



THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

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SL RADIO SAVED!

...BUT FOR HOW LONG?

LAST MINUTE DEAL SEES ROYALTY FEES REPRIEVE



BY CARRIE SODWIND

RADIO stations in SL which were facing extinction over new royalty payments have been given a last minute stay of execution.

FULL STORY - PAGE 4



INSIDE OPINION

"With all these uni-versities now present in SL, I'm sure it won't be long until there are entire degree courses which can be taken in-world - maybe even exclusively about our world."

YOUR MAIL
p.9

"Having prepared all week to face their doom, anyone connected with a radio station in Second Life must have been dancing in the virtual streets when they heard news of the temporary reprieve coming from the US."



REGIS BRAATHENS
p.10

WRITE FOR THE AVASTAR

HAVE a story? Want to work for The AvaStar and earn big L\$? Send an email to newsdesk@the-avastar.com.



NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

2.5 ... the percentage decrease in active users in SL from May to June, according to figures from Linden Lab.

5 ... the number of 'worst websites on the internet' as named by time.com, a list which includes secondlife.com.

13,000 ... the amount in US\$ which Rexor Alviso reportedly sold his Italian fantasy sim Legenda for this week.

"KEEP FUR ON THE FURRIES!"



A CLEAR message from protester Rebecca Rosetta at the anti-RL fur trade demonstration at the PETA island this week. See page 19 for more details.

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SLCC ROW STALEMATE



By CARRIE SODWIND

NO PROGRESS BETWEEN PERFORMERS AND ORGANISERS

EMPTY: Is this the fate of stages at SLCC?

A STAND-OFF between the organisers of a major SL conference and the performers booked to appear at the event shows no sign of being resolved.

A late demand for musicians to sign a contract before they were allowed to play at the SL Community Conference (SLCC) sparked outrage among performers last week, and the controversy looks set to continue despite the offer of new terms. Slim Warrior and Doubledown Tandino were the first to refuse to play live in front an

audience of 800 at the SLCC in Chicago from August 24-26. **INAPPROPRIATE** Warrior, a musician from the UK, was furious that she was only told she had to sign the contract releasing all ownership rights of her performances to Phreak Radio after she paid for her plane ticket to America. Tandino echoed her argument, and said the contract itself was unsuitable: "They laid out an inappropriate contract long after terms and plans were set. They are

now making changes but it is too late." Komuso Tokugawa, a respected RL and SL musician, said: "As an active SL live musician, I have the right to comment on this issue as it reflects poorly on portions of the SL live music community as a whole."

The contract, drawn up by SL

law firm The Future Unlimited for Phreak, in charge of audio streaming at the SLCC, has now been rewritten. Nethermind Bliss a SLCC co-ordinator, said: "Those playing at the SLCC have the opportunity to stream to 20,000 people online, I am excited to see how this can benefit each musician's career as well how it can promote the SL music scene as a whole."



STAND-OFF: Slim Warrior

NEWS BITES!

SL UP THE DUFF

RUMOURS that a pregnant child avatar is roaming around the grid have caused controversy in-world this week, according to an SL mentor.

NO.1? OF CORSA!

THE furry paradise of Luswood was voted the best place to visit in SL by residents. The poll featured as part of a guide created by British car manufacturer Vauxhall to promote its new Corsa range.

VEGA RETURNS

SINGER Suzanne Vega will return to SL to celebrate the release of her new album. The RL star will appear on Friday July 13 at 16:00 SLT, with a venue yet to be named.

DICK DASTARDLY

A BOX called 'Sexy Dick' which wipes L\$ from the accounts of curious residents when opened has caused havoc across the grid this week.

WATER PARTY

SOMETHING fishy will be going on with the Lindens when they hold their concierge party on July 21, with an underwater theme. To attend, you must apply for an invite.



THE DAY THE MUSIC SURVIVED

LATE DEAL SEALS TEMPORARY SURVIVAL FOR SL RADIO STATIONS

By CARRIE SODWIND REPRIEVE: DJ Doubledown Tandino spins the discs

RADIO stations in SL which were facing extinction over new royalty payments have been given a last minute stay of execution.

Many in-world stations were set to close with the crippling hikes due to come into force on Monday, with some DJs telling The AvaStar they would refuse to pay. But an agreement at the eleventh hour between webcasters and SoundExchange, the RL body which collects US royalty payments, means no money will be collected, so a new deal can be discussed. Although the threat of closure is still hanging over heads of SL station bosses, well-known DJ

Doubledown Tandino is confident the agreement could help the industry in SL survive: "This is a big win for webcasters and their listeners. This is a reprieve, and internet radio can't be considered saved until new rates are set that everyone can live with."

WIPED OUT

Earlier this week, Tandino told The AvaStar he would refuse to pay the new rates: "It is the profit organisations that are behind this outrageous royalty hike, because in the end they are the ones that will benefit when the small local stations are wiped out."

UNDERGROUND

Torley Linden has joined forces with Tandino to promote MISC-378, a proposed technical update which will enable URL radio links in SL to have smaller and more controlled audiences. Some stations, though, have said they would pay. Phreak radio's Taco Rubio said: "We can't afford to 'go underground'."



SUPPORT: Torley Linden

NASA'S BLAST-OFF PUSHES SL SCIENCE



FINAL COUNTDOWN: The Dawn spacecraft

By MORRHYS GRAYSMARK

LIVE SPACEFLIGHT BROADCAST SHOWS SL IS BECOMING MORE POPULAR FOR SCIENTISTS

LIVE pictures of a RL rocket blasting skywards into space will be broadcast in SL in the latest sign that science is serious about the virtual world. Residents will be able to see the event at Explorer Island thanks to American space agency NASA, whose Dawn spacecraft launches in September on its mission to the Vesta asteroid and the dwarf planet Ceres. SL is seen as a key part of widening the understanding of space exploration, according to Jet Burns, virtual world expert at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory: "We will get a chance to learn and allow the general world community to participate in a way never before done." While the cutting edge-style of space travel seems perfectly

matched to SL, many other branches of science are already making use of the platform. PHENOMENA The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration launched a tsunami earlier this year at its Meteora sim to show how they form and to educate people on the danger signs. The NOAA's Asta Noel said: "SL is an ideal place for simulations of physical phenomena. You can build to whatever scale is

most favourable." Hayduke Ebisu, one of the RL Time Magazine's 'Heroes for the Planet' and founder of the Science Center on Info Island II, agrees: "The ability to create immersive environments where people can interact with scientific concepts directly is so far quite unique to SL. "You can swim through a cell, while visitors [to the Science Center] can climb and explore complex molecular structures."



WATERY: The tsunami simulation

With thousands of scientists already active in SL, many more are set to take advantage of its low-cost environment to deepen the knowledge of mankind as well as avatarkind.



8th - 9th september 2007

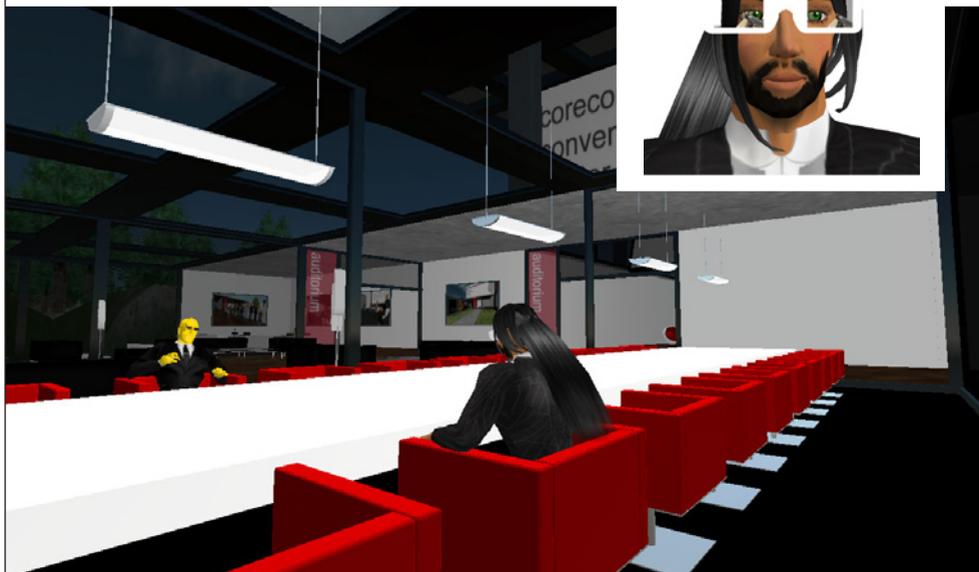
share and discuss ideas about the 3D web

"The web3Dcamp is a free of charge and open un-conference for every resident, who wants to talk about the 3D web. You are invited to do presentations, participate in discussions or to just listen what other residents are thinking."

Sebastian Otaared, Initiator web3Dcamp

Join now:

<http://web3Dcamp.org>



À VOTRE SANTÉ!

By COYNE NAGY

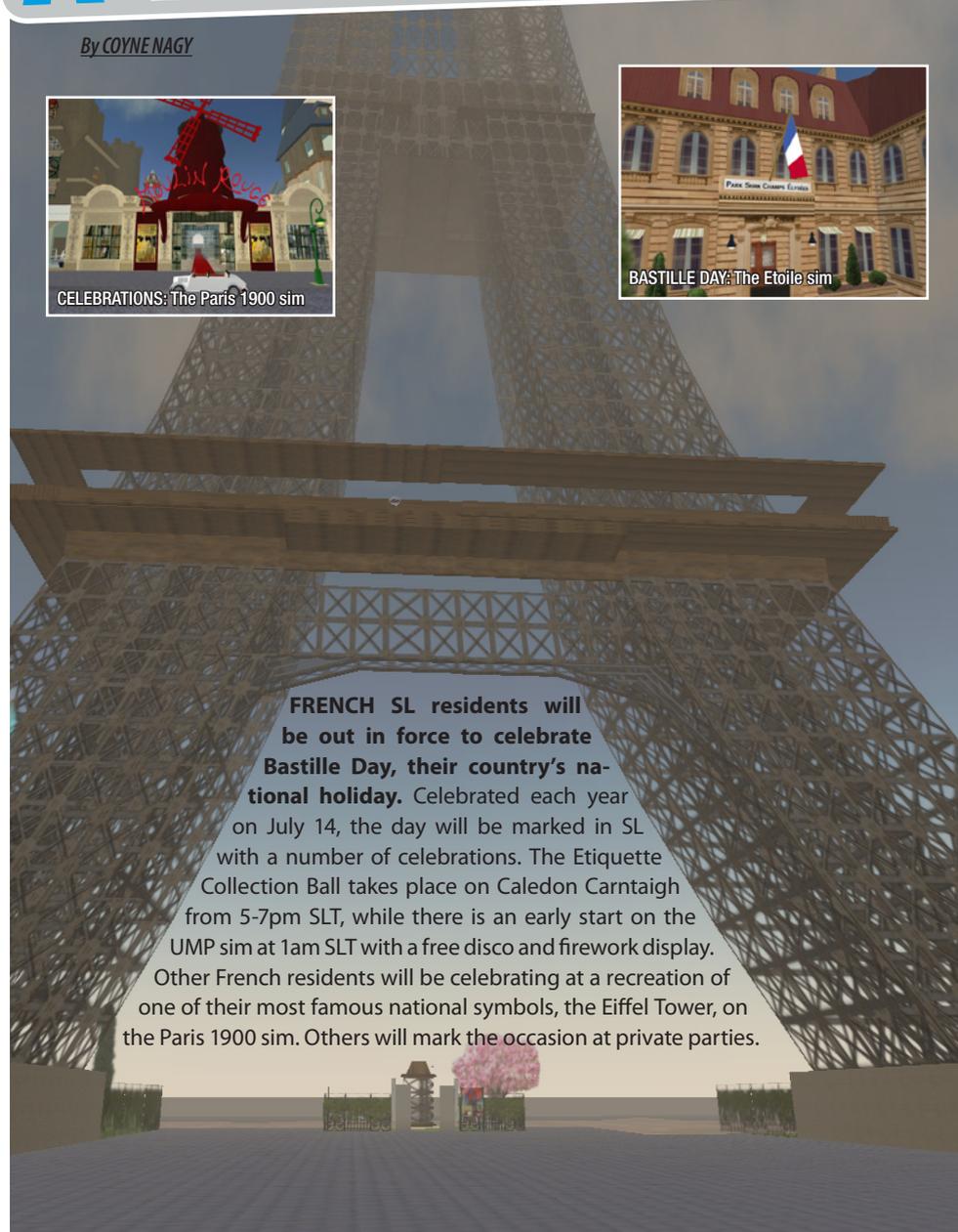


CELEBRATIONS: The Paris 1900 sim



BASTILLE DAY: The Etoile sim

FRENCH SL residents will be out in force to celebrate Bastille Day, their country's national holiday. Celebrated each year on July 14, the day will be marked in SL with a number of celebrations. The Etiquette Collection Ball takes place on Caledon Carntaigh from 5-7pm SLT, while there is an early start on the UMP sim at 1am SLT with a free disco and firework display. Other French residents will be celebrating at a recreation of one of their most famous national symbols, the Eiffel Tower, on the Paris 1900 sim. Others will mark the occasion at private parties.



ONE SMALL STEP FOR PHIL...

THE final frontier was no problem for Big Phil Linden, who donned his spacesuit this week in recognition of the fact that NASA will broadcast their next space launch live into SL in September.



DRESS PHIL UP!
SEND US YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO REGIS@THE-AVASTAR.COM



OUT OF POCKET: Tina Capra

RESIDENTS SLAM LINDEX

MANY LEFT OUT OF POCKET AS CURRENCY EXCHANGE IS HIT BY PROBLEMS

By MANTA MESSMER

MAJOR problems with the LindeX currency exchange have left many residents angry and out of pocket.

Tina Capra tried several times to exchange her US\$ for L\$ using LindeX, SL's official exchange facility, but each time she was confronted with a

transaction error message. When she checked her account afterwards she was shocked to find that her L\$ and US\$ balances were at zero, leaving her missing almost US\$90. Many residents have suffered similar problems with LindeX over the last month. As a premium member Kesseret Steeplechase was able to contact Linden Lab's support team, who stated they had received no payment from his PayPal account,

but PayPal said the transaction was complete. Kllcona Koba was also hit by the problems. She said: "I found it extremely frustrating that as a basic member I cannot contact them directly regarding financial issues, even though they are willing to take my money." LL has now acknowledged the problem and says it is starting to rectify the issues of its victims but the length of time taken has angered many residents.

your mail @ YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

KEEP MORONS OUT OF SL

Hey Regis,
I APPRECIATE that I will no doubt sound like a spoilsport killjoy but too many new people are coming into SL for its own good, and we simply must do something to control the number of newbies admitted.

I know there may be plenty of actual space in SL, but the problem is the amount of idiots among those newbies pouring in. Every country in

the real world has the right to determine its own policy on who is allowed in and there is no reason SL should feel obliged to keep its borders open, as it were. We are now past eight million residents and while only a fraction of them are online together the number of idiots who are sim-

ply here to goof around and make everyone else's second lives a lot worse is increasing all the time. Long term residents could become disillusioned and leave and the more talented and dedicated newbies will also be disappointed in what they see. This comes both from the ever increasing lag in SL and the simple

L\$500 E-MAILS

WRITE TO:
YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

fact that people just don't like to mix with morons.
By J.S.

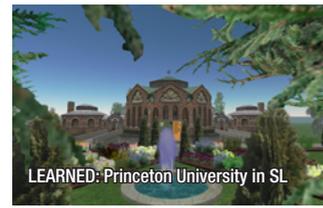
LEARNING THE SL ROPES

Hey Regis,
I WAS really interested to hear about how many universities have already discovered SL (see last week's issue).

I never actually went to college in RL, but I always thought it looked like great fun, so maybe I will try to give it a go in SL! With all these universities from around the globe now present in SL, I'm sure it won't be long until there are

entire degree courses which can be taken in-world - maybe even exclusively about our world. The thing is, unlike pretty much all of the big companies who have come here, universities will not be driven by profits and

how much publicity they are getting. I think they will just want to make sure that their students get the most of their studying, and if SL gives them the opportunity to do that, then fantastic. I really believe colleges in Second Life will be



LEARNED: Princeton University in SL

a massive success, and maybe I should go out and do a course for myself!
By Bahar Etzel

COPYING IN SL IS SIMPLY WRONG

Dear Regis,
RE: 'SL faces copy-fight' in last week's issue:

If you, in RL, lift a logo or work done by someone else to help sell your own products and raise your own profits, what you are doing is most certainly morally and legally wrong.

Why then would anyone think it is acceptable to profit from the work or brands of others simply because items are being sold in SL and not some dodgy market place? The fact that the profits in this

world are small is entirely irrelevant; if a market seller flogging fake DVDs is only making a few dollars a week from his crime that wouldn't protect him from prosecution. If you're a designer you should rely on your talent to produce what people want, and SL gives you the perfect opportunity to do exactly that. That's the reason why some are here in the first place. Stealing work for your own gain is as morally repugnant in SL as it is in RL.
By F.E.



REGIS BRAATHENS

LIND-O-METER

THERE must have been a few down at the Lab who were nursing extended hangovers after the 4th of July celebrations, as it's been all quiet on the virtual front this week. Here's what you had to say:

YOUR VERDICT:

"It's great to see that Torley is sticking up for us over the streaming issue. It's rare to see a Linden getting involved on our side. To be honest, they should do it more often." J.M.

OUR RATING:

Lab-solutely awful!

Phil-ing blue!

Lagging behind!

IMproving

Sim-ply the best!



DON'T LET THE FAT CATS GET THEIR PAWS ON SL RADIO!

REPRIEVE FOR SL RADIO STATIONS LIKELY TO BE ONLY TEMPORARY

HAVING prepared all week to face their doom, anyone connected with a radio station in SL must have been dancing in the virtual streets when they heard news of the temporary reprieve.

But this will probably only be short-term, and these ridiculous price changes are likely to go through anyway, in some form. This would be a killer blow for many sta-

tions. The plan devised by Doubledown and Torley to keep streams private thereby reducing the amount of people listening to each one, is a shame for the average punter. But if it keeps the music industry fat cats from getting their paws on SL's radio scene, then I'm all for it. At the end of the day, it's not thousands of listeners but more like a hundred listening to a private stream.

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

EBAY WATCH

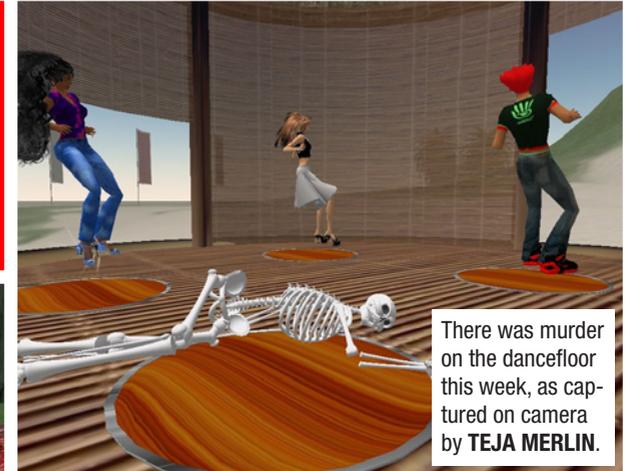
It's been three weeks since the AvaStar revealed the plight of many residents whose accounts have been suspended without warning after buying L\$ on eBay. STILL no statement from the Lab has been given to confirm that it's illegal. Watch this space.

MONDAY mornings at the AvaStar are always a pleasure. Not only because it's another week of uncovering the juiciest stories for SL's favourite tabloid - but because I'm usually surrounded by a crowd of beautiful journalists with the best banter from around the world!



BEAUTIFUL AND BRAINY: (From left) Honey Bender, Dylan Miles, Tina (Petgirl) Bergman, Isabel Brocco, Babu Writer, Randi Baracuda, JenzZa Misfit and, err, the not so beautiful Regis Braathens

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



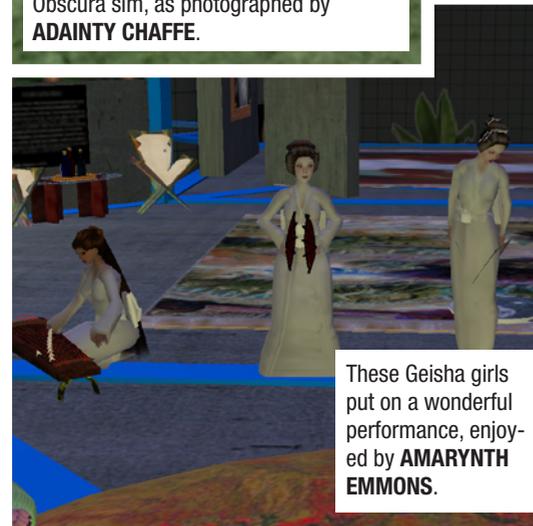
There was murder on the dancefloor this week, as captured on camera by **TEJA MERLIN**.



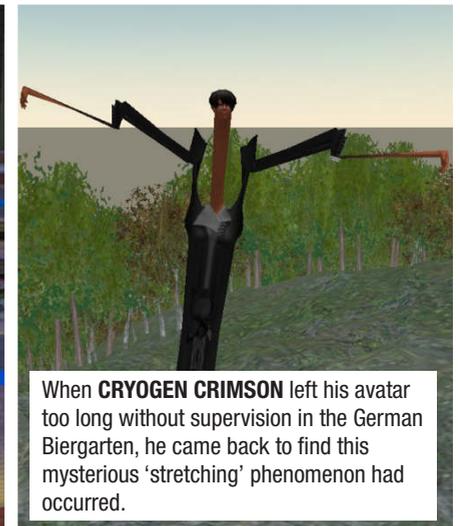
Beauty and the beast made an appearance at the Magic Party at the Camera Obscura sim, as photographed by **ADAINTY CHAFFE**.



Dogs truly are an avatar's best friend, as **DYLAN MILES** discovered when she visited Dog Park at Touring Isle. You can adopt your favourite mutts, or just play with them, and all are well trained and listen to commands.



These Geisha girls put on a wonderful performance, enjoyed by **AMARYNTH EMMONS**.



When **CRYOGEN CRIMSON** left his avatar too long without supervision in the German Biergarten, he came back to find this mysterious 'stretching' phenomenon had occurred.

NOW!



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OR IM COYNE NAGY



THE GROWING TREND OF SIMS BEING NAMED AFTER RL COUNTRIES

SIMS named after RL countries are being snapped up by residents with a keen eye for their business potential.

Recent months have seen a surge in the number of RL country sims bought by in-world entrepreneurs who believe the names will drive business to their commercial sites. MarcoJC Hotaling and his partner Heneliza Allen have already bought up many countries in the last few months including Germany, Brazil, USA and New Zealand, and plan to use the sites for rental properties. With each sim costing US\$1,695, Hotaling is not only investing a large amount of money in the project but great faith in the success of SL business too.

Seano Osumi bought the Canada sim in February to create a public surfing area and chose the name to drive visitors to his site. He said: "The name drives traffic. I see about 50 new visitors a day on average, and it continues

to grow. Sim names as such work like search engine marketing."

DOUBLE STANDARDS

With England and Japan also being bought by private business in recent months, the dramatic increase in RL country sim market activity has led people to speculate whether Linden Lab recently changed their laws regarding purchase of RL places, something Ethan Linden denied: "We have never had a problem with country names, only city names of real places were not OK." He also suggested that the recent activity was down to the fact nobody had thought of it before.

The owner of the Austria Island sim, however, refutes this – and says he is furious at the Lab for double standards. Dylan Watts tried to call his new sim 'Austria' six months ago, but was told by Ethan Linden that resident ownership of RL places was banned. That name was later given, however, to a sim owned by Hotaling and Allen.



BIZ BITES: SL BRACED FOR UK GAMING LAW

GAMBLING businesses in SL could be affected when the UK's 2005 Gambling Act comes into force in September. The bill will update old laws on gambling in the country.

VIRTUAL TREES

AN in-world charity campaign to help protect RL rainforests has been given a boost by credit card giant American Express. The company has named Second Chance Trees as one of 50 socially responsible ideas, with a total of US\$5million worth of funding up for grabs.

PHILIP TO SPEAK

PHILIP Linden will share his visions for the future of Linden Lab at the Emerging Technologies Conference in September. He will appear alongside speakers such as Tariq Krim of Netvibes at the event in Boston.

TEEN GRID FILMS

MACHINIMA guru Moo Money will aid the Global Kids charity with a month-long film-making project in the Teen Grid, kicking off on July 23.



A-STAR GOSSIP
JenzZa Misfit

A-STAR GOSSIP

STARFRUIT ROCKS SL

By LEIDER STEPANOV



ROCKIN': The Starfruit party

PARTY LAUNCHES STARFRUIT
A 24-HOUR party rocked SL to launch the Starfruit sim.

The event was held in four RL continents, and marked the official opening of the Swiss company's presence in-world, where residents can order flowers direct to their RL door. Organisers said the launch was a massive success.

SPOTTED!

SUPER CALLIE!

AVASTAR columnist Callie Cline was crowned MAXIM Girl of the Day this week. The beautiful fashion designer shot to RL fame when named in their Hot 100 recently.



callie cline

PHOTO COURTESY OF CALLIE CLINE | COPYRIGHT 2007 DENNIS PUBLISHING, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

TOUR DE SL TRIAL

By R.B.

SUCCESSFUL START

OVER fifty people took part in the bike races at Confidis to win a signed shirt from the French Tour de France team. The event is leading up to a Second Life Tour de France.



ORGANISER: Lauren Savon



ON THE GRID: Cyclists get ready to race

A-STAR GOSSIP

EARTH DAY IN SECOND LIFE

RL CAMPAIGN USES SL TO RAISE AWARENESS OF GLOBAL WARMING

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

GLOBAL warming was on the agenda as Live Earth Day hit SL last week as part of a massive awareness campaign.

The in-world event, called 'Hot Music, Cool Water', took place at Better World Island, home to the Center for Water Studies (CWS) on July 7 alongside RL concerts across the world.

In SL, there were lectures about climate

change hosted by PlanetThought Raymaker, Riversong Garden and CWS chief Delia Lake, as well as live concerts

by performers including Draxtor Despres, AldoManutio Abruzzo, and Komuso Tokugawa. Jamba Los Angeles, meanwhile, performed at Bibi's Beach Cafe.



EARTH DAY: The main festivities, above, and Jamba Los Angeles, left

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SARI SUMMER

By ISABEL BROCCO

AMAZING TRADITIONAL INDIAN SARIS ARE THE PERFECT SUMMER LOOK! DECORATE the exotic white sandy beaches by wrapping yourself in a colourful traditional sari. The elegant Indian fabrics look wonderful with bangles, sandals and, if you want to go all the way, henna tattoos.

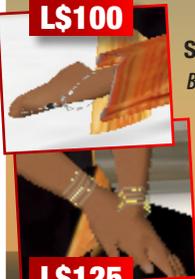
Churiya bangles
By Mashooka,
Capricious (57, 33, 401)

L\$125



Sandals
Biondello (16, 79, 21)

L\$100



Churiya bangles
By Mashooka,
Capricious (57, 33, 401)

L\$125

Spring Green Sari
Son (175, 132, 34)

L\$400

Saree in black and gold
By Mashooka,
Capricious (57, 33, 401)

L\$275

Deewangee Lehenga,
By Mashooka,
Capricious (57, 33, 401)

L\$675



L\$50

Gold and emerald bracelets
Odessa Charming (223, 99, 25)
Mehendi Chandni hand art
Capricious (26, 68, 401)

L\$80



Callie cLine's STYLE HOTLINE



BRILLIANT BOLD BRAIDS!

TRY THIS GREAT HAIR STYLE - AND SEE HOW IT TRANSFORMS YOU

I HAVE fallen in love with braids ever since my first day in SL, and I wear them all the time.

with the outcome.

FAVOURITE

Each time I put them on, I'm really astounded how they can totally change the entire look of any outfit, from serious or style to plain old fun. They even work with eccentric, wild and in some instances, very 'high fashion' - personally, I don't think there's another hair style which can change a look like braids can. I try to wear them as often as I can, and it's amazing how, no matter what I have on, if I feel it's boring and add my braids, I am always thrilled

Some of my favourite braids are the 'Alabama' by Gurl Six, as I'm wearing here, 'Annie' from Celestial Studios and the über long ones from 'Cake'. Of course, there are many more out there, but these happen to be the ones I go back to. You can see the effect - notice how this outfit goes from 'retro sweet' to 'flirty cute' thanks to the braids? So this week try my favourite hairstyle of all time - braids!



OUTFIT: Callie with and without braids

WHAT'S HOT! THRILL FOR FRILL

By CARRIE SODWIND

AT Mischief Parvenu's 'Get Your Freak On' fashion show on July 8, she was out to demonstrate that she has conquered frill trimmings. Her playful and flirtatious ladies dresses take the flexibility white lacey trimmings to a new level. Adorning the ends of sleeves and the tops of stockings, Mischief Parvenu's style shows what fun can be had with frilly details inspired by period costume.



THRILLING: Mischief Parvenu's style

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK ESMERALDA CAMILO OF E.C. DESIGNS

By HONEY BENDER

My favourite pet...

"I bought a snake two days ago and loved it right away. He's my pet now, I love it and have been wearing it since I got it at Zooby's. Carrie Tats is the maker. I can talk through him, and I bought it in green as well as silver."



I always wear...

"These thigh-high boots by Crucial Armitage. I bought them at Crucial Creations. The spurs attracted me. A lot. They go perfectly with my clothes, especially short skirts."



I love my...

"DJ booth. Demonika Dulce designed this. It has animated textures on it and it's rather funky. It's perfect for my runway shows and gives the right atmosphere and ambience which turn fashion shows into parties."



BALLET THRILLS SL ART PATRONS

By JENZZA MISFIT

A CAREFULLY choreographed and beautifully presented ballet thrilled SL arts patrons last week.

'Olmannen' is an original composition written for the Second Life Ballet company, and tells the tale of a couple in love, how evil in many forms can divide, and how true love can overcome any barriers.

CHARITY

The three-act ballet was a live performance hosted at the IBM 10 island, with dancers timing original gestures without using loops or poseballs. Despite a 45 minute delay in starting and an impromptu appearance by a griever, the ballet was well received by those in attendance.

The event was a charity performance, raising money for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life campaign.

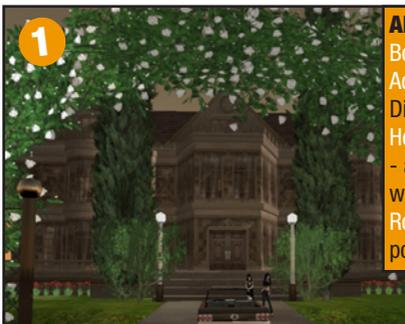


DANCERS: Teadra Greggan and Lina Lagoes

STAR CRIBS

By HONEY BENDER

MY GOTHIC PAD



1

ABOUT LILLANI LOWELL:

Born: 4/5/2006
 Activities: Designer, owner of the Dictatorshop and SL celeb
 Home base: Matriarch Island - a FemDom residential community, where she lives with Emmalyn Wei
 Rooms: Dark and gothic with a poetic feel

THE MANSION:

The impressive mansion, a Damanios Thetan build, has a natural cottage garden with ponds and wildflowers which add a fairytale ambience.



2

FAVOURITE SCENIC SPOT:

Most of the couple's free time is spent snuggling in the garden hammock surrounded by flowers and trees.



3

TEDDY:

The 'Batty About You' bear is how Emma won Lillani over. She sent it to Lillani while she was in Big Brother.



4

ENTRANCE:

The entrance with grand stairs leading upstairs, including Lillani's domina throne as a cheeky centrepiece.

FUNKY FURNITURE



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

RS Berlin Chair
 Mod/tint it to any colour
 By Aegis Prior
 Carmine (175, 138, 137)
L\$125

Retroopia lamp MMPH-5
 Click lightbeam to adjust strength.
 By Maximilian Milosz
 artilleri (136, 182, 24)
L\$115

Tangerine Pole Lamp/Table
 By Usul Eros
 Rave Islands (84, 177, 26)
L\$100

***F.O.R.* Flowers**
 By Lexi Burks
 Tu Amor (23, 47, 23)
L\$10

***F.O.R.* Pyramid Tier Table (Cotton Candy)**
 By Lexi Burks
 Tu Amor (23, 47, 23)
L\$40

F.O.R.

SL SAYS NO TO FUR!

By CARRIE SODWIND

RESIDENTS flocked to a new island this week for an SL anti-fur protest with a difference.

Avatars including some of the great and good of SL gathered at the PETA group of sims against the use of animal skins in RL fashion. There was no sign, however, of RL celeb Stella McCartney, the fashion designer and daughter of former Beatle Paul, who had lent her name to the in-world campaign. SL fashion was well-represented, though, with Mistress Midnight in attendance to help get the point across. Protester Kimber Enoch, meanwhile, turned up in a t-shirt which said "I'd rather be Hilton than wear fur". Music for the event was provided courtesy of DJ Jenns.

PROTEST: Demonstrators at the PETA sim



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

DEAR

INVITED TO BRIDAL SHOWER - BUT I HATE THE BRIDE!



MUTUAL FRIENDS WANT ME TO GO ALONG, BUT I CAN'T STAND SIGHT OF WIFE-TO-BE

Dear Randi: MY circle of five very good girlfriends all work with me at the same club in SL. Another girl who left the club a few months ago is getting married, and my friends have invited me to her in-world bridal shower. What I have never told them is that she did some nasty things to me before I met any of them, and she really is my worst

enemy in SL. I have been in her presence a few times, and in front of our mutual friends we simply don't speak. How can I tell the others the thought of attending her shower makes me feel ill? — B.T.

Randi says: Don't tell them that at all. There's nothing wrong with having friends who don't like each other. This situ-

ation is perfect for a victimless lie. Tell your friends you have an exciting RL date, or a work emergency, or your grandmother has the flu. They'll never know any different, and the bride-to-be won't be disappointed when you don't attend.

HAVE A PROBLEM? WANT RANDI'S ADVICE?
dearrandi@the-avastar.com

FRIEND'S DREAM DATE ENDED IN DISASTER

Dear Randi: WHEN my best male friend in SL told me that he was interested in my roommate, he asked me not to tell her, shortly before he left SL for a few months. I agreed, because I didn't think she was into him. But when she confessed that he was the secret love of her life, I told her what he had said. When he reappeared, they went out on two dates together but it didn't work out and they parted ways. Now she's miffed at me that I ruined her fantasy. Did I do the right thing? — M.E.

Randi says: It's what I would have done. If they were meant to be together and you hadn't intervened, you might have wondered about it for years. You did your best to put them together, and the fact things did not go perfectly is not your fault. Fantasies come and go. If she's a friend worth keeping, she'll get over it and one day you'll share a laugh over the whole thing.

I GAVE UP ON WOMEN - SO SHOULD I TRY MEN?

Dear Randi: I HAVE been unlucky in love with women for quite some time. In RL I have had three long-term relationships end unpleasantly, including a broken engagement, and my first two girlfriends in SL both dumped me. When I told my best in-world friend — a guy who happens to be gay — that I have just about given up on women, his response was: "Great. I knew you'd come around." And he may have a point. I haven't told him yet, but I think I am falling for him. Should I act on it? — L.C.

Randi says: If it's something you're dying to do, then go for it. If you decide later that you're not gay, nothing really will have been lost. If you are gay, the discovery was bound to come sooner or later anyway. SL is a safe place to work out your secret fantasies, and as long as you keep your RL identity secret there is no chance you will come to any harm.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

HE CHEATED DESPITE PROMISES

Dear Randi: I'VE been dating a guy in SL for about a month now, hoping he would propose virtual marriage. He has said all along that he wants to postpone SL sex until he is married. Recently I had to be away from SL for several days for a family reunion, and while I was gone he met a 'woman' here and had

a one-night stand. At least he was honest about it, saying the one-night stand would have gone to two nights or more if he hadn't found out the typist was actually a guy! Now I don't trust him. Should I dump him? — D.H.

Randi says: Not necessarily, but I think that you really need

to have a long talk in which you make sure he promises no such thing will happen again! And then you should ask him to clarify his intentions. If he says he truly wants to marry you someday, you should insist he set a date for the wedding. If not, it might be time to cut your losses.

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK GAVAN'S GAMBLING PREDICAMENT: WEEK 3

Gavan meets
with disaster...



60 minutes later...

"I am afraid you
lose again, sir."



to be continued...

MY TRAVEL TIPS

By COYNE NAGY

Edo Autopoiesis is a builder and artist.

THE AVASTAR: What sims have you explored recently?

EDO AUTOPOIESIS: Gembong East is a funny little island. There is no one really around there but someone made this nice spot where anyone can relax.

TA: Where do you spend your free time?

EA: Meeting people at openings is good but I also like longer sailing trips from sim to sim. I find the journey as important as the destination!

TA: Where do you party?

EA: Mostly I like to explore so it differs every time although I re-

member Zero Point in Kelham, bump into unexpected things.

and I like Bora Bora for surfing, that's nice.

TA: What sims do you find the most creative?

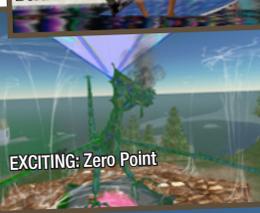
EA: People should check out AngryBeth Shortbread's work in The Port. I don't actually like the port, that's a mess, but I like the work there. The Collective is a creative sim, it had Brian Eno's work and the students there do nice stuff too.

TA: What are your tips for exploring SL?

EA: If you want to go to specific places check out Kanker Greenacre's links but just sailing around with a tako is a great way to explore SL! It is wonderful to



SURF'S UP: Bora Bora



EXCITING: Zero Point



FUNNY: Gembong East

NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK - A GLOBAL RECRUITMENT AGENCY, A RL LUXURY BAG FIRM AND A NEW CONTINENT.

By MANTA MESSMER

PICARD leather bags may become the hottest fashion accessory for style-minded avatars now that the German manufacturer has launched its flagship store in SL.

Visitors to the new shop on the Barcelona



EOLUS

sim will be welcomed with hip free t-shirts bearing the slogan 'Legal Drug' and can buy a range of bags based on RL models, as well as unique SL ones. Worldwide recruitment



NAUTILUS

agency Manpower marked the opening of its new island offices

this week with a virtual panel discussion on the topic of 'The Work of Virtual Work', fea-



PICARD

turing such luminaries as IBM's Colin Parris and Shiny Things' Fallingwater Cellardoor, as well as Manpower's Alexa Tammas. Among the guests was Quest



MANPOWER

G's Xiran Klaar.

An ambitious project named Eolus, which plans to use SL to research, test and discuss, solutions to a better RL, is now open to the public and the new eastern continent Nautilus is on the verge of completion.

THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: BASEBALL

HOUSE THAT SL BUILT
Yankee Stadium



By GAETANA FAUST

GRAND SL-AM!

HIT A HOME RUN WITH VIRTUAL BASEBALL

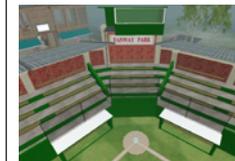
SUMMER in the US means baseball, and you can easily find your own Field of Dreams in SL.

Start your journey in the Baseball sim (201, 129, 27), home to an exact replica of New York's Yankee Stadium. Grab an official jersey just like the one worn by RL stars such as A-Rod or Jeter on your way into the park. Take a walk under the stands into the 'House that Ruth Built' and find yourself out on the field to play a few innings with the Yankees. Walk the bases at PNC Park in UPMC (47, 68, 24), with the Pittsburgh Pirates logo scowling down at the green field.

Teleport to Baseball Online Game (127, 127, 47) to play a complex interactive version of the game.

Sophisticated kits are available for purchase, that will allow you to pitch, hit, catch, and throw like a pro. There are three stadiums and practice fields available, so you can hone your skills before the big game. Swing away at the batting cage at Cisco Field in the Cisco Systems 4 sim (172, 57, 22), where you can see some pictures of the future home of the Oakland A's, and get in a little batting practice in the process. If you're interested in earning a few L\$, you can camp while playing ball at AM Sports Arena (121, 122, 28). Suit up properly for the game by stopping by SLids in Tweddle (111, 152, 91), which has a wide selection of shirts, so you can show your support for your favourite team.

GREEN MONSTER
FANWAY PARK



Hit a home run at this fine old ballpark, with lush green grass and red brick. The perfect place to toss back a hot dog and beer in the bleachers.

Where: FairChang Vista NE (85, 92, 23)

PIRATES AHOY
PNC PARK



The Pittsburgh Pirates logo scowls down with the Roberto Clemente Bridge in the background.

Where: UPMC (47, 68, 24)
YOU'RE OUTTA THERE!
EXTRA INNINGS PUB



Refuel here on the other side of the outfield wall from Fanway Park.

Where: FairChang Vista NE (85, 92, 23)

7.13. - 7.19.

DON'T MISS! –



DISCUSSION

MCCARTHY'S BAR

The Virtual Book Group will discuss a book documenting travel writer Pete McCarthy's journey of discovery through RL Ireland.

When: July 13, 17:00

Where: Cybrary City II (38, 244, 22)



ENTERTAINMENT

WILD WEST NIGHT

The old west will get even wilder this weekend as all the cowboys and Indians of SL descend on Club Scuba for a riotous night of music and dancing.

When: July 14, 18:00

Where: SoHo (22, 143, 22)



LIVE MUSIC

DOUBLE WHAMMY

Patrick Lesalle and Kevinblue Oh play at the Midnight Blues club.

When: July 15, 15:00 – 17:00

Where: The Centurion (200, 76, 22)



FASHION

'MIRAGE' PRESENTS SILK

The two-day silk-themed fashion show features designs by lots of great designers.

When: July 14 and 15, 12:00

Where: Dublin (168, 12, 25)



LIVE MUSIC

SINGERS AND SONGS

Enjoy the Amplitheater venue's debut music event.

When: July 15, 12:00

Where: Somerset (230, 200, 66)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

WILLIAM GIBSON SCREENING

Penguin Group will hold a screening of the 2001 Gibson documentary 'No Maps for These Territories', following Gibson across the US.

When: July 16, 11:00

Where: Avalon Island (128, 128, 0)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK



OPENING

ALIA WHITFIELD

Whitfield launches her new gallery featuring black and white photography. The opening includes a DJ and mystery contest.

When: July 13, 19:00

Where: Oyen Av Rahn (225, 33, 26)



ART & CULTURE

RAGLAN SHIRE WALK

Art fans will enjoy this amazing walk, featuring the work of more than 20 artists. Paintings, photography and sculpture are all on display.

When: July 14 and 15, 03:00

Where: Raglan Shire (185, 60, 22)



LIVE MUSIC

ANDY GLASGOW

The musician makes his debut at the Sunset Jazz Club with a mixture of rock tunes including acoustic and blues and both covers and original material.

When: Saturday July 14, 10:00

Where: Laurel (149, 55, 301)



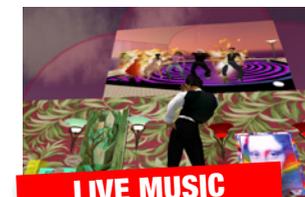
EVENT OF THE WEEK!

ETIQUETTE COLLECTION BALL

The Victorian Caledonians are hosting a ball in memory of the grandmother of the duchesses of Loch Avie and Carntaigh.

When: July 14, 17:00-20:00

Where: Caledon Carntaigh (84, 157, 23)



LIVE MUSIC

FROGG AND JAYCATT

The well-loved SL duet will play at a new venue. If you haven't seen them already then get down to Abraca Cardiff for an intimate introduction.

When: July 19, 18:00 - 19:00

Where: Industry (220, 43, 25)

WANT TO SEE YOUR EVENT HERE?

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



How to...

Everything a newbie needs to know!

AVOID MESSY EDGES ON PRIMS WHEN YOU'RE BUILDING

A PROBLEM came up recently with a friend who is a keen builder. He had made some beautiful plants and vines, but there were ugly lines running around them.

He thought there was nothing he could do about it – but there is!

The easiest way to solve the problem is to ensure when you first make a prim that you texture all sides with a transparent texture, and move it to as high a transparency setting as possible. Next, go into transparent mode (control-alt-t or function button-alt-t). The prim will light

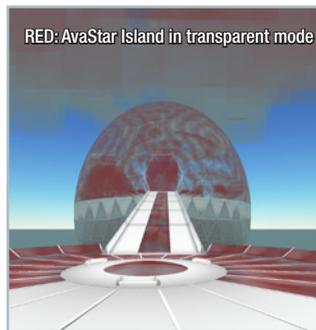
up in red and become visible again. Then, texture both sides as you want, before bringing them back to zero transparency. This will prevent most unwanted edges.

COMPLEX

If that does not work, try setting the 'repeats' of an edge to slightly less than one, which might move the bad edges out of sight. If that doesn't work, there may be a problem with the texture itself. If that is the case, it may need some complex reworking on your hard drive with graphic design software such as Photoshop – in simple terms, a

new alpha channel needs to be made which will not have the artefacts left behind by the old one.

With these tips, you should be able to avoid messy lines in your beautiful creations.



ADVERT



YOUR Photos

L\$500

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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\$.



Freebies

SL's best FREE stuff!

THIS WEEK: KEEP TRACK WITH RADAR HUDS

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

SOMETIMES it can be difficult to keep track of people in SL, just like in RL – you lose your partner in a crowded mall or lag prevents you from turning to see if your friends are still there.

Rather than resorting to shouting out, pick up a useful free radar instead. There are two systems in particular which do the job well. Free Radar HUD by Anthony Hocken is available at Crystal Gadget (Babeli 127, 108, 24). On



the right side of your screen, it will automatically show avatars within a range of 96 metres, including those who you can chat with.

ON-DEMAND

It notifies you in chat when a new avatar is detected, and can distinguish friends from enemies with a sound alert among other options. Avatar Reader by Seagel Neville is available at Mahoroba (Shaka 135, 164, 27) and is very different. It works on-demand – click on a small rectangle which appears on your screen when you wear the radar, and it will show you how many people are around. Up to nine people are included, and they appear in red if they are in chat range and green if not. There is also a white dot near the names, and when clicked on, a teleport ball will allow you to reach the chosen avatar. The gadget shows the month and year of birth of the avatars.

DO + DOS AND DON'TS OF LAG - DON'T

By GAETANA FAUST

- + Check the 'packet loss' bar to see if your connection is unable to handle the load.
- + Clear your cache if you experience packet loss and lose inventory.
- + Sim owners can use the debug menu in Region/Estate to find heavy lag offenders.
- + Try teleporting to another location if you're experiencing heavy lag.
- + When all else fails, consider upgrading your system hardware.
- Cover yourself with scripted or particle-emitting attachments in a crowded room. They add to the lag.
- Keep your draw distance turned way up at all times. Crank it down when it's not needed.
- Turn the 'mesh detail' sliders up to 11 if you're having lag issues.
- Use big textures on the objects you're building.
- Allow more than around 40 avatars in your region.

My First Day in Second Life

RECORD LABEL OWNER AND KEEN SKYDIVER LINX NEWT:

By MANTA MESSMER

THE AVASTAR: How was your first day?

LINX NEWT: My first impressions were really bad, when I saw all the characters at the starting area.

But then when I started to visit some casinos, clubs and shops I really liked it. I think I played 16 hours in a row!

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

LN: Probably when I started trying on some clothes and I managed to wear a tongue, would you believe. I didn't know how to take it off for at least 15 minutes.

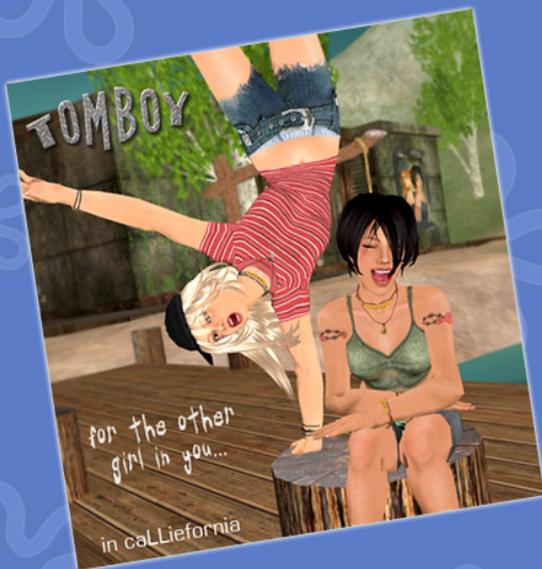
TA: What was your funniest moment as a newbie?

LN: I was in this club and I was talking very warmly to this hot blonde for around ten minutes - up until the moment she finally answered, "I not speak English!"



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go-go"
maLiboo cove

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

NATACHA SALOMON

PROMOTES HUMAINS-ASSOCIES AND ITS GOALS THROUGHOUT SL, AS WELL AS BEING AN ACTIVE IN-WORLD BUILDER.



By COYNE NAGY

PROFILE

NAME:
Natacha Salomon
BIRTH DATE:
12/20/06
PROFESSION:
Human rights campaigner
ATTITUDE:
Humanist

THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?

NATACHASALOMON: Gradually, month by month, my avatar becomes very like me in looks. I like my wings and people often compliment me for my flex hairs, though I would prefer people talk to me about my mind.

TA: What is your favourite place in SL?

NS: I must say Île Verte, because of its beauty, but also because of what happens there. I also appreciate Nasa.

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

NS: I'm in charge of the Associated Humans' Community. I work on several projects of islands under construction and I take part in events. I also spend a lot of time showing SL to people who don't know it, so that they can become involved.

TA: What would you change in SL?

NS: On the technical side, I would like to change the interface so that it becomes more friendly (more Web 2.0). On the human side, I would like us to be more intelligent, a kind of collective intelligence.

TA: Which personal SL achievements are you most proud of?

NS: I am proud to take part in Île Verte's projects and in Nethique in Second Life, which is an adaptation of the code of conduct and ethic for

blogs that we have launched in France. Several sims in SL have adopted the Nethique. Among them are official French political parties such as UMP, Mouvement Démocrate, Les Verts.

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

NS: Without the slightest hesitation, I would vote for Tatiana Salomon as President and for Nick Rhodes as Vice-President. Sorry for this 100 per cent French choice.