



THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

"I'm strong and stubborn"

Brave cancer patient vows to beat deadly disease for the sixth time

SEE PAGES 6 & 7



A WHOLE NEW WORLD



Exclusive interview with Windlight guru Pastrami Linden

SEE PAGE 5

EXCLUSIVE

LAB IN FRESH LEGAL BATTLE



EX-CASINO OWNERS SUE OVER LL GAMBLING BAN

By CARRIE SODWIND

LINDEN Lab has been dragged into a legal wrangle over its controversial ban on gambling after being accused of false advertising.

FULL STORY: SEE PAGE 3

INSIDE OPINION

"I started using SL as an escape from the complications and troubles I face every day in my RL but as the two worlds merge I find myself left with nowhere to go. "RIP SL and RL."

YOUR MAIL p.11

"No one in SL believed the massive hype then, and no one believes the doomsayers now - because we know the truth, that this world is not perfect, that it's still developing, but that its future is very bright."



REGIS BRAATHENS p.12

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

4

... major sites are streaming the SLCC into SL this weekend from its RL location in Chicago.

99

... is all it costs in L\$ to make a call from SL to a RL phone thanks to Anamolie Poitier's new invention.

9m

... was the landmark number of accounts created in SL which was passed on Wednesday.

POLISH PRESIDENT IN SL?



THIS is how the President of Poland, Lech Kaczynski (left), might look in SL. Cezary Fish (right) created his avatar and hopes to bring him into SL in the future.

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"WE'LL SUE"

By CARRIE SODWIND

LINDEN Lab has been dragged into a legal wrangle over its controversial ban on gambling after being accused of false advertising.

A group of former casino owners claim the official SL website promoted work as a casino operator right up until the ban was enforced on July 25 - and even a day afterwards. Jean Guy Toune, who chose not to reveal his in-world identity, is one of those involved in the claim, launched in Spain and being heard at the European Court of Justice. He said: "The legal procedure is due to the fact that Linden Lab offered the opportunity to be a casino operator until July 26. Because of that, many casino operators invested time and money in the business just before the ban."

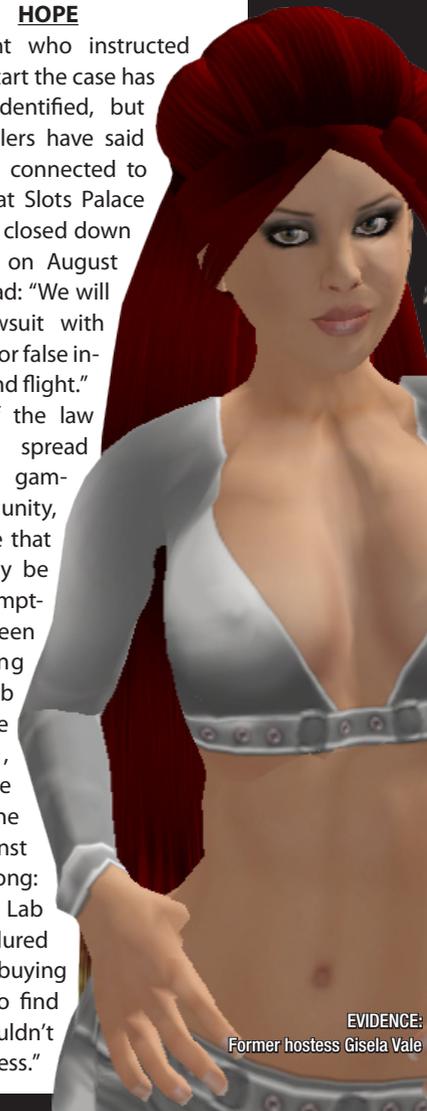
Gisela Vale, a former hostess at the Extreme club, said the web page has since been removed, but has been saved by her manager Babyblues



Boffin - and will be passed on as evidence.

HOPE

The resident who instructed lawyers to start the case has not been identified, but some gamblers have said the move is connected to a note left at Slots Palace when it was closed down by the Lab on August 16 which read: "We will bring a lawsuit with Linden Lab for false information and flight." Rumours of the lawsuit have spread among the gambling community, raising hope that the ban may be reversed. Tempting Sin has been campaigning for the Lab to reinstate gambling, and said she believes the case against them is strong: "Linden Lab has falsely lured people into buying land, only to find out they couldn't set up business."



EVIDENCE: Former hostess Gisela Vale

NEWS BITES!

HAPPY HIPPOS

THE Hippo awards will take place this weekend to honour achievements in open source development. Among those up for the Linden Lab-organised awards are Nicholaz Beresford, Katherine Berry and Strife Onizuka.

JENNA ON THE SMALL SCREEN

SL celebrity Jenna Fairplay will appear on RL American television with her husband Wishedon Pasteur. Jenna, owner of The Edge, will be flown out to New York to be on the Tyra Banks Show.

DON'T DROP THE BOMB JUST YET

A NUCLEAR power plant is being built in SL to help teach scientists how to handle radioactive waste. The University of Denver has a US\$200,000 grant from the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission to fund the project.

VIRTUAL STRIKE

MORE than 9,000 IBM workers in Italy will down virtual tools next month in the first strike in SL, according to theregister.co.uk. Their union, RSU, is hoping many avatars will join the picket lines.

DUBAI-OUS SALE STOPPED

AVASTAR READER SCUPPERS ATTEMPTED 'SCAM'

TALL TALK: The Burj al Arab

By COYNE NAGY

AN eagle-eyed AvaStar reader scuppered an audacious attempt to sell an in-world building for L\$16.4m – after discovering it was available elsewhere for just L\$15,000.

Gumby Roffo read in The AvaStar last week that Arik McAlpine was selling a replica of the Burj al Arab tower in Dubai on the Apfel-land sim on internet auction site eBay for around US\$68,000. He was shocked to realise he had spotted the same build

on sale for a fraction of the price at SLExchange. It is being sold there by its creator, Seigmancer Nino, who was furious at what appears to be a marketing ploy by McAlpine.

SCAM

Nino, who owns a store on Endless Despair, said: "I never agreed to this. The asking price is absolutely ridiculous as the building can be bought by anyone on SLExchange or at my store for L\$15,000, and not L\$16.4m.

"This seems like a serious scam attempt using my

building as bait."

McAlpine, though, has defended the high price, and has taken steps to improve relations with Nino. He said: "The special part of this offer was the point where it stands. Apfelland is one of the most visited islands in SL and an interesting point for investors." McAlpine also revealed that the tower will be listed again on eBay with a starting bid of a bargain US\$1.35 – less than one per cent of the original cost. Part of the proceeds will be given to Nino.

WIND OF CHANGE

TAKEN AWAY FOR BUG-FIXING, THE WINDLIGHT SOFTWARE IS NOW SET FOR A RELAUNCH

By REGIS BRAATHENS



BEAUTY: Pastrami Linden basks in the Windlight sunset

REGIS BRAATHENS talks exclusively to PASTRAMI LINDEN, the former President of Windward Mark Interactive and developer of WindLight, about what the new software will add to SL.

The AvaStar: When will Windlight be coming back to SL?

Pastrami Linden: FirstLook should be coming out soon. We're hard at work making sure it's stable on a wide variety of machines. We do bigger and bigger tests, and if bugs come back, we have to fix them! If not, people get angry that we're making SL more unstable.

TA: How pleased are you with the feedback?

PL: Oh, tremendously! As one of the initial designers of WindLight, I always thought it could go a long way in enhancing the

visuals of any scene. The only thing was, we never had so much content as now to prove that on - people's screenshots are really amazing, and I'm looking forward to seeing the first year of machinima and art work once this is released!

TA: What has been changed?

PL: Mostly stability and "playing friendly" with current content. What I mean is, WindLight is a very powerful, all-encompassing lighting system. As a result, our first few passes had it lighting things very dramatically, changing the fundamental look and feel of a lot of people's environments. We didn't want this - we want WindLight to enhance scenes, not clobber them. So we went back and tweaked it to make sure it respects things like local lighting,

night-time lighting, etc

TA: How big a step forward is Windlight for SL graphics?

PL: Enormous. The next WindLight release will be a revolution both in sky and water. With one fell swoop, we'll be dramatically enhancing 40 per cent of any given visual scene. With one download you'll literally be seeing a whole new world.

TA: Have you been encouraged by resident's pics?

PL: Very much so, though most of what I've seen has been surreal. Don't get me wrong - I think surreal settings can be beautiful and I love the content I'm seeing. But WindLight's real strength, in my opinion, is in creating stunning depictions of real skies and clouds - surreal skies have been doable forever.

“I’LL BEAT IT AGAIN!”

By **GARRIE SODWIND**

IN-WORLD friends of brave cancer patient Kimber Enoch are waiting with bated breath for the outcome of her dangerous but potentially life-saving operation.

Courageous Kimber is trying to beat the deadly disease for an incredible SIXTH time – and she told The AvaStar how SL has provided her with a therapeutic haven. She said: “Instead of staring at the same four walls in RL, SL gives me the opportunity to meet people and do things my health would not allow. It’s amazing and it’s helped me so much.” Kimber will undergo the surgery on Monday, but has found a lot of help in-world: “I am nervous, but my SL friends have all given me so much support. I really don’t know what I’d do without them.”

The much-loved DJ, teacher, human rights campaigner and charity fund-raiser has established a tight community of friends and family in her six months in-world, and they

threw a surprise concert in her honour at the Salutaris Convention Centre.

STRENGTH

It was organised by Mynekogirl Ansett, Kimber’s friend and member of BIRD, who played at the concert. Mynekogirl said: “We are promised tomorrow but Kimber is not. She serves as a reminder why it is important that today you be loved. I have been affected strongly by cancer, losing both my parents to it. SL is a unique place to share experiences and give support.”

Kimber has found that being open about her illness in-world can sometimes present difficulties. She added: **“When you say you are ill people can either run a mile or want to mother you. I’m strong and stubborn... the fact I’m open helps others know there is nothing to be ashamed of and we will get through our issues.”** Her strength and stubbornness have helped her recover from cancer five times already, and

Kimber takes the attitude that anything is possible.

HUMOUR

She is now putting her energy into helping others, working for Amnesty International, and raising money for the in-world Relay For Life cancer charity.

Kimber also has a wicked sense of humour: “I’ve been told by my friends, if I die there are quite a few people wanting to kick my real and virtual bum - I don’t fancy that idea!”



BRAVE: Kimber Enoch



“SL is amazing - it’s helped me so much.”

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Open Av Rahn, 145, 39, 42

LAW AND ORDER IN SL

EJUSTICE COULD BE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS FAIRNESS IN SL

Analysis GWYNETH LLEWELYN



YOU may feel that SL is like the American Wild West in the 1850s – there is no law in this new frontier land.

Many hoped law and order would emerge in SL spontaneously, but this hasn't happened. The recent Ginko scandal and the gambling ban have demonstrated that residents have to figure things out on their own.

So where should you go if you require justice? At the moment, there are three solutions. The oldest is the Confederation of Democratic Simulators, where land is owned by an elected government and 'citizens' – residents who have bought land inside the Confederation – are able to vote and get elected. Its duties include acting as a me-

diator and arbitrator. The Metaverse Republic is another democratic alternative. Its legal system works through a ban list.

APPEAL

To join, you simply need to place an item on your parcel and a list of banned avatars will be loaded from a web server. To actually ban someone, you need to go through an independent judicial system, which includes the right of appeal.

“These projects are the first serious attempts to bring justice to SL.”

A third option is the new eJustice Centre, sponsored by the RL

Portuguese Ministry of Justice. It provides dispute resolution through professional mediation and arbitration to any SL resident.

DISPUTE

Parties in disagreement approach the centre for mediation, and put the value of what is at dispute in escrow. A mediator will then try to find an agreement. If that fails, the next step is arbitration – a panel of trained RL professionals will evaluate the dispute and decide where to award the money, minus a fee.

These projects are the first serious attempts to bring justice to SL, and they may well prove to be the first steps towards taming the lawless land of the metaverse.

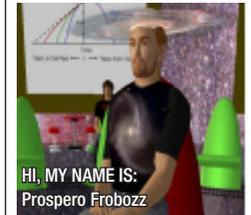
LAW AND ORDER?
The eJustice Centre



LINDEN FAMILY GETS NEW CHILD

By MORRHYS GRAYSMARK

AN award-winning physicist has become the latest addition to the Linden 'family'.



HI, MY NAME IS:
Prospero Frobozz

Dr Rob Knop, a Cal Tech graduate and co-winner of the Gruber Foundation prize for cosmology, began working for Linden Lab earlier this month as avatar Prospero Frobozz, part of LL's Distributed Network Operations Centre (DNOC). He said: "The idea with DNOC is to have people working remotely scattered around the world." It will also develop monitoring tools and improve grid stability.

FANTASTIC

Frobozz, who first logged on in 2006, added: "One of the first things I worked on was an interactive Celestial Sphere model.

"When people ask me, 'but what do you *do* in SL?', the best answer I've come up with myself is to respond with the question, 'What do you *do* with Lego?'"

"SL provides the building blocks for a fantastic new world."

Get AvaStar gadgets for FREE!



- EACH week we will give away FREE AvaStar merchandise to members of 'THE AVASTAR READERS GROUP'.
- AS a member you will also be the FIRST to hear about Avastar news, competitions and giveaways.
- JOIN the group now by searching for 'The Avastar Readers Group' in search. (or send an im to Viscount Lisle)

This Week: Crash Helmet

Speed along the highways of SL in safety - and be the envy of all your friends!



your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

I WAS FIRED OVER VOICE

Hi Regis,
I RECENTLY lost my job in SL because of the implementation of voice chat and I am thinking of retiring my avatar all together.

I am an attractive single woman in SL and was working as a successful escort. My appealing profile and avatar were previously all the information my clients needed, and they always thoroughly enjoyed my serv-

ices. But I was sacked recently from my club because I refused to do a voice interview with my boss. He accused me of being a 'fake' woman.

I told him that my RL gender didnt matter at all, but he refused to listen to my argument. For me the fun and appeal of this great virtual world was this

play of imagination, the chance to be whatever you wanted to be, but as SL becomes more and more like RL with features like voice that fun dissolves.

I started using SL as an escape from the complications and troubles I face every day in my RL but as the two worlds merge on an increasingly similar path I

find myself left with nowhere to go. RIP SL and RL.

By T.R.

L\$500 E-MAILS

WRITE TO:
YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

CENSORSHIP A DISGRACE

Hi Regis,
OPENING your newspaper last week, I was stunned to find a big picture of nothing.

But it wasn't until I discovered it was a deliberately blurred image, and realised why, that I became truly shocked.

I couldn't quite believe that you weren't allowed to show a depiction of a Nazi swastika under

German law - so I went and checked, and it turns out to be true. Now what really annoys me about this is that this was a story about some idiots trying to

cause shock by grieving a swastika onto the grid, and The AvaStar quite rightly covered it as a news story - so what right has anyone to restrict the press like

that? I totally understand why Germany has these kinds of laws, but I think a change in them is long overdue, as this episode underlines.

By D.S.



AVASTAR ROCKS

Dear Regis,
I JUST have to say congratulations on The AvaStar.

I have been on Second Life since last October in various forms (I am on my third avatar now), but I have to say I really enjoy reading your publication. I have also been able to explore some wonderful places after seeing them in your paper.

It is nice also to be able to print The AvaStar off and read it in peace and quiet in RL (when I get the opportunity :-)

Thanks again guys and gals - and keep up the good work.

By Hiraani Heartsdale

FREEBIES RULE

Dear Regis,
THANKS for the free laptop!

I can't believe all I had to do to get it was to be in the AvaStar Readers group! And now you're going to give me a free gift, I can't wait! Any chance of a free money making machine :) Seriously though, keep up the good work!

By Bahar Etzel



REGIS BRAATHENS

LIND-O-METER

LAB supremos are in for a surprise when they log on to www.the-avastar.com today - as they probably don't yet know of the legal battle they are facing! It will be another headache for Phil, who is still recovering from his hangover after partying at Timeless Underground last weekend.

YOUR VERDICT

Lagging behind

"The Lindens need to wake up and smell the coffee. We all lost a lot of money in the ban. Now it's time for payback - to us! We are determined to get our money back." J.H.

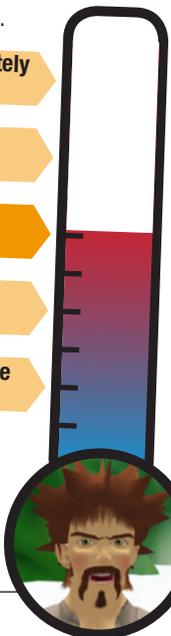
Lab-solutely awful!

Phil-ing blue!

Lagging behind!

IMproving

Sim-ply the best!



WHAT GOES UP WILL ALWAYS COME DOWN

RL MEDIA STICKS BOOT IN ON SL - BUT WE KNOW THEY ARE ALL WRONG

TODAY SL will be generally bright and sunny with a few light showers in the afternoon...

Over the last few weeks I've begun to feel like Second Life's weatherman, with countless RL journalists asking: "So what is going to happen with SL - is it going to fade away?"

As a tabloid editor, I've found it highly amusing to watch the sudden army of SL 'experts' in the RL media proclaiming that SL is an uninhabited, boring, problem and crime-ridden world - and the last place on earth you would want your RL business to be represented in.

CHUMPS

SL pioneers have turned from champions to chumpions in the eyes of the fickle media looking for new stories to report on without having to spend any

time doing research. But the real chumps are those journalists at prominent magazines like 'Time' who have resorted to the old and cheap journalist trick of 'what goes up must come down', in order to have something to write about.

BRIGHT

The funny thing is that no one in SL believed the massive hype then, and no one believes the doomsayers now - because we know the truth. This world is far from perfect and it's still developing, but its future is very bright. And if there is anyone who could testify to this, then it's Kimber Enoch.

This brave resident has found love and support in real friendships she has made in SL. She will be the first to tell you how much this world



COURAGEOUS: Kimber Enoch

means to her, and how much it helps her to forget about her pain in RL. It is residents such as Kimber that show how strong SL is, despite its problems. The future is bright - and we pray Kimber will be here to share it with us.

MILES AHEAD

AN AvaStar reader sent me an IM to tell me that outspoken Linden Lab critic Prokofy Neva has set up a new blog, the SL Record, after falling out with his previous employers. It was great to see that in the poll of people's favourite newspaper or blog, The AvaStar came up trumps. Miles ahead of the pack, your favourite tabloid newspaper scooped 54.3 per cent of the nearly 100 votes, with the next best languishing on 9.8 per cent. Thanks to whoever voted!

regis@the-avastar.com

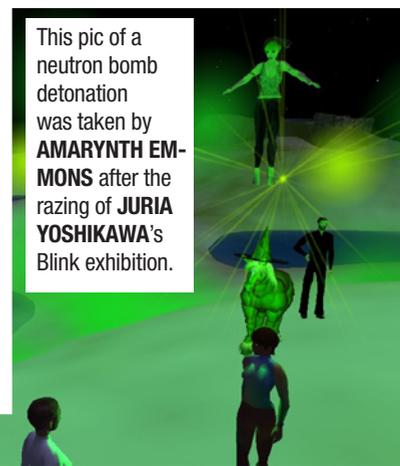
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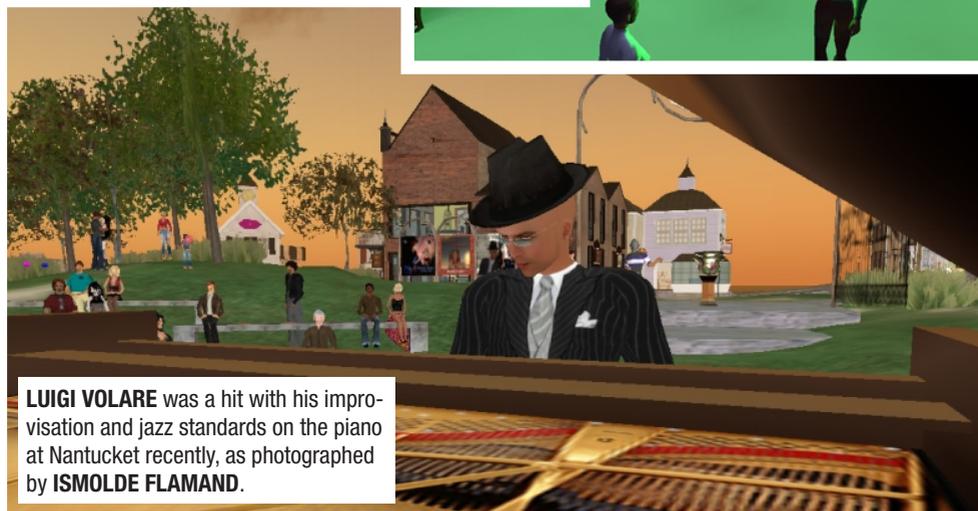
BING SEWELL enjoyed soaring through the virtual sky on Pegasus.



Far out, man... the greenies have discovered how to use marijuana, it seems. Pic by SAMANTHA LAMONT.



This pic of a neutron bomb detonation was taken by AMARYNTH EMMONS after the razing of JURIA YOSHIKAWA's Blink exhibition.



LUIGI VOLARE was a hit with his improvisation and jazz standards on the piano at Nantucket recently, as photographed by ISMOLDE FLAMAND.

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POLES ANGRY AT "S***" BUILDS

POLISH DEVELOPERS GUILD AIMS TO STOP POOR STANDARDS

By REGIS BRAATHENS ANGRY Polish developers have formed a Guild to protect quality standards from being eroded by the bad practices of their native ad agencies.

Many developers in the Polish community have been angered at the poor standards of some big-firm projects - and fear they may suffer a loss of reputation.

Cezary Fish, CEO of aHead, who recently built the impressive Holy Trinity Cathedral Dublin said: "Some ad agencies from Poland enter SL with huge clients, but do such a s*** job that we are all afraid they will destroy the market."

Fish claims some firms hired students to build projects worth up to 50,000 Euros for clients, often resulting in poor work. "They simply try to make quick money,

with absolutely no morality or even basic knowledge of SL" said Fish.

STANDARDS

Centrum Polska, an event creator, and Making Waves, a large RL company providing technological solutions, are the latest firms to join aHead in forming the Gildia Polskich Developerow.

Samuel Becloud, CEO of Centrum Polska said: "It's very important for companies to know who is a verified developer and who can be trusted."

The Guild aims to co-operate strategically, to uphold common standards and promote the quality of Polish content creation, according to Making



ANGRY: Cezary Fish

Waves CEO, Making Voom. With Polish business interest in SL on the rise, it is certainly good timing for the Guild.

ISE AUCTION POSTPONED

AN auction to sell the International Stock Exchange (ISE) was halted when six companies pulled out of the index.

The delay coincided with a decision by ISE bosses to publish the stock transactions of CEOs of firms listed at the exchange and

their alts, although the six who delisted have denied that was the reason. Instead, they said the nature of the auction forced them to jump ship to the VSTex.net exchange.

There were also claims that Jasper Tizzy, CEO of one of the six firms, Atlas Venture Capi-

tal, had run off with L\$150,000 belonging to the ISE but the matter has been resolved.

In a separate incident on the SL Capital Exchange, CEO Arbitrage Wisereimbursed shareholders of CyberSyzygy after the company was thrown out on suspicion of fraud.

BIZ BITES:

JUST THE JOB

RECRUITMENT for RL jobs through SL is proving a hit after TMP Worldwide Advertising and Communications reported high demand at their second SL job fair this week.

ANSHE'S PLEA

LANDBARON Anshe Chung has called for the non-profit community to use the strengths of SL to compete on a more even playing field with corporations and governments.

LEGAL EAGLES

WRAGGE and Co. could become the first RL law firm to have a working branch in-world. It plans to host chat areas and find pro bono work.

DUTCH PROSPER

DUTCH companies are gaining from being in-world, according to a survey by Utrecht University which revealed SL improves communication.

IBM IN SL 24/7

IBM's business centre in SL will be staffed round the clock after the addition of avatars from Australia, Singapore and Malaysia.

a-stars



A-STARS gossip with Dylan Miles and Babu Writer

BIG PHIL'S DANCING CLANGER

PHILIP LINDEN EMBARRASSED BY CLUB BOOB

By REGIS BRAATHENS

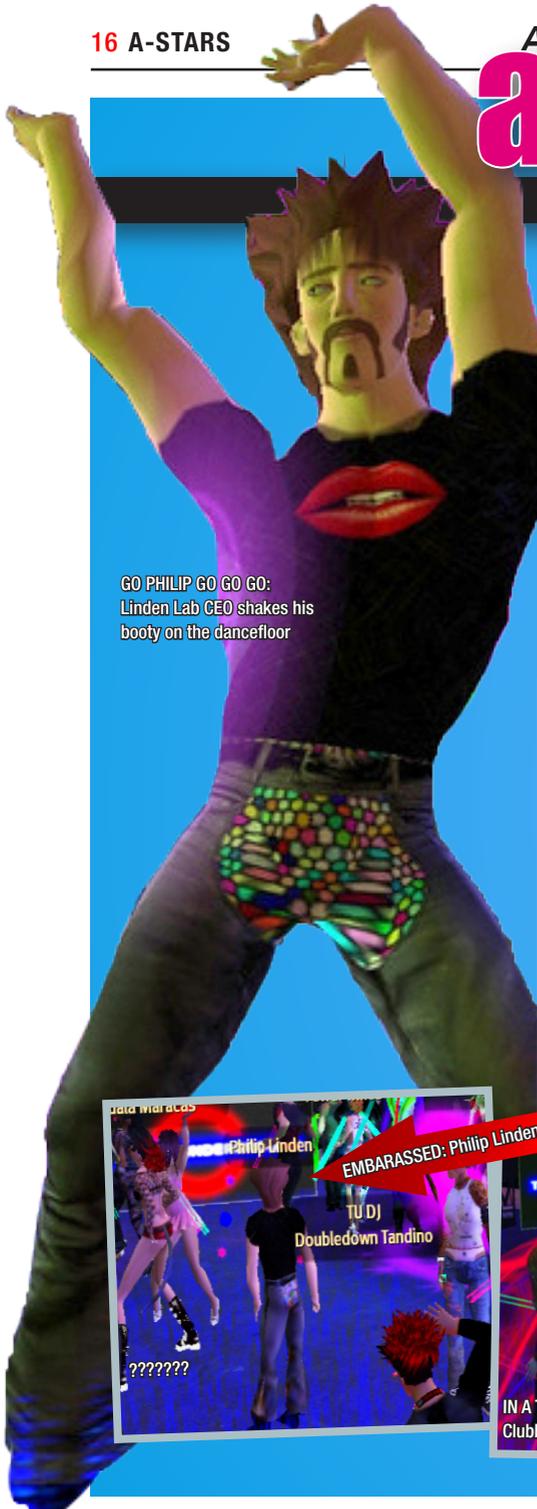
PHILIP LINDEN looked like a newbie on the dancefloor - when he couldn't work out how to dance!

The Linden Lab chief stood motionless as amused partygoers at Timeless Underground danced circles around him.

At least Phil saw the funny side of his clanger, saying to the crowd: "I love standing here like a rock amidst the dancers!"

But once the Lab supremo figured it out there was no stopping him pulling out moves reminiscent to those in 'Grease'. "He looked to be thoroughly enjoying himself," said one guest. Top DJ **Double-down Tandino** provided the sounds as prominent residents such as **Christopher Sterling, Timeless Prototype, Nobody Fugazi** and **Dusty Sojourner** danced away.

GO PHILIP GO GO GO: Linden Lab CEO shakes his booty on the dancefloor



SPOTTED!

Wirxli FlimFlam has got a big he-art for The AvaStar! At a talk in the art.think.box entitled Dresscode Avatar, the wacky SL and RL artist discussed the formation of his playful avatar identity and the role of SL's media on it, adding: "The AvaStar is my public expression of who I really am."

By CARRIE SODWIND

VIRTUAL VOWS IN VOICE CHAT

By ISABEL BROCCO

UNDER the palm trees of the Feel Free sim Kiwidude Klinger and Amelia Dafodil became the first couple to tie the knot in SL using voice.

Whilst all previous weddings have been a text-only affair, the happy couple exchanged virtual vows over voice chat. The pair met up in RL to enjoy the ceremony together and invited SL friends to join them in-world.

Kiwidude said: "It was very special to have a wedding in SL and be together in RL. We joke that our avatars are having a honeymoon in RL! As for our RL-SL differences, we have a loving long-distance relationship, held together by SL."



I DO: Kiwidude and Amelia speak their vows

By DEEEEP WITTE

FAMOUS RL Hollywood scriptwriter **John August** made a surprise visit to SL to introduce his new in-world home.

It is the setting of a new movie called 'The

Nines', a thriller based on virtual life. It has been filmed largely at the RL home of August, who appeared as avatar **JohnAugust Tomorrow**, which has been recreated in SL.



GIVING IT BASS: Bands Rosskopf and Hangover

HIT DA BASS

AN international crowd turned up at Muse Isle Arena to watch a live simulcast of two German bands. The 2 Good 2 Be Real event organised by Muse Isle owner JenzZa Misfit and bass player for the German band Rosskopf, Anders Lehr, attracted over 70 enthusiasts. The streaming of the RL gig at Karlsruhe Applied Science Uni into SL and vice versa was another successful example of a cross-world live music event. By BABA COEN

SL's best script



FILM STARS: JohnAugust Tomorrow, right, and his SL house, left.

KILLER STYLE

By ISABEL BROCCO

It takes fashion guts to put guns on the catwalk but after mainstream labels like Purple Rose and caLLie cLine tried it, army has become a popular hit in SL stores.

L\$75

VINTAGE:
Biker hat
Dreamworld South
(218, 233, 25)



L\$75

TAG:
Dog tags by Purple Rose
Babeli (211, 206, 25)



L\$75

TOP GUN:
Texas sunglasses by Sergeys
Blackmount (23, 73, 100)

CHOKER:
Army green by
Tickled Pink
Chatouille (79, 121, 24)



L\$75

TANK:
Black tank by Guys Cool Street Wear
Isle of Tharen (24, 244, 33)

L\$75

PANTS:
Arizona Commando by Renegade
Berard (79, 185, 309)

L\$75

LOADED:
Army Baby
by Callie Cline
caLLieformia (224, 192, 22)

BOOTS:
Bad Boy scout by Civvies
Maggiore (74, 131, 601)

L\$75

L\$75



L\$75

HEAVY:
Laced boots by Draconic Kiss
Koreshan (168, 129, 27)

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

SIDDEAN MUNRO OF SLINK

By CARRIE SODWIND



I LOVE MY...

"...Bustier from Savvy. I chose this because I really like the texturing, and the fact that it is handpainted really appeals to me. I like the amount of skin it shows. I even own it in every colour!"
"The designer, Dakota Buck, is a local at the sim where I live, and I've been an admirer for a while."

I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT...

"...These jeans called KS Midnight Jeans from Shop Onrez. They are nicely shaped, well made and a great colour and I wear them all the time, just about. I searched for a long time for them!"

CHECK OUT...

"...My Taly Black shoes from Enkythings! I saw a neighbour of mine wearing these once and I fell in love with them. I finally spotted them in a blog post and I rushed out to get them immediately!"



WHAT'S HOT! BLACK'S BACK



NOIR: Esmerelda Oh

By CARRIE SODWIND & ISABEL BROCCO

IT never really went away... but at the opening of new jewellery store Bébé this week, almost all fashion celebrities went for noir numbers. Esmerelda Oh wore dark glasses and a striking dark cloak, with her signature walker. Elegant Marni Grut and Eyva Matova swooshed around the dancefloor together seductively in fantastic long black frocks.

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RADICAL RETRO

By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN



Hey Joe Retro Clock
By Menno Ophelia
Imogen (104, 15, 00)

L\$80

Retropia Trunk Phone
In six different colours
By Maximilian Milosz
artilleri (136, 182, 24)



L\$50



Retro Turn Table
By Aegis Prior
Carmine (174, 137, 137)

L\$50



Pop! Galactic Side Table
By Aegis Prior
Imogen (104, 15, 00)

L\$80

HOT Slaggin'

"What a script!"

ARTWORK:
Ermano Spitteler



© Andrea Manfredini 2007

NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE LAND, A WILDLIFE SANCTUARY AND A VINEYARD...

By TRICK MERTEL

SAMURAI perfecting their deadly skills greet visitors to the Tokugawa sims.

You can also visit a traditional Japanese castle, and the six sims are made up of elegant and simple land, true to the era of histo-

temple area where both new and experienced Samurai warriors cut off each other's limbs in combat.

On a more peaceful note, the World Wildlife Fund charity has

is also a stage for performances planned for the future.

For a day in the countryside, drop into Capozzi Winery Is-



TOKUGAWA



CONSERVATION ISLAND



CAPOZZI WINERY

ry which it recreates. The castle is huge and imposing, while the other centre of attention is the

a new virtual home called Conservation Island where animals roam freely. Visitors can take a free ice cream from the monkey or gain a new pet panda. There

land. The sim combines the traditional intricacies of wine making with a virtual twist. There are details about the different stages of the wine-making process and a game to practise creating the perfect vintage.

MY TRAVEL TIPS

By TRICK MERTEL

FEELGOOD TRIPP runs the Feelgood and Sunshine Kind Shop.

THE AVASTAR: Which sims have you explored recently?

FEELGOOD TRIPP: Only a few places stand out in my mind out of those I've recently been to. The Cartel Diablo locations are worth taking a peak at.

Those and Cyberia.

TA: Where do you

hang out and relax?

FT: I don't go to the pop places, too damn crowded. Lately I've been to the Seclimine drug shack to hang out.

TA: Where do you party?

FT: Heck and CannaCabanna are always fun places to party.

TA: What are your top tips for exploring SL?

FT: Meet new people. They will always have some place to show you. It's easy for me, I sit at the shop and say HIGH when they pop in.



PARTYTIME:
CannaCabanna



TOP TIP:
Cartel Diablo



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

DEAR

MY GORGEOUS LOVER IS A LITTLE OLD LADY!



WE HAVE HAD SOME FANTASTIC SEX - BUT THE TRUTH IS FREAKING ME OUT A LOT

Dear Randi: IN RL I am a young guy still at university here in Europe. One of my oldest friends in SL is a lady I met soon after I got through the orientation area when I first arrived. Her avatar looks young and hot, and she is a great lover. My problem is that last week she blurted out to me that she is actually 71 years old! That has

left me feeling queasy about the whole thing, and wondering if my other friends in SL are going to make fun of me. She says she won't tell anyone else her age if I don't want her to. Should I trust what she says and just keep her secret? — W.M.

Randi says: I certainly would. Anonymity is one of the best things about SL. An older

lady who obviously knew what she was doing has given you nights of pleasure, and you are probably doing exactly the same for her. Just focus on her hot avatar and appreciate the lady's apparently wonderful creativity. It seems as if you both have a great thing going, so why on earth would you want to ruin it?

ESCORT GIRL IS A MAN IRL - BUT TURNS ME ON

Dear Randi: I JOINED SL because I had broken up with a long-time girlfriend in RL and was really lonely. I have since been with some of the best in-world escorts, and I found a favourite who was incredible in bed and had a big heart. But when I suggested that we might meet in RL, she said it was impossible, and when I pressed, she eventually blurted out that her typist is a guy. She still turns me on, though. If I go back to 'her', does it make me gay? — D.R.

Randi says: No. You're turned on by a skilled conversationalist who put together a beautiful avatar, and at no time had you questioned her femininity. Obviously 'she' is fulfilling a need with the escorting work. Perhaps the man behind the other keyboard wishes he were a woman, but that is not your problem. You two have created great fantasies together, and if you return for another go it will not make you gay.

WEDDING LOAN GIVING ME FRIEND PROBLEMS

Dear Randi: I'M going to be a bride in SL soon, but when I told my best in-world friend about the wedding, she knew I had little money and so offered me a L\$5,000 loan to buy this amazing dress. I have since paid the money back, but now she seems to think it's her wedding. She has taken over, and wants to pick out everything from the flowers to a poem I will read to my husband. When I objected, she reminded me about the loan and said I should respect her wishes more. Should I just give up and let her run my wedding? — A.Z.

Randi says: No, because you will resent it for a long time and it may end your friendship. She can pick out her own dress for heaven's sake, and let her go ahead with the poem, she can read it as a salute to the couple. Get some great photos of the wedding party, thank her profusely for standing up, and the future should be great.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No. 1 Agony Aunt

GAY ONE NIGHT STAND SHAME

Dear Randi: I HAVE a fantastic relationship with the sweetest girl I think I have ever met. We made an agreement early on in our romance that we would never, ever lie to each other, but now I have done something which is really testing that. Recently, my girlfriend was away from SL for several days, and I went to a gay club and had a one-night stand with a random guy. We went back to his place and had an

incredible night together - the sex was fabulous. I haven't seen the guy since, however. I think I may be bisexual, but I still love my girl very much, and all this deception is killing me. I think I should tell her, but another friend says I should not. What should I do? — H.P.

Randi says: Your other friend is spot on. If you love the girl as much as you say you do, then you won't want to do anything on purpose to hurt her. One of

the great things about being in SL is that no matter who your sexual partner is, or how many you take, disease or accidental pregnancies are never going to be a part of the picture. She has no reason to know that you have cheated on her, and it seems that her chances of ever finding out are minimal unless you end up talking too much. So make sure you keep your mouth shut, and everything should turn out just fine.

ADVERT

IS YOUR SEX LIFE ON THE ROCKS?

IS YOUR PARTNER CHEATING?

DO YOU HAVE A LOVE DILEMMA?

Randi is here to help. SL's best Agony Aunt will give the answers to all your personal problems.

Get in touch with Randi at:
dearrandi@the-avastar.com



THE AVASTAR
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My First Day in Second Life

By TRICK MERTEL

VISUAL ARTIST CEZANNA BARBOSA:



CEZANNA BARBOSA is a visual artist currently exhibiting in SL.

THE AVASTAR: How was your first day in SL?

CEZANNA BARBOSA: It was a bit daunting trying to figure out how everything worked. But once you got out of 'boot camp' it was OK.

TA: What was your most embarrassing moment?

CB: Ending up on a sex bed in Brazil with some woman who was also new and not knowing how it worked or what exactly to do. I realized that there were others there that had no idea what they were doing either, and it was funny watching everyone trying to figure it out.

TA: What was your funniest moment?

CB: Getting drunk here with new friends I met and about six or seven of us all falling all over the place. The ones rezzing in didn't know what was going on. People were sprawled over the deck.



Freebies

SL's best FREE stuff!

THIS WEEK: SWIMMING POOLS

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

IT is always summer in one part of the real world, and in SL it is summer whenever you like – so enjoy the good virtual weather with a free swimming pool.

At Gnubie's in Indigo (205, 81, 39) you can find the lovely Newbie Swimming Pool by Kim Manilow. It does not use up many primms, and you can modify it to use even less by, for example, unlinking the deck. Drag the pool onto your land and

adjust it using the usual editing tools. The pool rezzes its own water when you make a splash. It is not linked to the pool, but don't panic if it disappears after you have edited something – the simple command 1/reset will put it back in its place.

Remember to add the diving board with bounce, the ladder and the lights if you fancy a midnight dip, and start swimming using the enclosed animation.



MAKING A SPLASH:
Newbie Swimming Pool

DO + DOS AND DON'TS OF CAMERA CONTROLS - DON'T

By GAETANA FAUST

- + Select View/Camera Controls to adjust what you see in your viewer.
- + Use the left circle control to rotate your view and the right control to move it right, left, up and down.
- + Use the + and - controls to zoom.
- + Click Alt-left mouse button to select an object and zoom in or out on it.
- + Check the Rotate Minimap box in the Preferences/General tab to make the map move with your camera view.
- Stand too far from an object you want to zoom on.
- Use alt-zoom to wander off while you're in a pose, and then lose track of where the camera is.
- Panic if you do lose track of where the camera is. Use View/Reset View to return to normal.
- Get stuck in mouselook. Hit escape to go back to the normal view.
- Forget voice works around either the location of your av or your camera.

Jewelry Exposition

2007

September 15 - 22

8 days. Over 80 jewelers.

For eight days, over eighty of Second Life's jewelry designers will be gathered in one place. Jewelry Exposition features everything from casual jewelry to wedding sets, from anklets to hairpins, from delicate Victorian pieces to chic modern accessories. Add to that designer-run events and classes, a treasure hunt, and an auction benefiting the American Red Cross, and it's an event no jewelry lover will want to miss.

Presented by OnRez.com
<http://www.sljewelryexposition.com>

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THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: ITALY

BELLISSIMO:
Corso Como



By GAETANA FAUST

BUONGIORNO BELLA SL

ITALIAN CULTURE AT ITS FINEST ACROSS THE GRID

SAY ciao to some spectacular sims as you explore Italian history and culture in SL.

The popular sim of **Parioli** (200, 121, 40) replicates a Rome neighbourhood, and is the perfect first stop. Stroll around the piazza, sip an espresso at an outdoor cafe, or grab a free pair of rollerblades. In the nearby sim of **Virtual Italian Parks** (19, 210, 43), stop by the modern, vibrant red bar at **Cafe Society** and take a wander. Find a spot by one of the pools to lie around and enjoy the heat of a steamy Italian afternoon.

At the far end of **Corso Como** in the Milano-themed sim of **Sunrise Land** (101, 117, 24) you may find yourself crying "bella!" as you admire the beautiful **Porta**

Garibaldi arched gateway.

BREATHTAKING

Venice is one of the most romantic cities in the world, and you can explore it at the **Venezia** sim (121, 103, 21), which is focused around **San Marco** and the **Doge's Palace**, where you can dance amid the ancient marble columns.

Wander through the Tuscan countryside at **Toscana** (174, 217, 25) and enjoy the breathtaking landscape, green hills dotted with cedars and olive trees, sweeping towards the Mediterranean. Another take on the same region is **Tuscany Island** (53, 209, 24), where you can start with a glass of chianti at **Il Ritorno** cafe before checking out the villas scattered through the countryside.

AUTHENTIC ITALY

MANTAVA



Enjoy the recreation of this beautiful city, with its ancient architecture and sprawling piazzas.

Where: Mitcom Experience (180, 67, 136)

TRY OUT YOUR VESPA!

PORTO VENERE



View the colourful houses along the beach and take a spin on the dance floor.

Where: Curlew Waters (62, 75, 21)

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

VENICE ISLAND



Explore the most romantic city in the world from a gorgeous gondola.

Where: Venice Island (138, 133, 29)

8.24. - 8.30.

DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in SL Time



LIVE MUSIC

UKD PROJECT

The audience is guaranteed to be entertained as singer Rola Hykova goes through a range of original and cover material.

When: August 25, 13:00

Where: Galveston Island (68, 205, 24)



ARTS AND CULTURE

FREDERICKSBURG

This exhibition on the Battle of Fredericksburg during the American Civil War opens at the Caledon library.

When: August 26, 02:00

Where: Caledon VictoriaCity (59, 196, 23)



LIVE MUSIC

SILAS SCARBOROUGH

The musician demonstrates his genius on a 12-string guitar.

When: August 26, 13:00

Where: Havens Paradise (66, 159, 32)



FASHION

LITERARY FASHIONS PARTY

Leading Goth fashionistas launch their latest designs to tunes by DJ Massacre Soon.

When: August 25, 15:00

Where: Media World (208, 225, 37)



COMPETITION

SLCC MUSHROOM HUNT

More than 40 companies have put up prizes in exchange for the mushrooms, so get looking!

When: August 24 - 26

Where: Artifice Isle (193, 97, 22)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

STYLE ASIA

An exciting two-day catwalk bonanza bringing together a selection of Eastern style from a host of top SL designers including June Dion and Nicky Ree.

When: August 24 and 25, 17:00

Where: Artificial Isle (200, 112, 26)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



CLASS

TIRE SWINGS

Has your inner child ever wished to return to the days of playing on the swings? Learn how to make your own with scripts and textures provided free of charge.

When: August 28, 19:00

Where: Mischief (147, 154, 24)



SPORTS

SUMO GRAND BASHO

Fight it out like the fat men do in the summer season tournament finale - a great excuse to put on weight and throw it around.

When: August 27, 06:00, 14:00 and 20:00

Where: Artificial Isle (174, 89, 26)



CONFERENCE

CITY OF KNOWLEDGE

Groups from across the world will celebrate knowledge sharing with simulcast events from major campuses in Brazil.

When: August 28, 05:00-14:00

Where: Annenberg Island (91, 132, 25)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

LETS RAVE FOR A CAUSE

Entry to this old school rave event is L\$250, with all the proceeds going to the United Spinal Association charity. Miss Cyberpunk will be on the decks to provide the tunes.

When: August 24, 21:00-00:00

Where: Drive In (8, 139, 23)



ART & CULTURE

BRINGMANN AND KOPETZKI

The famous comic strip artists open their first SL exhibition with a party featuring DJs.

When: August 25, 11:00

Where: Berlin newBERLIN (235, 222, 31)

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.

INTERVIEW

The AvaStar: What is your best feature?

June Dion: Creativity. I love creating, and recognising talent in others.

TA: What is your favourite place in SL?

JD: My store in White Wolf, because it is more than a store. It is also a big family and home. The residents and staff there call me Mother June!

TA: What would you change about SL?

JD: The three letter word. Communication here is already very good, but SL needs better visuals - the 3D aspect of SL is what breaks language barriers.

TA: How would you describe your style?

JD: An eclectic cultural mix. The world would be more fun if everyone wore mixed culture outfits. And anything that looks fun to wear.

TA: What are the most precious items in your inventory?

JD: A photo of my first store. It was just a vendor space, with a very small door. It was so small you couldn't even go inside - the clothes were stuck on the front and the roof!

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

JD: SL does not need a president yet, so I haven't even thought about that!

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

By CARRIE SODWIND



JUNE DION

THE QUEEN OF ORIENTAL FASHION - JUNE'S STORE, BARE ROSE, CELEBRATED ITS SECOND BIRTHDAY LAST SATURDAY.

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: JUNE DION
BIRTH DATE: 8/7/2005

PROFESSION: Fashion designer
ATTITUDE: "Don't be serious - have fun"