

THE AVASTAR

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UNDERGROUND CASINOS SPREADING

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FEARS RISE OVER BANK FRAUD

- GINKO BOSS ADMITS IT CAN'T PAY OUT
- INVESTORS FEAR LOSING EVERYTHING

By COYNE NAGY

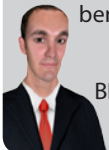
DESPERATE residents fear losing their savings after crisis-hit Ginko bank declared it was unable to pay out.
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INSIDE OPINION

"LINDEN Lab were right to ban gambling in SL. Otherwise they would have run the risk of the authorities taking action. This could have led to the temporary closure of SL."

SANDRA SOPHIA BORMANN p.6

"ALL these negative comments show that people are completely missing the point. Quite simply, if you don't want to hear or use voice, then don't use the optional viewer. For many, integrated voice chat will be a massive benefit."



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

- 27** million Linden dollars have been raised so far this year for the American Cancer Society by the Second Life Relay for Life teams
- 75** coins worth L\$1 each were minted by Davidovic Dean and can be spent on Tender Island.
- 4** days extra listing will be given by LL as compensation for classified adverts not appearing due to missing search facilities

IS YOUR ESCORT A WOMAN?



"IS your escort really a woman?" was the name of the protest to promote Vociferous, SL's first voice based nightclub with genuinely female escorts. D.Y.

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CRISIS-HIT BANK CAN'T PAY OUT

By COYNE NAGY



PANIC AS BANK ACCUSED OF FRAUD BLOCKS WITHDRAWALS

UNDER-FIRE: Ginko Bank

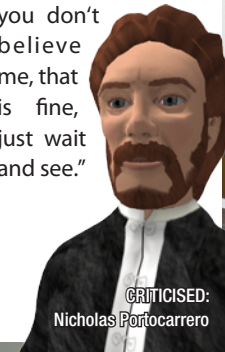
DESPERATE residents fear losing their savings after crisis-hit Ginko bank declared it was unable to pay out.

The rush on the bank started after SL blogger Benjamin Noble alerted residents to Ginko's misleading and false income figures on their website. But as investors scrambled to withdraw their savings, Ginko slashed the daily withdrawal limit from L\$300,000 to L\$5,000. Nicholas Portocarrero, the owner of the bank, conceded that it is unable to pay out on accounts.

Portocarrero did admit the bank's figures shown on his website were deceptive. However, the under-fire boss claimed that recording a 'goodwill loan' from another financial company Allinvest as a deposit was nothing sinister: "The bottom line is there is absolutely nothing questionable about this, in any way, shape or form. Anyone who thinks there is has no idea what he is talking about." But one resident, who declined to be named, hit out: "This is an absolute disaster. I have bills to pay and not

only can I not access my money, I do not know if I will ever get it again. Ginko seem to have lost everything I had." Zoe Paperdoll is also scared her savings may be lost: "It's terrible. I have money tied up - all I can do is keep my fingers crossed I'll get it back." The beleaguered bank suffered another blow when Allinvest sensationally withdrew from a merger between Allinvest International Exchange and Ginko with the scathing statement: "We will no longer look to merge with

other institutions without a solid knowledge of their ability to cover their accounts." But Portocarrero tried to dispel fears on the Ginko members forum by making vague promises: "Something really good is coming out of this short term difficulty, something really, really good. If you don't believe me, that is fine, just wait and see."



CRITICISED: Nicholas Portocarrero

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

IS SL BETTER OFF WITHOUT GAMING?



Whitebird Heron:

"I wasn't a gambler so haven't noticed a difference yet. But I'm interested in the effect that it will have on SL, especially because if lots of places close down, what will replace the gambling locations?"

"I worked as a poker dealer, and I have lost a big part of my social life now. Many people made their living from gambling and I don't see them online any more. It's sad. It will affect all areas of the economy. We make less tips in bars as people aren't making as much money."



AXEL Furst:

"No. I am very angry, and don't trust SL at all now. One month before the ban I invested L\$50,000 in my casino. It is one thing to introduce the ban, but another to give no notice at all."



By **CARRIE SODWIND**

EMPTY CHAIRS: Gamblers gone underground

CASINO owners have stuck two fingers up at Linden Lab - by taking gambling underground.

Many residents have defied the ban on gaming that came into force on July 25 by setting up illegal casinos at secret places all over SL. One SL gambler, Lullu Boucher, told The AvaStar how casinos are managing to cheat the law. "There are some estates with double platforms where the sim at ground level is legal. But travel thousands of metres above the platform and there in the sky is a whole deck or city full with games. Lindens are not allowed to enter private parcels" she said.

FALSE

Underground casinos

have now sprung up under false business names such as 'Software Development', relying on word of mouth through old gambling communities.

One underground casino owner who wanted to remain anonymous said: "If they (Linden Lab) think that they can get rid of us that easily, after we've invested so much money here, then they've got a problem."

SUSPICION

The owners are taking high risks, knowing that if they are caught they will face being kicked out by Linden Lab. Suspicion among gamblers is high and security is tight. When The AvaStar tried to enter one illegal casino, one gambler asked: "How do I know

you are not a Linden?"

HURT

However, not all ex-gamers are being sucked into gaming illegally. Likmai Woodget said:

"These underground casinos aren't good for LL. They hurt SL because if LL has to worry about them, they can't fix grid problems."

Wilson Voight has also kicked his gambling habit: "I'm sure I'll be invited to plenty of games... but I have no reason to risk my status here.

There's way more to SL than poker. Some aspects will be better with-out it."

NO MORE GAMES: Wilson Voight

WELCOME TO DISNEYLAND?

AVASTAR COLUMNIST PHAM NEUTRA LOOKS AT WHAT THE BAN ON GAMBLING COULD MEAN FOR SL

ANALYSIS PHAM NEUTRA



THE ban on casinos has been one of Linden Lab's most controversial decisions of the last few months.

Many residents who love to gamble got more than a little angry. Even those who don't gamble, saw this as another step in the wrong direction - a sanitization of SL, or as Gwyneth Llewelyn phrased it: "Welcome to Disneyland!"

INCONSISTENT

I have mixed feelings - it does make some sense. Gambling is banned in many nations - outside the state licensed institutions. It would be very inconsistent therefore for the authorities to tolerate it on the web - or here. SL is certainly NOT a sovereign country where users can do anything which is illegal in their

home countries. This would spell the certain end of SL, as many governments would block it and Linden Lab would be strangled by legal action.

HASTY

The Lab did not take this decision lightly. Gambling was a big part of entertainment in SL (like in RL) and therefore an important source for resident's tier payments (the Lab's biggest source of income!). But it was still a hasty move - mostly intended to soothe the anti-SL propaganda, which is on the upswing in some important markets.

OFFENSIVE

Whilst trying to appease such anti-SL sentiment, in the long run

it is simply impractical to handle such issues like that. Just imagine, what would happen, if the Lab started to ban any kind of behavior considered illegal or "broadly offensive" (to quote a Linden) in any country with a large number of SL accounts. The ToS would grow tenfold and the cost of prosecuting violations would be immense.

SOLUTION

So how CAN this dilemma be solved? Maybe with LL's main plan: "let the residents handle it". In the solution to the 'age problem' in SL may lie the solution to SL gaming: verify, which country a user resides in and make that information accessible inworld for casino owners.



NEWS BITES!

SL WORD OF GOD

CATHOLICS are being asked to bring the word of God to SL in an attempt to save second souls. Father Antonio Spadaro (RL) issued the call in Vatican-approved journal La Civiltà Cattolica

SEX EDUCATION

THE University of Plymouth is promoting sex education within SL. Residents can pick up literature on sexual health and contraception as well as free (virtual) condoms.

SL GOVERNMENT TO BE SWORN IN

THE new government for the Confederation of Democratic Sims will be sworn in at Neufreistadt Marktplatz on August 5. The Citizen's Social Democratic Faction emerged as the biggest party and will govern for a six month term.

TAKING IT GLOBAL

INTERNATIONAL non-profit organisation TakingIT-Global are set to launch in their donated Aloft Hotel sim soon. They will put it to use it as a base to encourage young people to use technology and get involved in global warming and HIV issues.

SUPER GRANNY ENERGISES SL

By BABU WRITER

MIRDIG Auer already had a 'second life' before she became a resident of SL.

Not an ordinary senior citizen, she rose to RL fame as one of the stars of the hit Swiss reality television show, "Super Seniors", who were housed together and made to sing and dance in competition.

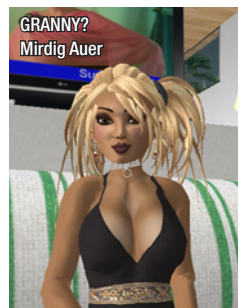
ENERGY

The 65 year old is now defying her years and devoting her energy to SL.

"I like to decorate houses and I have three of them in SL" said Mirdig. "I decorate my houses with all of the different kinds of art objects that I love."

Friends say they cannot keep up with her endless energy. When she is not decorating her houses she dances the night away in the discos or off shopping for the latest fashions.

"The only thing that slows me down is the 'slag'" she said.



SL CLOSURE THREAT

HOW UNDERGROUND GAMBLING THREATENS SL By REGIS BRAATHENS

VIRTUAL Worlds legal expert SANDRA SOPHIA BORMANN from the German law firm Nörr Stiefenhofer Lutz explains to The AvaStar why Linden Lab banned gambling in SL.

THE AVASTAR: Did LL have to ban gambling?

SANDRA SOPHIA BORMANN: As they are based in the USA, they have to accord with US law. As gambling in most states in the US is forbidden, Linden Lab, without a gaming license and not wanting to be prosecuted, decided to ban all forms of gaming. Of course one could have argued what type of gaming should be made illegal and what types are skill games, but as this is difficult, LL chose a total ban.

TA: So did LL take the right decision by banning gambling?

SSB: Yes, I think so. Otherwise they would have run the risk of the authorities taking action. This could have led to the temporary closure of SL. Often it is

better to act preemptively, in order to avoid putting the whole business model in danger.

TA: If gaming continued underground, would there be a danger of SL being closed?

SSB: The danger exists. However, nobody knows for sure if and when the US authorities would have taken action.

TA: Would it make a difference if the servers were based in another country, where gambling is legal?

SSB: It's a complicated matter. But in German law for example, it wouldn't matter where the servers are, it would still be illegal for Germans to gamble (in contrast, skill games are permitted in Germany). Even though the German authorities might not go after the foreign company offering the prohibited games, they would go after all the companies based in Germany which advertise the foreign gambling website because also the advertising is prohibited.

TA: Will LL ban other such practices in order to avoid potential legal suits?

SSB: That is quite probable – especially to protect their image (Linden Lab as promoter of child pornography would not give them a good image). From the legal perspective, SL is a legal minefield. Noone really knows for sure, how to deal with legal issues crossing over between virtual worlds and the real world.

Child pornography for example is criminal (in Germany and lots of parts of the U.S. gaming is criminal as well). But there is no worldwide common criminal law.

Since SL has users from around the world, the question always remains – which system of law should be used? In May the German prosecutor's office started preliminary proceedings due to child pornography in SL. But the process was not against Linden Lab, but the actual person involved.

RL COMPANY CAUGHT IN DRUG ROW



By CARRIE SODWIND

DEBATE OVER PUSHING OF DRUGS IN SL SPARKS UP AGAIN

FURIOUS anti-drugs campaigners have slammed a renowned RL media corporation for using drugs to promote its in-world campaign.

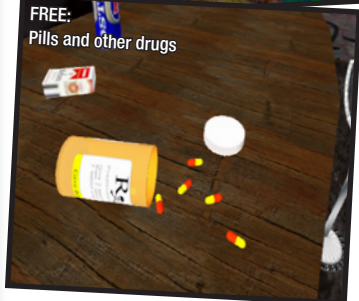
Residents are outraged that cannabis and magic mushrooms are being touted at the Universal Motown-Republic sim in a cheap bid to suck young users in.

CRITICISED

The company, which promotes massive RL stars including renowned rapper Chamillionaire, has been heavily criticised by anti-drugs activists for using representations of illegal RL substances as part of their in-world marketing strategy.

SL resident, Annette Voight, told The AvaStar: "Since they're so well known, I would have expected that they would have chosen morals over marketing because you're appealing to a large audience, but I'm not that suprised. It seems you'll do

FREE JOINTS: Universal Motown-Republic sim



what you can to grab people." But many residents are not concerned about glorifying narcotics in SL, which already has a booming drugs scene. 'Free aaa --- NEED A JOB?' is a group exclusively for drug-dealers to sell virtual highs and has a massive 688 members.

FeelGood Tripp, owner of Feelgood Dealers and Feelgood & Sunshine's Kind group for PotHeads, sees drug-taking as harmless fun. He said: "Drugs in SL are virtual so they don't actually have any negative effects. It's just another experience that's usually fun and enjoyable. SL is world wide, and in many countries drugs are legal. I feel (big corporate companies) should be allowed to do as they please when it comes to things like that in here."

REDUCED FAT VERSION OF SL

LIGHT CLIENTS ARE PROVING POPULAR AMONG RESIDENTS ON THE GO

BY PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

WITH grid problems causing havoc across SL this week, more residents are turning to light clients to avoid having to go in-world.

A number of light clients have been developed in the open-source community enabling residents to access Second Life through the web, without actually appearing as an avatar in-world.

AJAXLIFE

The latest is the web browser based AjaxLife, (<https://ajaxlife.katharineberry.co.uk/client/login.kat>) which was developed by teen grid starlet Katharine Berry. It has a basic map, allows

you to teleport, perform IM and chat, person search and view partial profiles.

SLEEK

Another popular one is Sleek, created by Delta Czukor, which allows you to perform basic in-world tasks such as chatting, IM, accessing inventory, and viewing profiles. You have to install it together with Netframework 2.0 (<http://delta.slinked.net/programming/sleek>) in order to use it.

WARY

As many residents head off for holidays this month without their high-spec computer, light clients may be their only chance

of getting in-world.

Yet many are wary of giving their data to a third party, despite solemn promises from Berry on her website, that private data will not be used for other purposes.



STARLET: Katharine Berry

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NO SHARIA LAW

Regis,
CONCERNING the gambling ban as a step down the slippery slope - I presume that things are "rightly" banned if you (Regis) agree that they should be.

No child is involved in ageplay; the participants in the case the German media made so much of were both adults. While I find it revolting, it is an activity between consenting adults, and there's

no justification for banning it.

Aside from that, I agree with you. I hope that Canadian and European laws against so-called "hate speech" are never enforced in SL, just as I hope that LL never feels the need to impose sharia law here.

Yours,
Melissa Yeuxdoux

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

BAN MAY SPELL DANGER FOR SL

Dear Regis,
I THINK you are right that this sets a dangerous precedent for Second Life.

If the Lindens suddenly spring this ban on casino owners, what's to say that they won't in a few weeks time spring a ban on escorts in SL or many other things. These are worrying times for us all and we know we'll be the last to find out.

Thanks, J.F

POLICE NEEDED FOR WILD WEST

Dear AvaStar,
FIRST of all I want to say how great I found the tombstone cover last week! Hit the right note. Now I want to tell you my thoughts.

We urgently need to establish laws to live by in SL. This place is currently like the Wild West where the strong and rich can do whatever they want and get away with it.

It should be part of the ToS that you agree to abide by the laws of the land and you will aid, in any way required, a police force established by Linden Lab to uphold these laws.

Every other country in the world has rules and regulations which guide moral behaviour. Here there is nothing which doesn't exist to satisfy Linden Lab and ordinary residents are left out in the cold.

If someone cons other people the victims have no recourse other than come to you guys! Our civilisation will fail to advance unless we stop the petty criminality and large scale fraud that is beginning to dominate.

By Deep Voight

NO PITY FOR GAMBLERS

Regis,
IT'S a crying shame that the Avastar took an editorial position in it's headline article on the gambling ban.

Instead of representing the interests of the unregulated gambling providers, perhaps Avastar could have done some hard journalism in investigating what amounted to a virtual three card monte game in the form of altered gaming scripts and shams perpetu-

ated by clubs. In the latter case, I regularly observed clubs increasing their take on the already low payout 'sploders' by having

employees (shills) play the game along with the customers.

Until the virtual gambling providers are regulated just as they are in RL, I'm not going to march on Linden headquarter to denounce the loss of freedom for cheats and scammers.

The only fault on Linden's part is they failed to take this action earlier and they do not have a plan to allow for regulated gambling.

By MarkByron Falta





REGIS BRAATHENS

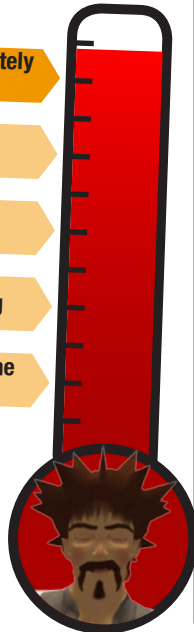
LIND-O-METER

ANOTHER week of torture on the grid. Missing search functions, teleports not working, inventory problems and slag. Oh, but on the plus side, voice was introduced.

YOUR SHOUT

"... don't get me wrong, I think voice will be great for SL. But jeez, why can't they fix the darn problems before playing around with new features!" M. A. "SL has been a nightmare this week!" P.P. "I just logged off. There was no point. It's never been this bad before." C.C.

- Lab-solutely awful!
- Phil-ing blue!
- Lagging behind!
- IMproving
- Sim-ply the best!



MAY THE VOICE BE WITH YOU!

CRITICS OF IMPORTANT VOICE CHAT LAUNCH ARE MISSING THE POINT

IF the Lab thought launching voice this week might bury the news about grid problems strangling SL - it was wrong.

The Blog post that the SL Voice Viewer had gone live was met with a barrage of abuse and sarcasm. Residents showed their sheer delight at the rollout of this latest feature by castigating the Lab for working on 'nice-to-haves' rather than rolling their sleeves up and sorting out the limping grid.

NEGATIVE

The general feeling on the streets of SL seems

to be that voice will be a flop, estate owners won't pay the hefty fees when they set in early next year and people generally couldn't give a toss about chatting to other residents.

On the basis of that the Lab may as well pack it all in now.

But all these negative comments show that people are completely missing the point. Quite simply, if you don't want to hear or use voice, then don't use the *optional* viewer.

But for many, integrated voice chat will be a massive benefit.

I'M not one to kick someone when they're down - so I'll let Joker Opus and Yuri Domhan do that instead.

The creative duo set up the group 'Fans of Linden', where you can have your own name.

Those on offer include: AFK Linden, DontPressTheRed Linden, BoutTaGoRambo Linden and NuffSaidImA Linden.

"We get fed up with Lindens helping some people and not others

Particularly for businesses, the introduction of chat will provide a more efficient and quicker way of communicating with employees or customers, as well as a means of verifying them. It may also change SL in other ways, like introducing more honesty.

As the immersionist role-playing world of SL slowly develops towards a 3D communication and transaction platform, the integration of voice becomes an absolute necessity.

In later years, it may be seen as a milestone.

and their general lack of performing their job except for Spike and Hermia Linden" said Yuri.

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

L\$500 PICS OF THE WEEK

yourphotos@the-avastar.com



DJ Tandino gets the crowd rocking with his mixing skills at his weekly party on the Playboy sim. Pic by ISOLDE FLAMAND



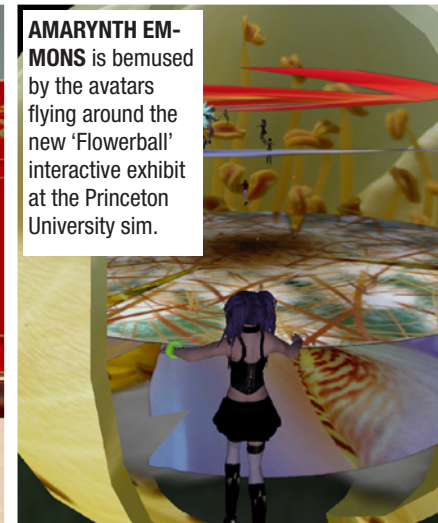
AS gambling goes underground, signals to keep watch on spying eyes have already been devised. Pic by POMPO BOMBACCI



THIS Cyberpiper was snapped doing his thing by ILLUSION IGALY.



THE Red Dragon Club must be one of the hottest places in SL, accoring to ARKADY LUNDQUIST - the entrance is through a fire-breathing dragon's mouth!



AMARYNTH EMMONS is bemused by the avatars flying around the new 'Flowerball' interactive exhibit at the Princeton University sim.



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Sebastian Otaared, Initiator web3Dcamp

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FULL-TIME IN SL

TREND SHOWS INCREASE IN FULL-TIME ENTREPRENEURS IN SL

By DYLAN MILES **BOOMING virtual business is causing increasing numbers of people to quit their RL jobs in a bid to reap the rewards SL offers.**

Over four hundred residents now earn more than US\$2,000 a month, according to Lab stats for June, and many are now working solely in SL. It was the opportunity to make money that attracted Ollie Kubrick to SL in January 2007. Eight months later and the designer now works full-time in SL earning a living by selling photo-realistic avatar faces for around US\$500 a piece as well as other items such as cars between US\$10 and US\$20 each. "In the last 6 months it's been steady growth - I'm making good money now" he said. Well-known SL DJ Doubledown Tandino also turned his passion into his job in June 2007. As well as DJing the virtual entrepreneur is an event

producer, marketing consultant and club owner. "My income is good and I could finally finance the move from Maryland to Florida with my girlfriend" he said.

LONG-TERM

SL's many success cases go to show that SL can also prove to be profitable in the long-term. Designer and architect Scope Cleaver

started working full-time in October 2006. He said: "My income varies a lot, but it's enough to support my counterpart in meat space!". But it's not a decision to be taken lightly, said Cleaver, who first spent a lot of time observing and learning before taking the plunge. Starting with just a small parcel the prefab designer has built up a network of clients as part of his successful SL business based on his new SCDA sim.

COMFORTABLE

Builder and designer Barnesworth Anubis is another full-timer, who having started his apparel and prefab businesses in 2004 waited until around the same time as Cleaver to make the move. Now one of SL's top earners, it has been very fruitful: "Selling 100,000 items a year between 4-9 US Dollars means I make a comfortable income from my full-time SL job."

BARNESWORTH ANUBIS



"When I do what I love, I'm the most happy, and do my best work"

DOUBLEDOWN TANDINO



"I didn't like my RL job so I decided to go full-time in SL"

OLLIE KUBRICK



"Spending between 18-20 hours in world daily is a sacrifice, but it definitely pays."

SCOPE CLEAVER



"The reason I work here is that I like my flexible hours"

BIZ BITES:

SL CONTROLS RL

IBM India plans to further blur the line between the real and virtual world by making it possible to control RL devices through SL actions. The project came from their Extreme Blue internship programme.

LAND PRICE DROP

PROPERTY magnate Anshie Chung has warned that in-world land prices will continue to fall. In recent months land creation has outpaced population growth leading to an excess supply has caused the price to drop.

MORE SL DRAMA

A SURVEY by web research firm Market Truths revealed the average resident spends just under 19 hours per week in-world. Residents also want to see more live drama and comedy in world but team sports proved unpopular.

TRANSPARENCY

THE Rock Insurance Company aim to create a transparency index of banks in SL. The firm offers insurance policies on deposits in financial institutions and wishes to increase the credibility of SL investment.

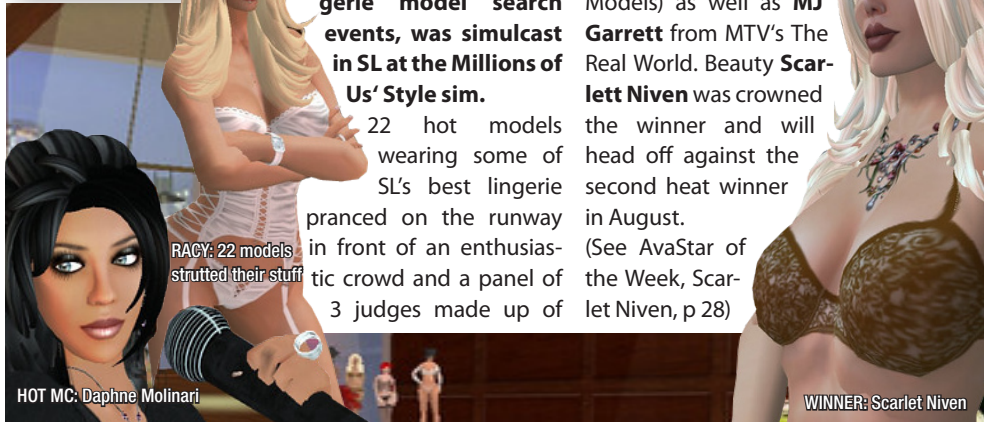


A-STAR GOS-SIP

GIRLS, LINGERIE, BEER

By JENZZA MISFIT

STUNNING MODELS COMPETE FOR LINGERIE QUEEN CROWN



RACY: 22 models strutted their stuff

HOT MC: Daphne Molinari

WINNER: Scarlet Niven

THE first of two sizzling Budweiser Select and Stuff Magazine's RL lingerie model search events, was simulcast in SL at the Millions of Us' Style sim.

22 hot models wearing some of SL's best lingerie pranced on the runway in front of an enthusiastic crowd and a panel of 3 judges made up of

SL celebs **Celebrity Trollop** (Second Style) and **Bianca Darling** (Aspire Models) as well as **MJ Garrett** from MTV's The Real World. Beauty **Scarlett Niven** was crowned the winner and will head off against the second heat winner in August. (See AvaStar of the Week, **Scarlett Niven**, p 28)

INSIDER TIP!

LOOK out for 'Virtual Band' - one of SL's few TRULY virtual bands.

Five members streaming from three countries, it's a real jam! (Ictus Belford, OK, USA, bass and secondary vocals; Jokker Streeter, FL, USA, rhythm guitar; BlueTom Haller, Germany, lead guitar; Roland Calhern, France, keyboard; Foxyflwer Cure, USA, vocals.) I.I.



VIRTUAL BAND: Multi-national stars

BIG GREEK WEDDING

By KITTY OTOOLE

FIRST VIRTUAL GREEK ORTHODOX WEDDING GOES DOWN A TREAT

THE first Second Life Greek Orthodox wedding has taken place. RL and SL couple **Jd Jay** and **Aravis Karis** exchanged vows in a ceremony on the Hellas sim. The unique wedding featured scripts created exclusively for the day, enabling the traditional and symbolic cross-



JOY: Jd Jay & Aravis Karis wed

ing of the wedding crowns known as **Stefana**, over the heads of the **Bride and Groom**. **Mihalis**

Bert, who officiated at the ceremony, echoed the couples excitement at this first-of-a kind event and hopes to wed more SL couples in Greek Orthodox fashion in the future.

A-STAR GOSSIP

PONTIAC SIGN CALLIE!

By REGIS BRAATHENS

EXCLUSIVE! THE AVASTAR TALKS TO CALLIE ABOUT PONTIAC, MAXIM AND GOING TOPLESS!

THE AVASTAR: How do you feel to be signing officially for Pontiac?

CALLIE CLINE: I'm absolutely thrilled to be partnering with Pontiac. I was so impressed with how they as a company chose to come into SL being respectful of the existing and thriving community. So I feel very blessed.

TA: What is your job going to be?

CC: As their „spokes-avatar“ I do various

things. I am hosting tours of Motorati Island and was featured in ads in MAXIM and on MAX-IM-online promoting them. I also do various appearances inworld, RL press etc but it's been a whirlwind of excitement.

TA: How has the RL Callie hype after the MAXIM stuff been?

CC: Well I've got some attention and lots of requests for interviews and stuff, but since I'm pixels, when I go out to the market, no one knows who I am!!! yay!!!

TA: Do you get more guys making a pass at you?

CC: Interestingly, NO! that was a concern I had, but it's actually the opposite! Haha, which is fine with me. But girls make

passes at me now! JK
TA: If MAXIM asked Callie to pose topless on a centrefold, would you?

CC: Well, hmmm, I've actually debated that in my mind... part of me is a strong NO, and the other part is „it's pixels“. I think it would really depend on "HOW" the topless shot looked. If it could be done in an elegant, beautiful, classic way...

TA: Our readers live in hope...

CC: Hahahaha!

CALLIE AT WORK



CALLIE in her office on AvaStar island.



Damn it, deadline's in 10 mins and still not done!



Aah. Another great column! Now to Pontiac...

WIN TICKETS!

MAXIM are hosting a VIP invitation only party at Callie's Beach Club on August 11, 8PM SLT. And you can be there!

If you and a friend want to join SL and RL celebs at the exclusive event, send us a photo of yourself in your most glamorous and hot outfit to:

regis@the-avastar.com

The best photos will be printed in the paper.



HOT WHEELS: Callie's own Solstice GXP

SKIN TIGHT

BY ISABEL BROCCO

LATEX is not for the faint hearted. It doesn't take much to make a statement with a latex catsuit. Invest in some buckled boots and an animation with attitude to be sure to release the feline in you.



LochfraB
Slustleria (248, 90, 28)

L\$400

Evolution Design
Bitch Boots
Loaded with killer animations
Plush Chi
(159, 26, 22)

L\$600

Donna Underall

Military Latex
Koreshan (211, 78, 25)

L\$299



Elixa Voss

L\$400

Latex Catfight
With prim flex sleeves and bell legs
Webworm (97, 82, 89)

L\$200



Isabel Brocco

Necklace Hell Kitty
From Purple Rose
Babeli (166, 211, 24)

callie cline's STYLE HOTLINE EXPERIMENT WITH JEANS



I'M often asked what ONE thing is a "must have" for every wardrobe.

There are a FEW "must-haves" and in the top five if not way up on top are... JEANS, JEANS, JEANS!!! I'm not sure there is another item, that is so necessary, versatile, comfortable, or stylish as a good pair of denim jeans!

I prefer blue mostly, whether brand new or thrashed, and black is my second choice. The pics here show two examples of how jeans can be used from a casual fun

look, to a bit more "dressy" - you can also go full on „dressed up“ with jeans. Their versatility can not be over emphasized. From wearing a bathing suit top and bare feet to pearls and and updo, jeans go with almost everything and every look.

When buying a pair, make sure they have nice seams and mod is a MUST!!! If they aren't mod, I personally would NOT buy them. You can see in one photo I made a

long pair of jeans short, added some cuffs and tada!!! Mod options are also important if you wish to tuck them into boots, make them baggy, tight or whatever. Lots of you fashionistas have tons of jeans in your inventory, so grab your favorite pair and really experiment with them!



PERT: Jeans cut a good figure



OPTIONS: Mod jeans

WHAT'S HOT! MUDDY PINK

By ISABEL BROCCO
PRIM 'N PROPER



LADY IN RED:
Illustrious dress

ON Saturday, Seraphine Model Management held a model runway show-off. Models opted mainly for glamorous frocks and dainty poses, making for a very elegant evening. One of the most striking outfits to float down the runway was a muddy pink satin ball gown, accompanied by glamorous long gloves. **ELEGANCE:** Summer look



INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK FIDO FUDO OF FIDO FASHION

By CARRIE SODWIND

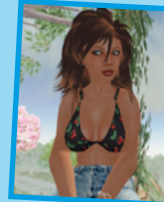
I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"My Old Boots from ShinyThings, which are similar to some I like in RL. They are great because you can wear them underneath regular pants too. I wear them when I go horse-riding. I think they look good with so many things - even on men."



I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"This Cherries Mini Halter from DMC. I bought it in Barcelona. I like to ride my bicycle in Barcelona on the seawall in this. I like it because I can get some sun without it being too revealing!"



I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"These jeans by Aradia Lumiere. I have had them for ages. I modified and cropped them to be boot jeans. I love these jeans because they look good barefoot at the beach too. I'm not big on really skimpy things."



FOR REAL MEN

By **TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN**



KCC Khanworth Cabover

By Khanaar Ingmann
Cars (199, 126, 100)

L\$1500



KCC Noma Prerunner RACE

KCC Motors
By Khanaar Ingmann
Cars (199, 126, 100)

L\$1000

Bulldozer - Tech Expo

By Taz Amat

Tech Expo (214 120, 22)

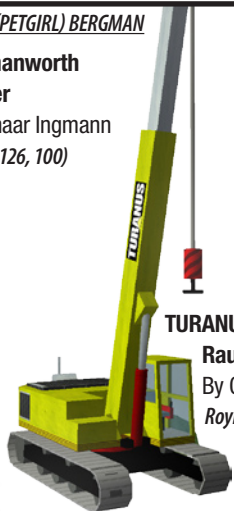
L\$450



TURANUS-Crawler Crane/ Raupenkran

By Christianus Tureaud
Royler (66, 60, 90)

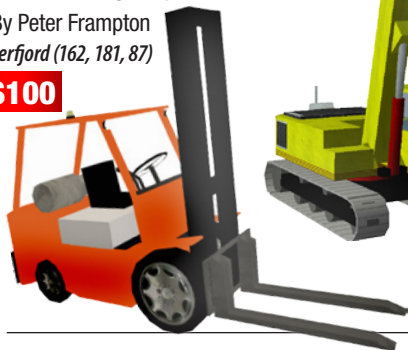
L\$290



Forklift

By Peter Frampton
Hardangerford (162, 181, 87)

L\$100



SL'S LARGEST FREEBIE?

RESIDENT SETS UP FREE SIM FOR BUILDING AS PART OF VIRTUAL SPACE EXPERIMENT

By **PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL**

SL's largest freebie was launched last week – a whole island as part of a public townscape project.

Within hours a metropolis had started to form as tens of residents began building and terraforming for free on Robinson Crusoe island. Owner Florian Flossberg, who is using the experiment to write a thesis on virtual space at the Faculty of landscape architecture and public space in Munich-Weihenstephan,

Germany, said: "I am looking forward to seeing the birth of a strong, self-regulated community. It's been really interesting and exciting so far." However as residents rushed to use the free land, it wasn't always peaceful. "A military group with tanks, troop-transporters and parachutes „occupied" the island and shot the peaceful public-townscapers for two days, but now they are gone away." The public townscape project is now looking to cooperate with the prestigious SL-award „First Annual Architecture and Design Competition in SL."

OWNER:
Florian Flossberg

PUBLIC TOWNSCAPE:
Build for free!

NEW SIMS

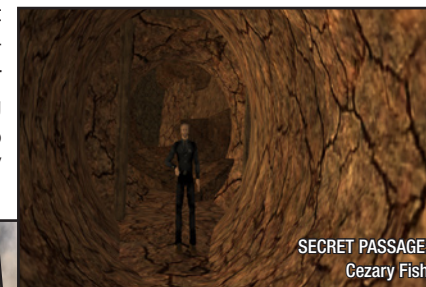
THIS WEEK:
CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY DUBLIN

TOP designer Cezary Fish completed his copy of the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity in Dublin this week.

The intricate build which took just under a month including documentation is a fine addition to the popular Dublin sim. "The cathedral is my contribution to Dublin's beauty" said aHead owner Fish, who is a friend of Dublin owner Ham Rambler. Complete with secret trapdoors, underground passages as well as a beautiful interior, the cathedral is another example of Fish's great design work in SL.

"There will be mystery behind

this place! The lost soul of a Viking warrior searching for salvation, searching for Valhalla, deep beneath the walls" he said.



SECRET PASSAGE:
Cezary Fish



SPOOKY:
Skeletons



BEAUTIFUL:
Holy Trinity

ADVERT

Purple Rose Jewelry & More

Jewelry Super Store

Located @ Babeli (180,178,23)



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

DEAR

MY RL GIRLFRIEND'S AN SL ADDICT - AND STRIPPER!

BOYFRIEND FEARS WORST AS FIANCÉE BECOMES ADDICTED TO SL'S UNDERWORLD

Dear Randi:
My RL girlfriend seems to be addicted to SL - and she's even taken to stripping.

I first entered SL during the big boom last fall, and last month I introduced my fiancée, who lives half a continent away, to Second Life. We used to talk for a couple of hours every night by telephone, but now she says

she isn't interested in phone conversations but just wants to meet me here. SL is all she talks about in her IMs from work, and I'm beginning to worry about her becoming addicted. What's worse is that she is now working as a pole dancer in an SL "gentleman's club." What have I done? — J.A.

Randi says: Perhaps she's

an addictive type and you inadvertently fed into it. If the pole dancing really bothers you, you should let her know your boundaries as soon as possible. It's her right to stay in SL 24/7 and it's her right to be on the pole if she likes, and by the same token it's your right to look for a new and different relationship with that's what you need.

MY SL MAN DESIRES A QUICK RL MARRIAGE

Dear Randi: After going through a RL divorce I've been dating my SL boyfriend for over a year. He's sensitive, intelligent, and amazing in bed. Last month he told me he was going to be away from keyboard for about a week to attend a religious conference, and he has been different ever since he returned. He said he doesn't want to have SL sex with me anymore because now he thinks it's wrong, and is begging me to meet him in RL and possibly get married. What should I do? — D.P.

Randi says: You should slow down, that's for sure. First of all, find out all you can about his religion and decide whether or not it fits your own beliefs. If it doesn't scare you off then perhaps you should invite him to meet you sometime in 2008. But if that happens - just like in any other online-to-offline relationship - he travels, he pays, and he doesn't stay at your place on the first visit.

MY ONE NIGHT STAND IS A JEALOUS NIGHTMARE

Dear Randi: When the new girl walked into the casino where I work, I fell in love with her at first sight. That night we went dancing, and two nights after we met we were already in bed together. The sex was great, but now she seems to think she owns me. Every time I sign on she asks where I have been and what took me so long to get back. She also knows I had past relationships in SL, and gets angry when I even speak to an ex-girlfriend. Her jealousy is driving me up the wall. Help? — C.G.

Randi says: She sounds awfully possessive to me. Perhaps you made a mistake by taking her to bed so early, but that's something you can't undo now. From what you say, the relationship just doesn't have a good feel to it. Tell her how you feel about her possessiveness, and maybe the relationship will have to end. And next time, be more careful before bedding a girl so quickly!

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

I'VE FALLEN FOR MY SON'S EX!

Dear Randi: I've started to date my son's ex and want to take things further.

I joined SL a few months ago on the advice of my RL son, who knew how lonely I had been since my wife's death in 2004. He said this would be a safe place to meet new ladies. Recently he left his first SL

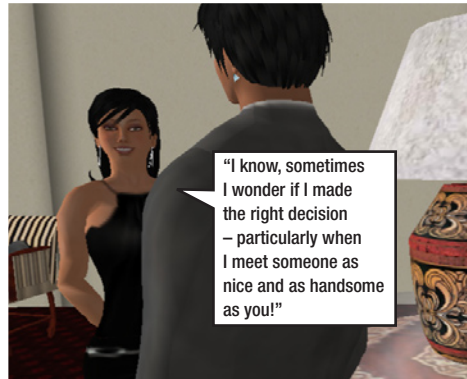
girlfriend after a big fight and quickly married another woman. I gave the ex-girlfriend a shoulder to cry on, and soon I found myself romantically interested in her. She feels the same way, and now she's all I can think about. In RL I am 61 and she is 28. Do you see that as a problem? — R.W.

Randi says: If you mean the age difference, it isn't one at all. But it's probably best not to clue your son in before you have to just in case. You may not need to tell him at all unless you take the relationship offline. If you do eventually do that, it may give you some hard stories to tell your children someday.

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK FRANZ & HIS BUDDY'S BRIDE - WEEK 2



"I can't believe you guys got married after such a whirlwind romance!"



"I know, sometimes I wonder if I made the right decision - particularly when I meet someone as nice and as handsome as you!"



"What? Is she coming on to me? I know she is beautiful, but she is married to my best friend!"

to be continued...



By Deleep Witte

How to...

Everything a newbie needs to know!

HOW TO FIND YOUR FIRST LAND IN SL

SO you've decided to buy some land in SL.

Well, the first shock – you can't actually buy land, as it is all owned by Linden Lab! You can, however, rent land in various ways, which confusingly can be known as 'buying' land.

Someone will 'buy' the land from the Lab, which costs more than US\$1,600 for a whole sim. They then have to pay monthly fees to LL to maintain the land, or risk losing it. Sim owners will often rent or 'sell' sections of their sim, usually for profit. This is ideal to find your first land. Sim owners may put up a build-

ing and rent out rooms, asking for weekly payments in L\$, and the tenant will be given a limited amount of prims to play with. There may be restrictions on what you can build in certain sims, whether commercial or residential etc.

FINDING LAND

'Buying' land is usually more economical in the long run because you get more prims and land for the monthly fee than by simply renting. It may be useful to have a (free) PayPal account, as many large landowners accept nothing else. To find available land, check

online resources or just search around in SL! Make sure you buy from a reputable person or group, and talk to others who rent from them first.

POWER

But be careful – a sim owner has complete power over the land. They can kick you off, change the terrain colour, close the sim to all - anything they want. Sometimes you can click on some land and buy it right away by paying the cost, while other land sellers prefer you to contact them first and work out a deal, as you will have to organise with them to pay fees.

ADVERT

Slaggin'

"CHEATING GAMERS"

ARTWORK: Ermanno Spittler



© Andres Manfredini 2007



By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

Freebies

SL's best FREE stuff!

THIS WEEK: BICYCLES

INSTEAD of walking, why not ride a bicycle along the empty roads of Second Life?

A great free one can be found in China 133, 132, 322 – it is the Animated BMX Bike by Little Ming. You can even jump, flip forward and stay on your back wheel. Ming also has another great free bike, the so called Ming-TX, – customisable for both short and tall avatars, together with a pose stand to adjust it. Other good ones to try are Athos Murphy's bicycles which can be found in different versions all over Second Life. Look for the basic model, Bicycle V1, at Mega Resort 87, 190, 502, also found in freebie shops under the name 'Safety Bicycle'.

OLD-FASHIONED

Don't miss out on the lovely, highly refined version called @Delux Hobo Bicycle. Equipped with an old-fashioned bag, a blanket, an old radio and a flask – it's rounded off with a

basket with some cans and even a teddy bear, so you won't feel alone in your SL as a tramp! You can find it at Karpov, 147, 36, 62, and, as usual, at Paperdoll's (Shepherd 239, 172, 82).

One suggestion: if you are going to actually splash out and buy a bicycle, compare it with one of these freebies - not only the shape or colour, but the contents. Sometimes the ones on sale are simply rip offs of freebies!



DO + DOS AND DON'TS: JEWELRY

By GAETANA FAUST

DO

DON'T

- + PICK out tasteful, interesting jewelry that enhances your style.
- + Join groups of your favorite jewelers to collect some great freebies
- + Browse the fashion blogs like Linden Lifestyles and Fashionista for great tips on the latest jewelry in SL.
- + Keep your desire to add another accessory in check. Less can be more!
- + Change your jewelry to match your look. A sari looks great with a bindi and belly jewel.

- GO accessory-less. SL is made for extravagance. Have some fun with it!
- Attach a blinging object in every possible spot.
- Wear jewelry so big and obvious that it attracts all the attention
- (Men) try and look like a bling rapper - you should keep the gold and other jewels to a minimum.
- Forget that some necklaces go on as an undershirt and some are prim object attachments.

My First Day in Second Life

NEWBIE EXPLORER: FLANNERY SANDS

"MY first day in SL was a bit like a rollercoaster ride. After I had rezzed on Orientation Island I accidentally teleported to the mainland and couldn't get back.

I didn't know anybody so I kept wandering around looking for different hair and clothing to improve my appearance. I bought several freebie boxes at an outlet and got stuck with some green hair which I wasn't able to remove for a really long time. I typed 'Emergency' in search and joined the group 'Fashion Emergency'. A kind person, now my friend, told me how to remove the hair and dropped me a box with some sexy clothing items. Things looked much better now and I started to enjoy this new world. I have logged in regularly in the past weeks and the friends I have made are the reason that keeps me coming back."



GREEN: Flannery with bad hair as a noob

"caLLiefornia" now open !!!

enjoy our beaches, shopping, rock club, and more



home of:
caLLie cLine
tOmbOy
mainLine
hatchie wear
"caffeine au
go-go"
maLiboo cove

THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND
ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: MEDITATION

SPIRITUAL:
Mystical Academy



By GAETANA FAUST

SEEKING WISDOM IN SL

FINDING INNER PEACE IN THE SPIRITUAL SANCTUARIES OF SL

FIND the Zen of Second Life by seeking wisdom at one of the many locations that specialize in providing a unique place to meditate.

There's no better place to start your search for knowledge than at St. Benedict's Monastery, in Wildcat (37, 210, 22). Gregorian Chant is the soundtrack for your stroll around the stunning grounds, where the cloister and peaceful cemetery provide you the perfect environment for quiet contemplation. Sunshine Therapy Garden in Hauwai (44, 241, 90) has places to practice Tai Chi, meditation, and yoga in a naturally beautiful garden setting. Check out the Owo & Kun Meditation Resort in Gloria (177, 61, 24) to find other

SL residents who are interested in spiritual matters. Take a dip in the torch-lit swimming pool, or sign up for a yoga or meditation class. Consult the calendar of events at the Mystical Academy in Immortal Woman He (103, 167, 48) for classes on tarot, astrology basics, and past life exploration, along with meditation courses.

From there, you can teleport to the fabulous red Buddha Bar, where you can watch the golden Buddha rising above pots of fire or explore the cavern deep below the earth. The Buddhist Shrine of Varosha in Crazy Devil (137, 37, 24), at first a little ominous due to its towering Buddhas, is another solemn yet peaceful place definitely worth a visit.

QUIET MEDITATION ASIAN TEMPLE



AT the Asian Temple you can light a candle there, or find a quiet corner to meditate.

Where: Matsushima
(136, 151, 22)

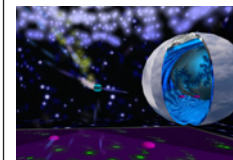
SILENT STROLL GARDENS OF ACHEMON



WOODED paths dotted with shrines, gardens, and asian style pavilions perfect for quiet reverie.

Where: Zen Gardens of Achemon (86, 163, 97)

CHILL OUT RELAXTASY CHILL OUT



ENJOY a trippy mix of astral visions, black lighting, and ambient music.

Where: Oakfield (216, 151, 53)

8.3. - 8.9.

DON'T MISS! –



LIVE MUSIC

JAMMS 4 GENES

In aid of the Children's Medical Research Institute (Australia) Ohmy Kidd will be hosting a charity concert spanning three days.
When: August 3, 22:00 - until August 5.
Where: Fendahl (201, 44, 22)



EXHIBITION

CODE RED GALLERY

Starting on Friday night and going on for 24 hours, the party promises fantastic artworks, lively music from five top DJs and an energetic atmosphere.
When: August 3, From 17:00
Where: Strata (30, 40, 121)



FASHION

WHAT THE FASHION?

Ambergris Art Runway is a cosy venue that treats fashion with artistic flair.
When: 7 August, 14:00 – 15:00
Where: Knot (227, 149, 67)



EDUCATION

FLIGHT SIMULATION

Join a talk on „The Basics of Flying IFR“ with a RL airline pilot!
When: August 5, 05:00 & 09:00
Where: Flight1 Pilots' Club, Ellesmere (87, 57, 148)



PARTY

MALLORCA PARTY

An exclusive beach club party with fireworks display marks the opening of Mallorca Today in SL.
When: August 5, 07:00– 11:00
Where: German Islands (225,143)

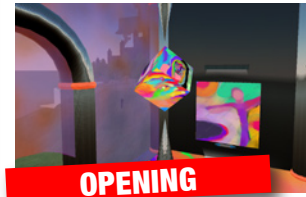


EVENT OF THE WEEK!

METAVERSE TV LAUNCH

A day long party celebrates the launch of Metaverse TV, a fully functioning channel streamed directly into SL. There will be fashion shows, comedians and musicians all in attendance.
When: August 4, 14:00
Where: Richfield (17, 47, 74)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK



OPENING

LUCID PRODUCTIONS ART

Grand opening party of Lucid Productions in their gallery of digital expressionist art. Icaruscending Heron will be playing a live music set to kick off the party.
When: August 5, 15:00
Where: Enego (208, 254, 81)



LIVE MUSIC

TOP SL BLUES

Brody is an established SL figure and is one of the top female artists in-world who moves seamlessly between blues and rock.
When: August 8, 21:00
Where: Transylvania (85, 27, 25)



LIVE MUSIC

BAILEY BEAUMONT

Bailey takes to the stage at the Blue Tattoo. She will play a range of country songs comprising of covers and her own material.
When: August 9, 18:00
Where: Merricks Landing 4 (174, 51, 24)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

FASHION SHOW

AFTER the success of the initial show, Una Ewing welcomes back a host of talented designers to the intimate Chocolate Runway for First Impressions II.
When: August 7, 11:00
Where: Amberaldus (7, 239, 0)



LIVE MUSIC

LIVE PIANO

Hugh Dench plays a selection of his own pop, soul and lyrical ballads live on his keyboard every Monday.
When: August 6, 15:00
Where: Heron Island (30,200,22)

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.

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

SCARLETT NIVEN

SCARLETT NIVEN IS COMPETING IN THE BUDWEISER SELECT & STUFF MAGAZINE LINGERIE MODEL SEARCH. SHE TRIUMPHED IN THE JULY HEAT AND WILL TAKE PART IN THE FINAL AGAINST ANOTHER MODEL LATER THIS MONTH.

By COYNE NAGY

PROFILE

NAME:

Scarlett Niven

BIRTH DATE:

1/4/07

PROFESSION:

SL Fashion Blog Writer/
Fashionista

ATTITUDE:

Sociable and Candid

The AvaStar: What is your best feature?

Scarlett Niven: My lips - they are sensual and kissable.

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

SN: Many things! Shopping, attending events, putting together outfits, chatting with my friends,

dancing and so on. I also need to be on the look out to take photos for my blog.

TA: What would you change in SL?

SN: Nothing. I think SL is evolving at a pretty good rate. There are growing pains with everything.

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

Being selected as one of the two finalists for the Bud Select/Stuff magazine Lingerie Legend Contest is a great honour and my fashion blog at

digitalimagefashion.blogspot.com.

TA: What tip would you give regarding lingerie?

SN: Keep it simple, uncluttered and classy. Think LaPerla rather than Fredricks of Hollywood, I feel if you are sexy it comes through without being so in-your-face.

TA: What is the worst lingerie you have seen?

SN: Ummmmmm, gee that's tricky! Pasties and G-string...and bling hooker heels never look good!

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

SN: Glam Studio, that I use for my blog photos, and my Lovey Skins. It's luminous, the brows are just right, the lips are beautiful and looks perfect on my shape.

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

SN: The Lu Sisters of Paper Couture. They would rule with an iron fist and demand that everyone is dressed to impress at all times.