBO WINKLER**

A NEW SL business which takes a fresh approach to locating services in-world is set to help residents frustrated with the official search feature.

Designed along the same lines as the RL Yellow Pages, the Directory2l.com website uses a different method to search for an individual or company. Users select a category, and the site provides instant results with company profile, URL, an image, the region name and the SLURL of the results.

Directory2l chief Evian Argus said that when develop-

ing a RL web directory, he became convinced that 3D applications would soon become mainstream in some industries.

He also insists that Directory2l is not in direct competition with the in-world search function or a number of similar ventures which have been launched recently.

"I believe there are some challenges to the search function found within the SL client, but the goal of Directory2l.com is to complement these and future search solutions and not necessarily compete with them. Directory2l.com is a directory for SL not a search engine."



DIRECTORY2L CHIEF: Evian Argus

ADVERT

Rendezvous couple animator

featured at Muse Isle (89, 175, 28)



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LAND GIVEAWAY A BIG SUCCESS

MARKETING SCHEME ATTRACTS THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS

By **BILBO WINKLER**

A UNIQUE marketing scheme has seen thousands of residents rush to snap up free land.

The idea behind the Sim 2.0 project is simple – free parcels of around 2,500 square metres each are given away in exchange for marketing different companies' products. One company at a time provides the free land, and those taking up the offer, currently funded by an Italian furniture company, are then obliged to integrate a product, at the moment a replica sofa, into their parcel.

The project, which launched on April 30 and has a new sponsor each month, had 16,000 visitors in one day last week. The key, according to project founder Tom Reuven, is user-generated content.

CHANCE

"On the internet you see lots of blogs, and other user-created content", he said. "It's the answer - SL is based on user interaction, it's not a static environment. It makes no sense to present static sims with business content."

Kruger Kubrick opened a gallery on his free land. He said: "I personally took the chance I got - I guess I don't have to tell about the free land being a factor!"



UNIQUE SCHEME: Tom Reuven



SIM SALE FALLS THROUGH

By **BILBO WINKLER**

THE US\$50,000 eBay sale of the popular Amsterdam sim has fallen through.

Sim owner Stroker Serpentine amazed the SL community when he sold it on the internet auction site in March to the Nedstede Group, but the deal has bro-

ken down over a misunderstanding about the way SL works. Nedstede wanted full rights over all content on the sim, but Serpentine disagreed, saying every trader, builder and scripter must retain their control over their own creations.



POPULAR: The Amsterdam sim

BIZ BITES:

WINDOW INTO SL FOR MICROSOFT

MICROSOFT has created a presence in Second Life, drafting in Millions of Us to help them create Visual Studio Island, which was opened this week.

HOTEL REOPENS

THE A-Loft hotel reopened its SL doors this week, with plans to soon give the revamped building over to the resident who submits the best idea on the A-Loft blog.

PLAYBOY IN SL

PLAYBOY, the world-renowned men's magazine, has revealed it will be arriving in-world in June.

DIS-ORIENTATION

LINDEN Lab has announced plans to outsource the provision of different orientation islands, adding to the list of companies who provide alternative orientation experiences.

SPRINT START

TELECOMMUNICATIONS company Sprint has entered SL with a recreation of the Sprint Center, an RL arena soon to open in Kansas City, USA.



A-STAR GOSSIP
JenzZa Misfit

A-STAR GOSSIP

LOVE IS IN THE VIRTUAL AIR

NEW ANIMATOR SET TO BRING A BIT OF ROMANCE TO THE GRID

By KOLLIN TENDAZE

ROMANCE is in the virtual air after an innovative PG-rated couple animator was launched last week.

Rendezvous's creator Valradica Vale said he was overwhelmed by the response to the animator.

Couples can use Rendezvous to walk hand in hand, dance or fly together - without bumping into each other for the first time ever!

EMBRACE: Rendezvous in action



ROMANCE: SL couples can now hold hands



LAUNCH: Rendezvous goes on sale

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY



MANY Happy Returns to Ten Book, owner of Club Arsheba, who celebrates her first birthday on May 16.

STARDOM BECKONS AFTER AUDITION WIN

By BABU WRITER

DUTCH SL resident 2E Leven won a day on the set of a new RL film after auditioning in-world for movie director Paul Verhoeven.



SUCCESS: 2E Leven

that she can spend a day at the filming of 'Captain Bob'.

The budding actress was ecstatic about winning. She said: "I can't believe it! I really practised for this role."

The result was announced on Dutch Liberation Day, May 5.



COMPELLING: The audition

SPOTTED!



AVASTAR columnist CALLIE CLINE at the Food sim launch - "I want to be an Oscar Mayer wiener!" Don't we all, Callie. Don't we all.

ACCENTURE LAUNCH IN SL

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

ANOTHER RL consultancy firm made its debut in SL last week.

The Accenture Shopping and Home Experience of the Future Event took place on May 4 at the Virtual

Italian Parks sim, with executives from the global technology firm on hand.



DEBUTE: Accenture

A-STAR GOSSIP

SPACEPORT LIFT-OFF!

Pics JOJAMELA SOON, TROY MCLUHAN

A WEEK OF SPACE ACTIVITIES MARKS MUSEUM'S EXTENSION LAUNCH

By BILBO WINKLER

SPACE fans have been rocketing into the new Spaceport Bravo sim this week as part of its launch celebrations.

the week included the unveiling of a replica of the Space Shuttle by Jimbo Perhaps and talks on space.

Spaceflight Museum, which also includes Spaceport Alpha.

The sim is an extension of the International

Singer Paisley Beebe entertained the crowds at the opening on May 5, while events held throughout



SPACE EXPLORATION: The Shuttle



3...2...1...: Space fans partying



SINGER: Paisley Beebe

STRONG VISION FOR SL ART



FOUNDER: snaper Strong

DISPLAY OPENS AT NOT-FOR-PROFIT GALLERY

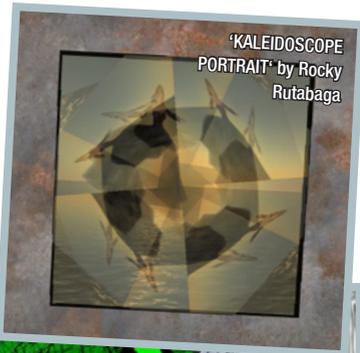
By BABU WRITER

STRONG Visions, a not-for-profit art gallery founded by snaper Strong and Rob-sub Tuck, opened its 'Pure' exhibit last weekend in Snafu.

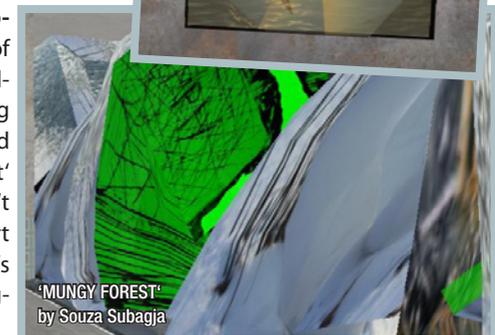
tures original works by 21 artists.

All the pieces were made using 'pure' materials - only SL tools, apart from imported textures which could only form a part of a new expression.

Souza Subagja, creator of a walk-in, colour-changing sculpture called 'Muggy Forest' said: "You can't get into your art in real life... it's a bit mind bog-gling."



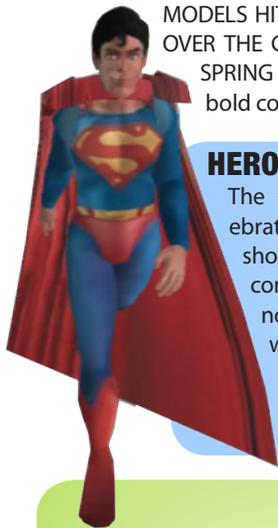
'KALEIDOSCOPE PORTRAIT' by Rocky Rutabaga



'MUGGY FOREST' by Souza Subagja

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

MODELS HIT THE RUNWAY LAST WEEKEND WITH FASHION SHOWS TAKING PLACE ALL OVER THE GRID. **HONEY BENDER** SEPARATED THE STYLISH FROM THE STRUGGLING. SPRING has taken hold of creative forces in-world, with designers going wild over bold colours and body-clinging silhouettes. Here's the highlights:



HEROES AND VILLAINS

The weekend kicked off with BooBooKittie Haight, who celebrated the opening of her RP sim Gotham City with a fashion show at Catwalk City called 'Heroes and Villains', dedicated to comic book characters. The superhero outfits on display were not all new, and normally I don't much care for designs which are rip offs of RL designs. But this was a tribute party, and it fitted the new sim to a T. The best outfit was the Catwoman suit.



MOULIN ROUGE

On Saturday, it was the turn of Dutch designer Esmeralda Camilo, the creative force behind E.C. Designs, to put on the glitz with a huge Parisian-style show. Her new collection, 'Moulin Rouge', is a sassy, sexy tribute to French burlesque with a contemporary feel. The line incorporates ornate detail and original textures.



CURIOUS KITTIES

Sunday was all about feline rock n' roll, with the AspiRE! mod-strutting their stuff the runway at AspiRE! Island, showing off designer Ameshin Yossarian's new line at the Curious Kitties show.

There were all kinds of skins, heavily primmed hair and outfits which were not for the faint-hearted - Yossarian's style is inspired by manga and Japanese pop culture.



callie cline's

STYLE HOTLINE

IT'S BEEN A HARD DAY'S NIGHT



MAKE THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CLOTHES BY WEARING THEM 24/7!

I LOVE clothes that can be modified. When I have a favourite dress or outfit, I sometimes want to change just a few things that will make it wearable for day OR night.



DAYTIME CALLIE: Breezy

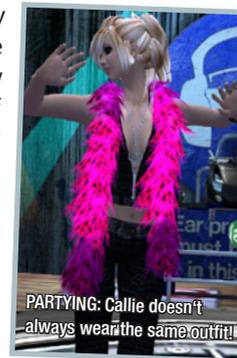
Here is an example of one dress, with two very different looks. Just by changing the dress a bit and adding some different accessories, you can turn a daytime spring dress into a classy

night time clubbing outfit.

HOT

The dress, from BLAZE, came in pink and white as shown in the first photo, and I added ballet flats, simple white jewellery, and fun big sunglasses - perfect for shopping with friends.

But for the night time, I didn't want to take off this cute dress, so I 'modded' the skirt, turning the dots black and then adding a black 'rainbow', some hot boots, my favourite belt, a few pieces of jewellery and some black knee-highs for a little fun and to play



PARTYING: Callie doesn't always wear the same outfit!

off the white still in the dress. And "ta da!" a whole new look for the night. I also added a bit more make-up (with my different skin) in order to make the look more dramatic. So this weekend, take out one of your favourite daytime outfits and see if you can 'change it up' into a great night time look as well!



NIGHTTIME CALLIE: Classy

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"The hair is Cupcake by Deviant Kitty. It's my signature do. Usually hair can be kinda Barbie, but this hair has a classic look with a twist. The texturing is lovely and the shape is different, so when I saw it I had to buy it."



I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"The shirt is PixelDoll and I got it at her mega sale. I went there that day and spent tons of money. It just seemed

to go perfectly with everything, proving that in SL things do not have to be expensive to be wonderful! It's a representation of affordable SL style."

RAVEN LAMENT

By ISABEL BROCCO

I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"I love these PanJen cross check pants; they are punky and feisty. I spent ages looking for some plaid pants, but it was my great friend Aria who found them for me."



WHAT'S HOT OR NOT Special!

ALOHA LINDENS!

Pics ISABEL BROCCO

FLOWER GARLANDS AND GRASS SKIRTS WERE DOMINATING THE DANCE FLOOR WHEN THE EXECUTIVE LINDENS THREW A HAWAIIAN PARTY FOR ALL THEIR SL VOLUNTEERS. THE AVASTAR FOUND OUT WHICH ONES MANAGED TO SHAKE IT UP AND LOOK TROPICAL, AND WHICH ONES CAME OUT LOOKING, ER, JUST PLAIN FRUITY!

By CARRIE SODWIND



George Linden laid back and looking hunky.

Amber Linden looked funky with this cute two colour hairstyle.



Good on you Matthew Linden for getting the gear - you just needed a bit of sun burn to complete the tourist look.

Jack Linden - we would have forgiven you if you had just come from a funeral.



Lexi Linden and Mia Linden enjoyed shaking their sticks and skirts to the music.



Blue Linden was so blue that she looked more like an exotic plant than a furry.

Who told Frontier Linden to dress as his favourite super-hero - the cat version of Batman?



FONTANA 2.0



SUMMER 2007

a new exhibition at the heldscalla foundation



Buttermere 50,166,35

STYLE BITES!

MOBILITY IS A BIG SUCCESS

VISITORS flocked to the xxXtenXion art gallery in Odyssey this week for a new exhibition.

The in-world version of the RL 'Mobility' project is proving a big hit. It is staged in a bizarre town square collage and features six cargo containers, the interiors of which have been customised by six artists.



BIZARRE: Mobility

LAND OF THE FORGOTTEN LIGHT

AN impressive new art installation called 'Land of the Forgotten Light' has launched at The Bluff Nature Preserve.

The innovative artwork features the music of ZeroOne Paz, and takes place until June 3 at the not-for-profit Bluff (Lapet 79, 228, 99), which provides a venue for artists, musicians, poets and writers to entertain residents in SL.



INNOVATIVE: 'Land of the Forgotten Light'

STAR CRIBS

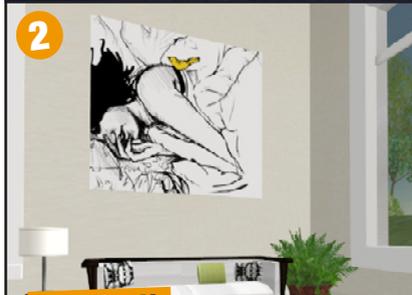
By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

SABRINA DOOLITTLE

1 POOL: WHY pay a fortune for a waterfront property if you never use the water? This smart build utilises the sim's water for the pool.



ABOUT SABRINA DOOLITTLE:
Born: 11/14/05
Activities: Interior designer at Chez Petite and blogger
Home base: Her own sim chez Doolittle
Rooms: Pool, living room, kitchen, photo studio, bedroom, TV room and bathroom – and lots of lounging areas. Sabrina surrounds herself with the best quality SL design.



2 LIVING ROOM: BOOK and design mags lie all around the house to give Sabrina the inspiration she needs.

3 UNDERNEATH THE ROOF: SABRINA sometimes forgets about her beautiful retro-styled bedroom upstairs, created in collaboration with Barnesworth Anubis.



4 CLUBHOUSE: SABRINA gets her groove on playing Russian roulette and poker with her friends in the clubhouse.

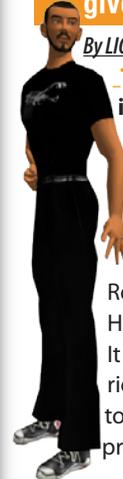
DESIGNERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Anthony Fontana Chevalier

SL Birth Date: 1/1/07

Famous for: Searching for others to give his art meaning

By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT



THE AVASTAR: What is your latest exhibition?

ANTHONYFONTANA CHEVALIER: I am showing pieces from my first graphic novel ReCon(Text) #2 at the Heldscalla Foundation. It is the second in a series of works that aims to recontextualise my previous works.

TA: Why do you exhibit your work in-world?

AC: I am looking for new interpretations of my narrative. The audience can play with the imagery and compose their own stories from the screenshots. There are over one hundred images on these prims, so the possibilities are endless. I have added some word balloons and text disconnected from the narrative of the book. The audience can come up with new ways of adding text or elements to the work.

TA: Why do you think people want to collaborate in this?

AC: This exhibit raises question about the role of artwork in the socially motivated production works of web 2.0. The work may stand alone, without collaboration but I believe that with collaboration we could create new and more compelling works

from these elements.

TA: What results do you expect?

AC: If I were to expect one particular product then I might as well make that myself. These elements may be the backdrop for someone's new avatar design. They may be posted on a billboard somewhere on the roof of their virtual house etc. I would hope people would document what they do and bring back whatever they did to add to the exhibition.



ANTHONYFONTANA CHEVALIER, left, and his work, above

BEACH IS A BALL



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN



L\$175

Tapioca Tastes
The beach blanket series number two, with parasol. By Tequila Tapioca Wisteria (114, 118, 22)



L\$450

Beach Towel
Six inbuilt animations, and ten different textures to choose from.

By Siggie Romulus
WaterWorks (180, 24, 25)



L\$500

Surfboard from Ashen's Surf Shop
By Ashen Stygian
WaterWorks (166, 57, 29)



L\$300

Multi Chair Campfire Vendor
By Timeless Prototype
Overdrive Island (65, 110, 36)

NEW SIMS

A SUPERMARKET, AN ADVENTURE PARK AND IBM'S LATEST OFFERING ARE THIS WEEK'S NEW SIMS.

BLUE OCEAN BAY



Blue Ocean Bay (Blue Ocean Bay, 128, 128) is a new island with a highly impressive array of adventure park activities. From speed-boating to bull-riding, this place has it covered, and it may soon become one of SL's biggest entertainment hubs.

Phil's Supermarket opened the doors to its first virtual store at Food Island with the help of the Kraft food company (Food, 142, 20, 23). In real life, the company is famous for giving away free food – perhaps not such a big draw in SL where food is unnecessary!

FOOD



IBM BENEFLUX ISLAND



BeNeLux Island (IBM BeNeLux Island 135, 103) was opened by IBM on May 10, adding to its already extensive SL presence. The firm says it hopes to continue to use its in-world HQ for 'work' as well as 'play' purposes.

ADVERT

CUBIK CIRCLE FURNITURE STORE



ROSSA (139, 63, 27)

MY TRAVEL TIPS

By MANTA MESSMER

ROBIN LOBO is the founder of NanoGunk's Wild Wear fashion house.



THE AVASTAR: Which sims have you explored recently?

ROBIN LOBO: The Australian sim The Pond - they have Ayers Rock, Outback Pub, Sydney Harbour Bridge and a race track - and the new Salzburg sim with its fun snow board run.

TA: Where do you hang out and relax?

RL: I spend most of my time in the NanoGunk sim, where I have my main store, up at 500m. When you TP down, there are four sims of tropically themed islands. I meet a lot of nice people from all over the world that happen upon NanoGunk, who hang out or have beach parties.

TA: Where do you party?

RL: If not at the beach then at the Echo Echo Club in van Eyck, where my group partner Farrouk is the DJ.

TA: What sims do you find the most creative?

RL: YadNi Monde's awesome

builds in Paris 1900, my friend Detect's Sector 13 - a post apocalyptic sim in Merricks Landing 2 - the castle Kasteel Verloren and the Lost Gardens of Apollo.

TA: What are your top tips for exploring SL?

RL: I look at peoples profile picks and then follow other people's picks when I get there, just bouncing all over the grid. I call this the profile bread crumb trail.

SCENIC: The Pond



FUN: Salzburg

TAKE YOUR PICK

Take a quick peek at the hot destinations in profile picks. This week: ARCHITECTS



CHECHE CHENGPANG

GALAXY
Galaxy (241, 82, 119)

THE space station of Star Fleet Command will be a home from home for SL Trekkies looking to boldly go where their USS Enterprise forefathers have gone before, with its ships, uniforms and RP opportunities.



KEOKI MARAMA

NANTUCKET YACHT CLUB & MARINA
Nantucket (122, 82, 22)

ALL grid-locked seafarers pining for the ocean waves should head down to this busy New England sailing hub, an ideal spot for either a race, a gentle cruise or, if it's choppy, a wander through the maritime shops.



ESMAYEELI DELPHIN

ROMA (SPQR)
ROMA (215, 25, 22)

IF you crave a time when architecture was grand and ornate, togas were in fashion and gladiatorial combat was the most popular form of entertainment, then a trip to this surviving bastion of the ancient Roman Empire is recommended.

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

DEAR RANDI



RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK WEEK 3

Kath breaks some bad news to Scott...

Oh no, I have to go - I'm meeting Angel soon.

Not her again! Can't you tell her to get lost?

It's not that simple!

I'd love to - but I don't think I could face it!

to be continued...

“LEAVE ME ALONE!”

FIRST SL GIRLFRIEND DOESN'T GET THE MESSAGE THAT I WANT OUT

Dear Randi: I WAS I simply don't like her. never made any kind of pretty naïve about I have never told her commitment, then look how SL works when I that, and she keeps for a girlfriend. It may first got here, and met IMing me and send- even be a good idea to a well-to-do woman ing me TPs every time lie to your rich friend. If who was constantly I come on. She doesn't you don't have a new showering me with seem to get the mes- romantic interest, you gifts. Of course we had sage. How can I let her could have a female sex a few times early know? — R.S. friend pretend to be on, but as I have gotten **Randi says:** I hope she be one or even pay an es- to know her better I doesn't become a seri- cort to play the role of have discovered that ous stalker. If you have your 'fiancée'.

IS MARRIAGE IN SL A GOOD IDEA?

Dear Randi: MY RL husband is a wonderful guy, but since our second child arrived he seems to have lost interest in sex. While I was home with the baby I joined SL, and met an amazing man from across the Atlantic who wants to marry me in-world but never meet in RL. My husband knows I'm in SL, but has never been interested in joining and knows little about it. Would it be wrong to marry another guy here? — I.H.

Randi says: You have to ask yourself that. Some RL married couples are married to other people in SL and are fine with it. Others would explicitly forbid such activities. You and your husband need to talk about boundaries before you decide to pursue any in-world relationship.

I FEEL USED BY MY FRIEND'S EX

Dear Randi: A WOMAN I've come to like very much recently left her SL husband - who happens to be my business partner - and then told me she wanted to "deepen our friendship." We had three nights of wonderful passion over one week-end, and then suddenly she was unavailable to me for over a week. Now she says she's back with her husband. I feel used. What should I do? — D.F.

Randi says: She may have been just using you to make him jealous, or she may have needed to get something out of her system. She's probably not interested in being your long-term girlfriend. It might be best for you to enjoy the memories of the fun you had, find someone else and move on.

THE GUIDE TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: CASTLES

TOWERING:
Storm Castle Blackmoor



By GAETANA FAUST

TOWERS AND TURRETS

STORM THE RAMPARTS AT THE BEST CASTLES ON THE GRID

THE sheer number of castles found in SL speaks volumes about their popularity around the RL world.

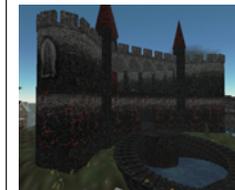
Some rise above the ordinary and are well worth a visit, so take a step back in time to enjoy their medieval splendour.

Kasteel Verloren (208, 130, 43) is just plain enormous, with a hedge maze and a moat all around a stone structure, where every room from the dining room to the ballroom is built on a gargantuan scale. Become Quasimodo and pull the rope to ring the bell high up in the tower. Storm Castle Blackmoor in Stillman (32, 206, 0) is a classic fairytale castle. Built by Juro Kothari, it is an impressive sight, with high turrets pier-

ing the clouds. A courtyard is the heart of Caledon Castle in Caledon Moors (192, 190, 0). Stop in to the visitor's centre to learn about castle history. Enter Castle Triskelion in Starax (38,143,35) by strolling past the suits of armour guarding the arched entryway. Wander around and explore the many romantic spots and towering views, but be sure to avoid the rats in the pit, down in the dungeon.

Deutsche Burgruine in Frisch (192, 160, 0) is a ruined German castle and a help centre for German-speaking residents. Create a medieval wardrobe by shopping at the castle and village called Avilion. You'll find the castle in Avilion Mist and the Grand Ballroom in Avilion Grove (97, 126, 41).

DARK AND MYSTERIOUS MEDIEVAL GOTHIC



Try the tarot card readings and a wicked Ouija board to communicate with spirits beyond your first and second lives.

Where: Winterfell (128, 99, 24)

TOUGH TURRETS TAR VALON



An extensive jail holds medieval lawbreakers.

Where: Molson (173, 175, 136)

DOMINANT VIEWS MONT SAINT MICHEL



An exceptionally beautiful build which rises high above the sea.

Where: Shivar (195, 160, 42)

5.11. - 5.17.

DON'T MISS! –



OPENING

VMOA MUSEUM

An atmospheric gallery devoted to the work of German artist Helnwein. The pictures, including world-famous celebrity portraits, hang in an eerie mansion.

When: May 17, 11:00

Where: VMOA (144, 21, 22)



ARCHITECTURE

'AGENT FOR CHANGE'

Professor Sergio Palleroni will present a talk on the challenge to redefine the role of architecture as an agent for change, hosted by Autodesk Inc.

When: May 15, 10:00

Where: Autodesk (118, 118, 23)



FASHION SHOW

GUNS AND POSES SHOW

The Blarney Girls and the Atlantis Modelling Agency present the sharp edge of the weapon trade.

When: May 12 and 13, 12:00

Where: Dublin (168, 12, 25)



OPENING

BLUE OCEAN BAY

Explore the new island sim, which is packed with adventure sports, shops and bars.

When: May 12, 10:00

Where: Blue Ocean Bay (128, 128)



FESTIVAL

DV8-LIVE

A live simulcast cyber festival promoting awareness of global warming.

When: May 12, 20:00

Where: FuturePerfect (124, 33,31)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

HORATIO BARTZ

The RL Australian artist will be speaking about his philosophy and approach to art at the new Cetus Gallery District Community Center. His 'Strewth!' exhibition opens afterwards at the Undertone Gallery.

When: May 12, 16:00-18:30

Where: Cetus (214, 9, 39)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK



OPENING

INWORLD CINEMAS

InWorld Cinemas opens with the SL premiere of 'Loverboy'. As a special promotion, free tickets will be available over the opening weekend.

When: May 11, 12:00

Where: Bermuda (151, 14, 32)



DISCUSSION

SPACE COMMUNITY SALON

NASA CoLab are staging an informal discussion on the topic of designing a MMORPG for the science and technology community.

When: May 16, 13:00

Where: NASA Collab (188,26,56)



OPENING

DETROIT LIFE

'The Motorcity Inside the Metaverse' will hold an opening party with music by RL Detroit producers Mike E Clark and Kevin Saunderson.

When: May 15, 16:00

Where: Detroit Life (128, 128)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

WALK THE WORLD

The Walk the World Event is part of the UN World Food Programme's 'Fight Hunger' efforts. Head down to see the route set out, watch live video-streaming from around the world and join various other activities.

When: May 13 all day

Where: Dragon Moon (128, 200, 26)



LIVE MUSIC

AVATAR ORCHESTRA

SL's very own orchestra will be performing their 'Found Sounds' concert on their custom-made HUD's this Saturday - check this out for an original performance.

When: May 12, 07:00

Where: Odyssey (17, 238, 23)

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!

TOP TIPS FOR REDUCING LAG ON YOUR SIM

IF you are or have access to a sim manager or owner, you can reduce lag problems.

First, anyone can check a sim's performance stats by pressing Control Shift 1, including Packet Loss, Time Dilation and Sim FPS. Objects and scripts alone do not indicate lag. Some objects run at very low lag while a single object can be a source of very high lag.

A sim manager can reduce lag by clicking on World at the top of their screen, followed by Select Region/Estate.

On the window that comes up, select the Debug tab. Click on

either Get Top Scripts or Get Top Colliders (both will show the highest lag-producing items). Click on the Time column twice. This will order the top problem makers from worst to least.

PHANTOM

Simply removing the highest numbered items can make a real difference, and it is the same with Colliders, items which produce lag by bumping into other things.

Another way to reduce lag is to make as many things as possible Phantom, so avatars can walk through them. Phantom items with no scripts create

very little lag.

Having a lot of people in a sim at once can also cause lag, so ask them to remove any HUDs or scripted objects they may be wearing.

Pose balls with a few animations are only high lag items when they are in use.



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\$.



SINGING IN THE VIRTUAL RAIN

My First Day in Second Life

SAVANNAH GLIMMER is the founder of buddy-gift.com.

How was your first day in SL?

I was given a link to the Hawaii region, and made some new friends, with whom I am still friends today. I often give new SL'ers the same link.

What was your most embarrassing moment as a newbie?

I went ballroom dancing at the Titanic Ballroom and didn't know that I was walking around with only a skirt on until I realised that my friends were all laughing about it.

What was your funniest moment as a newbie?

The time I held a building party on my island and we created something we called the big red blob. A friend piloted a test flight on it and was sent spinning out of control at 4,000m. I launched a rescue mission in an aeroplane I found in my inventory. My flight skills were not so good and so we crashed into the sea.



FLY: Savannah Glimmer

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

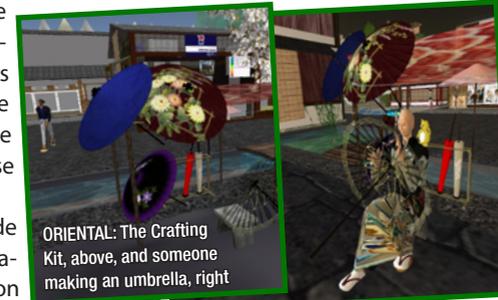
INSTEAD of heading to the store this week for a new gadget, build a stylish free object by yourself.

Go the Japanese Nagaya sim (Juhu 124, 163, 63) and look for a little shack called the Crafting Kit by Rumi Simpson, which is decorated with beautiful Oriental umbrellas. When you sit down on the small stool just in front of the shack, a menu will ask you to choose between six different types of umbrella. You'll have to take the plunge here - there are four options in Japanese as well as red and blue umbrellas. Each one has elegant Japanese textures.

When you have made your choice, your avatar will start working on

creating the umbrella, and a hover text will inform you how much longer it will take to complete. It takes a while to finish - just like quality goods in RL.

When it's finished, the umbrella goes straight into your inventory. Wear it, click on it to open, and enjoy exploring the Japanese city wearing your lovely free gadget. To complete the look, head to the nearby Rumi shop where you can get free Oriental suits for men and women.



ORIENTAL: The Crafting Kit, above, and someone making an umbrella, right

DO



DOS AND DON'TS: HOUSES

By GAETANA FAUST

DON'T

- + Consider what you'll want to do in your house once it's built.
- + Decide on a style. Building a castle on a tropical island may not be the home atmosphere you seek.
- + Think about building it yourself, so you can customise your home.
- + Check out the available prefabs. There are some great houses available at very reasonable prices.
- + Build a very tall fence to obscure the eyesore next door.
- Build a house that's too big or too small for your land.
- Forget to check if there are specific rules about what you can build on your land.
- Buy a house without considering the prim limit on the land.
- Install a kitchen and bath unless they are important to you.
- Just create the same type of house you'd build in RL. This is SL - let your imagination run wild!



new sim opening soon!



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

now in PLUSH LAMBDA



THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

KIM SEIFERT

KIM SEIFERT IS A SINGER WHO IS STARTING TO TAKE VENUES IN SL BY STORM

By BILBO WINKLER

PROFILE

NAME:
Kim Seifert
BIRTH DATE:
10/31/2005
PROFESSION:
Singer
ATTITUDE:
Fun!

THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?

KIM SEIFERT: My heart. Everything else in SL is changeable. Without it, even my voice would be dull.

TA: What is your favourite place in SL?

KS: The Riverwalk on the mainland. It is owned by two dear friends of mine and I have spent many

hours looking at artwork, riding the swan boats or banging on the drums on the cliffs.

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

KS: I am a singer in SL so spend much time singing or listening to other live musicians. I perform at many different clubs and for various charitable events. I also love to build and spend time with my friends.

TA: What would you change in SL?

KS: Being a musician,

I would change the way the grid is laid out to allow for more avatars to be present in one place at one time.

TA: Which personal achievements are you most proud of?

KS: I am proud to be able to perform live music here in SL. That is my passion. To touch the lives of people all over the world with my music is an amazing feeling and it has been helpful in helping to raise money for Relay for

Life, something that is very dear to me as my mother, Ladykay Gable, is a survivor.

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

KS: There are many. They have all been made by friends and given to me as gifts. Nothing is more precious than something someone has worked hard to make and put their heart into, and then given to me. It's like having a piece of my friends with me always.

