

THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

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Sim shuts after Lab makes VAT demand



By COYNE NAGY
 A PEACEFUL haven has been forced to shut down by the Lab's new tax rules.

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"Although the idea of a Sharia law sim sounds dubious at first, I think it is a good idea to explain to people who probably have blinkered views of Islam what it is really all about."

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"Just as with the gambling ban, Linden Lab has dropped the ball in not telling residents what is going on until it absolutely has to. It is not simply oversight or forgetfulness, it is a sign of what their basic thinking is."



LEIDER STEPANOV
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THE AVASTAR

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NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

14 ... different groups have been set up to protest against the VAT payments which have rocked European residents (see page 4).

51,895 ... residents were online at once at 13.55 SLT on Sunday - a new concurrency record.

1m ... virtual video clips have been downloaded from the Second Life Cable Network since its launch in May.

GRIEFING IS OUT OF ORDER



ARTIST Good2 Go had his work destroyed during the Burning Life festival when a griefer overloaded the sim with prims. Pic by Wizard Gynoid

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LAB FORCING TALENT OUT!



BY CARRIE SODWIND

PLEASE: Arcadia Asylum's friends plead with her to come home

TALENTED FREEBIE BUILDER LATEST TO LEAVE SL IN DISGUST

A TALENTED freebie builder is the latest resident to be driven out of SL through sheer frustration with Linden Lab.

When Arcadia Asylum's inventory vanished last Saturday, the much-loved builder told friends she had had enough and was leaving SL to work exclusively in other virtual worlds. Nobody has seen her in-world since - even though Kona Linden managed to recover her lost inventory later this week. Pavig Lok is a good friend of Arcadia, who she said was furious at the Lab: "I wouldn't be

surprised if she didn't come back."

TALENTED

Another friend, Orhalla Zander, praised Arcadia's work as a builder, which she did all for free. He said: "Even Torley Linden has mentioned how wonderful her work is, and there are tons of my 700 hobos [residents of his Hobo sim] that love her to death for her free work. Hell, I pay US\$40 a month just to display her work." Some residents are worried this could be a growing trend, as other talented SL entrepreneurs pack their bags over Linden

Lab and technical failings. Last week The AvaStar reported Helena Kirkorian, who disappeared from SL seemingly without trace. This week, she contacted friends via e-mail to tell them she vanished due to an on-going problem with Linden Lab. Helena remains the owner of the Paradise Lost club,

which has reportedly suffered a drop in business without its charismatic hostess. But there was some good news when Helena contacted friends Kean Kelly and Jon Renneville via email to say that she was planning to come back to SL after solving the dispute, which has rumbled on since May.



NEWS BITES!

AGE FEEDBACK

ROB Linden has asked for feedback on the Lab's controversial age verification plans from residents. He has set up a formal group critique on the Second Life wiki to come up with a list of questions that residents most want answered.

VIRTUAL JOB FAIR FOR LUXEMBOURG

LUXEMBOURG will turn to SL in a bid to improve the skill level of its workforce. GAX Technologies are behind the country's first virtual job fair on November 28 at the Luxembourg Business island.

MELBOURNE IN SL

AUSTRALIAN Metaverse developer The Project Factory has unveiled an artistic recreation of Melbourne. The installation is a unique reinterpretation of the city.

YANKEE DOODLE

RESEARCH firm The Yankee Group have been ridiculed across SL after claiming the average user spends a mere 12 minutes a month in-world, doing little to back up their claim SL was too PC orientated and offered little impact on the market.

SIMS CLOSED BY VAT RULES

BY COYNE NAGY

NEW VAT TAX RULES FORCE BEAUTIFUL SIM OUT OF EXISTENCE

ONE of the most beautiful sims on the grid has been forced out of existence - by the Lab's own massive tax demands.

The current owner of the stunning Lauk's Nest sim, which contains breathtaking scenery and a functioning ecosystem, says he will have to sell it because he cannot afford to pay value added tax, or VAT.

Lukas Mensing runs the sim as a non-profit venture, and allows residents to use facilities for free. But that is set to end as he has been forced to put it up for sale. And ironically the man ultimately responsible, Lab CEO Philip Linden,

said in an interview with Rolling Stone magazine that he was a fan of Lauk's Nest.

ANGER

The Lab sent an email out of the blue last week to residents in the European Union, telling them they had to pay VAT under RL laws on all their transactions with LL, including premium registration fees, land purchases and tier payments. The speed of the move caused anger and disappointment amongst residents, with some receiving the news just days before their next billing cycle.

VAT rates vary among the countries, but as a Swede, Mensing will

have to pay a staggering 25 per cent extra - causing his monthly tier fees to leap up to US\$243.75. He said: "This decision hits hard at the world of art. Many artists I have talked to are selling their galleries or houses because they didn't expect to pay a higher tier in their provisional budget. So I feel for these people. For me it's a question of a lack of information, disrespect and contempt from Linden Lab towards us. I don't feel cheated, I feel angry." The sim is currently up for sale, with several parties reportedly interested - although they would be unlikely to keep it as it is.



Pic by WANGXIANG TUXING

BURMA PROTEST

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL and TRICK MERTEL

UNITY: Demonstrators link hands at the Austria City sim
Pic by Tina (PetGirl) Bergman.

RESIDENTS JOIN FORCES TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE RL BURMESE GOVERNMENT

PROTESTS were held across the grid in a show of solidarity for monks protesting in RL against the Burmese government.

Residents gathered at the Austria City, Odyssey and Commonwealth Island sims over the weekend to give their support to the monks, many of whom are now facing lengthy prison spells. The high numbers in attendance even caused the demonstrations to spill over into neighbouring sims.

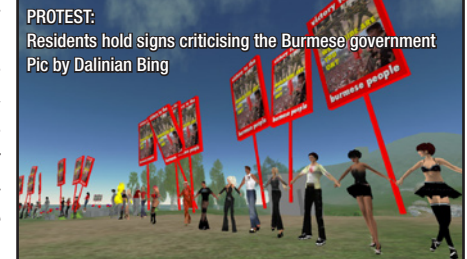
Monk robes, red t-shirts and chain-linking animations were available for the protesters, who joined hands and carried signs that demanded freedom and democracy for Burma and

its people. The virtual protests followed a burst of violence last week in the Asian state, where the ruling military junta reacted to growing protest with shootings and widespread arrests.

VIOLENCE

A traditional symbol of peace and stability for the country, the monks were dealt with violently and many were arrested for voicing opposition to the oppressive regime. Internet traffic in the country was blocked on Friday, cutting access to SL and other means of communication with the outside world.

Various SL groups have been formed to support the protest. Pol McLaglen, who founded the "Freedom: Burma" group, said: "It was a gut reaction to the events in the news. With a large international network of friends in SL you can do more world-wide than you can with more traditional internet media. Protests are good for getting issues into the public domain."

PROTEST: Residents hold signs criticising the Burmese government
Pic by Dalinian Bing

HELPING TO FIGHT ANOREXIA

BY CARRIE SODWIND

ARTIST LAUNCHES IN-WORLD CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE DISEASE



CURVY FASHION: Swirly Cyclone



SHOCKING: Pauline Baxter's poster

SHOCKING pictures of an anorexic avatar inspired by similar RL images have been published in SL as part of a campaign against the disease.

In-world artist Pauline Baxter created the billboard pictures of models with the eating disorder after the real life versions by photographer Oliviero Toscani were controversially displayed at a fashion festival in the Italian city of Milan last week, where catwalk models are required by law to pass a medical examination. As fashion in RL and SL continue to interact - with style icon Giorgio Armani in-world only last week - Baxter is adamant that the reality of the disorder

should be present among SL fashionistas. She said she was shocked to see what a thin avatar body looked like in the nude, and was worried about the knock-on effect in RL: "Shapes and skins are a big industry in SL. The images that you see here have an effect on what you experience as 'normal'."

DREADFUL

Baxter is giving the billboard free to anyone willing to post it in their shop. It has already appeared on major fashion blogs, and stands as a centre piece at the Gentlemen's Club on the Dauphin sim. One fashionista giving

all her support is Swirly Cyclone, whose avatar has plenty of curves. She said: "Swirly has a stunning figure, and all of those other girls ARE anorexic. I agree that it is a dreadful problem in SL."



BATTLE: Pauline Baxter

LINDENS SETTLE BRAGG LAWSUIT

LONG-RUNNING RL LEGAL SAGA COMES TO AN END OUT OF COURT



By TRICKMERTEL

NO NEED: Lab stays out of court

A GROUND-BREAKING lawsuit filed against Linden Lab by a disgruntled former resident of SL has been settled out of court.

Marc Bragg sued the Lab for lost income last year after his avatar, Marc Woebegone, was kicked out of SL for buying thousands of US\$ worth of land for under market value. The Lab claimed he used an

'exploit' in the auction system to pick up property for a fraction of the normal price, and banned him without returning his virtual assets. It emerged on Thursday, however, that Bragg has settled his case with the Lab, stopping a lawsuit which would have set new legal precedents for virtual worlds. The terms of the agreement have not been revealed.

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FEISTY FELINES HOT FOR HUNKS

By BABU WRITER

NEKO MEN GRABBING ALL THE ATTENTION AND ALL THE LADIES

SL is definitely cool for cats – and those furry felines certainly know how to stick their claws into the opposite sex.

So what is it about the crazy cats which attracts their frisky feline counterparts? The AvaStar donned ears and furry tails to find out, and discovered Maerlyn Mayfair and Dawson Rydell - two of the most successful Neko cats.

Maerlyn's ex-flame Kestrel Sakai described how the ladies swoon over him: "They literally fall out of the sky to get with Maer. One look at his tail, and they can't seem to help themselves. They turn Neko, they change hair, they put on collars, they attach themselves to his butt... whatever." So how does he get girls in the mood? "No one can figure it out," added, Kestrel. "Essentially, he says 'hello' and that's about all it takes."

Devoted fans of Mr Rydel, meanwhile, are equally as misty-eyed in their descriptions. "Dawson takes neko to another level," cooed one

trembling lady.

Despite appearances, Dawson has a partner, Charisse Angelus – although that doesn't rule him out of the odd spot of playfulness. He added: "We're quite open about our sexuality, love sharing it with others - but just when the other is present. Keeps us out of trouble."

SLEEK

So what to make of all this animal action? AvaStar agony aunt Randi Barracuda was unsurprised about the Neko men's success: "Cats are strong, assertive, independent, sleek and clean. For some people, they just exude sexuality. Their faces are quite human, but they have cute ears!"



MEOW: Dawson Rydell

HE'S PURRRRFECT: Maerlyn Mayfair

MAD ABOUT CATS: Kestrel Sakai



your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

TAKE US SERIOUSLY!

CONFUSED OVER TODAY'S WORLD

Hey Regis,
I READ the article about IBM workers striking in SL last week [‘IBM on strike’], and thought it was really interesting, because it shows just how far virtual worlds have come in this past year.

That sort of thing was totally unheard of this time last year. It amuses me to think of all the IBM protester newbies who discovered some of the unex-

pected delights of SL when trampling across the grid. A friend of mine bumped into one of them who was joking about a western role-playing sim they had found – where people actually talk like cowboys! It got me thinking, even though a very significant 1,850 workers turned out

to the protest, a lot of people still refuse to take SL, and what happens here, seriously. The protests should have been taken as seriously as a RL one, because it was real people with real incentive about a real thing. SL was only a convenient venue. IBM do not appear to have done anything in response, however. We

have come far in a year, but there's a long way to go.

By N.A.

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

SL PERFECT FOR MUSLIMS

Hey Regis,
THERE seems to have been an awful lot of talk about Muslims in SL recently.

After your report of the apparaent Islamophobic attack an a new Muslim sim [‘Shameful attack on Muslim sim’, The AvaStar issue 40], I felt the need to write in to say that I do not think this kind of thing will prove to be anywhere near as big of a problem as in the real world.

Of course, there will always be idiots in any society who do things simply because they go against the sensibilities of the masses, and that seems to have

been the case here with this grieving. But I really do think that SL, a home for such a wide variety of groups, is the perfect place for people to find out about each other - and although this idea of a Sharia law sim sounds somewhat dubious at first, I think it is a good idea to explain to people who have blinkered views of Islam what the religion is really all about.

By W.S.





LEIDER STEPANOV

A LACK OF COMMUNICATION

LINDEN LAB MUST TALK TO RESIDENTS MORE THAN WHEN IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY

IT is rather ironic, really - Linden Lab, pioneers of the latest wave of mass communication, are actually rubbish at talking to people.

By that, I don't mean the act of speaking, I mean the fact the Lab seems incapable of communicating with their customers about important issues.

IRRITATION

For example, we Europeans now have to pay the dreaded value added tax, or VAT, on all our monetary dealings with the Lab. A pain in the backside, but, as with the ban on gambling, it is perhaps a price SL has to pay for



becoming so successful that RL law makers are starting to sit up and take notice. But as with the gambling ban, why did the Lab not see fit to tell us about it until they took action? For some, the Lab's email last week would have been an irritation, but there have also been tales of those

who did not budget for a 25 per cent increase in their SL costs.

WARNED

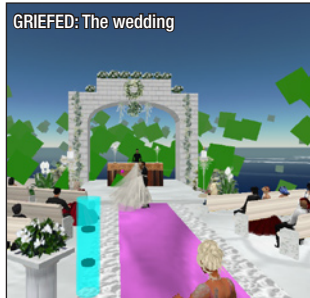
Just as with the gambling ban, Linden Lab has dropped the ball in not telling residents what is going on until it absolutely has to. And it is not simply oversight or forgetfulness, it is a sign of the basic

thinking of the Lindens - "we are in charge, they do not matter, they have no right to know what we are thinking". Well I'm afraid that is not good enough. Why did they not let residents know when they were first told that European VAT laws may affect them? A simple email then saying, "be warned - you may have to pay", would have been all that was required, as would "don't spend thousands on a casino, we may shut it down" have been a few months ago.

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

HOW LOW WILL GRIEFERS STOOP?

A VIRTUAL WEDDING TOTALLY RUINED THANKS TO THE UNTIMELY INTERVENTION OF SL'S IDIOTS



GRIEFED: The wedding

IT is supposed to be the happiest day of your virtual life.

The 'Wedding March' strikes up and you set off down the aisle, ready to make the ultimate commitment to the man you love (virtually, of course).

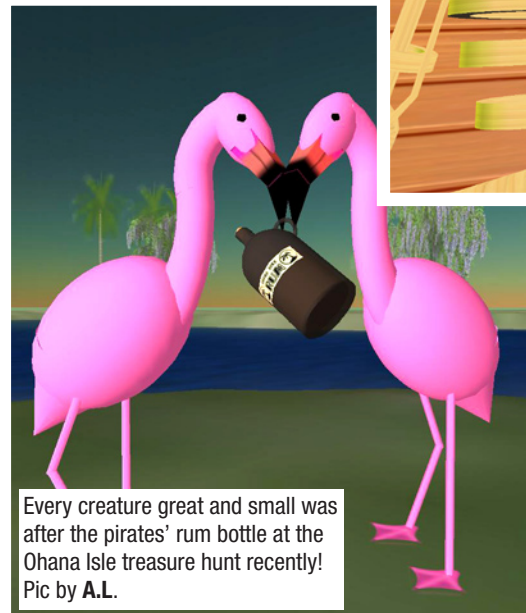
Yet one poor bride had to suffer the ignominy of grieving at the hands of some of SL's more

stupid and childish inhabitants, who littered the sim with green blobs-leavingpriestSaschSlade, who sent in this photo, furious. To make matters worse, the reception was a disaster as well, with the DJ spirited away by the griever. Perhaps it should be "till grief do us part".

L\$500
PICS
OF THE WEEK
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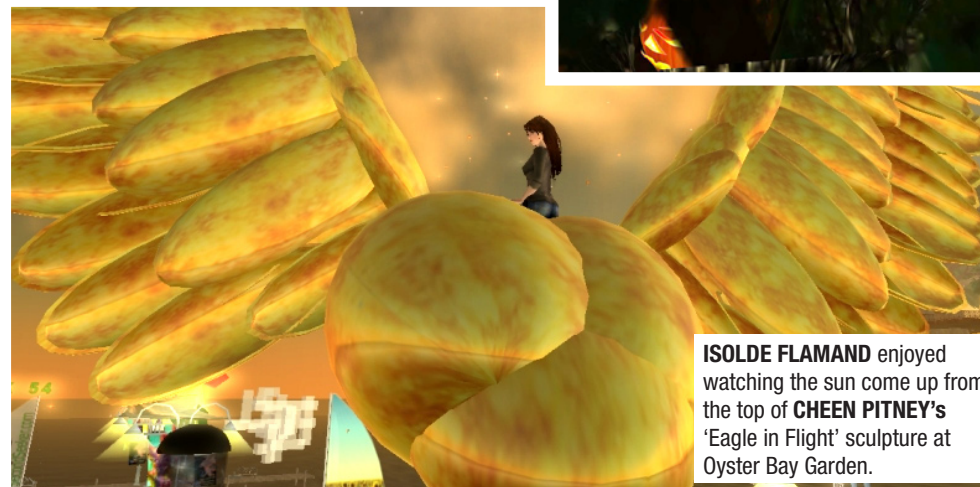
The Burning Life festival was great fun for all involved, with **BURNING-MAN JR.** seen here putting an arm around **GIRL KRISZTINA**. Pic by **SEIBERTB RUNO**.



Every creature great and small was after the pirates' rum bottle at the Ohana Isle treasure hunt recently! Pic by **A.L.**



ARKADY LUNDQUIST is already warming up for Halloween later this month - with this scary pumpkin just the start!



ISOLDE FLAMAND enjoyed watching the sun come up from the top of **CHEEN PITNEY's** 'Eagle in Flight' sculpture at Oyster Bay Garden.

META BITES!

THE AVASTAR KEEPS YOU UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE METAVERSE

US\$1BN IN ONE YEAR

A REMARKABLE US\$1bn has been invested in 35 virtual world companies in the last year. The vast majority of this comes from Disney's purchase of Club Penguin for US\$700m and Intel buying Havok, the provider of physics within Second Life, for US\$110m.

LONDON CONFERENCE

EUROPE'S largest virtual world conference takes place in London from October 23-26. The forum will promote the use of virtual worlds to engage with clients, suppliers and customers, and firms such as Linden Lab, There.com, IBM and Heineken will be represented.

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

SCENECASTER will try to grab a slice of the virtual market with the launch of their online community. Unlike SL, it is a 3D scene creation application which can be integrated with the web and allows users to build communities and share media files.

TURNER'S KANEVA LINK

TURNER Broadcasting has announced a link up with Kaneva as they dip a toe into virtual worlds. They will construct spaces inside the platform with embedded video players being used to stream content to provide a bridge between the web and the virtual world.

MACHINIMA CONTEST

LIFESKOOL and Machinima.com are hosting a machinima contest to find your 'sickest trick'. It runs until January 2008, with prizes decided by judges and a popular vote. The creator of the winning film overall will win a trip to New York.

CSI:VIRTUAL WORLDS

VIRTUAL worlds will feature prominently in popular TV show CSI:NY, according to the New York Times this week. In an episode to broadcast on Oct 24 in the US, lead character Mac Taylor will chase a suspect - who is an avatar. The show reportedly uses machinima.

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STARFRUIT HEADS FOR CONFERENCE

INNOVATIVE PROJECT SET TO BE HIGHLIGHT OF SWISS FORUM

By COYNE NAGY

A UNIQUE in-world project will be the focus of a RL conference dedicated to the most innovative business ideas.

Starfruit is designed to bridge virtual worlds and real life, and offers residents the chance to send a free SMS text message from within SL to any mobile phone across the globe. The project has also linked up with Fleurop.com to deliver flowers and chocolate to your RL doorstep - having ordered them in-world. You can even give virtual gifts to your loved one in SL, who can then swap them for RL equivalents.

CELEBRATION

The scheme has proved extremely popular since it was launched in May, and Starfruit bosses will take to the stage at the Swiss Innovation Forum in Basel, Switzerland later

this month to explain the project. The firm celebrated this week by hosting two parties, organised by the Electric Sheep Company, with prizes up for grabs including flowers, chocolate and L\$8,000.

Check out the Starfruit sim, which includes the TowerTalk feature, and watch out for the 400 phone booths in-world where you can send free SMS text messages.



STARRY NIGHT: This week's party

THIS IS VODAFONE CALLING

TELECOM giants Vodafone have launched ambitious plans to increase interaction between the real and virtual worlds.

Residents can now get their hands on the company's innovative 'Inside Out' HUD system, which enables

them to communicate with other avatars through text or by phone. The HUD can make and receive calls when in-world, but if users are offline their RL mobile phone can be used instead.

For safety reasons, users only need to give out their real mobile

phone details once, to Vodafone, who then allocate virtual numbers taken from a bank of German mobile numbers in order to make calls. The phone is available free at Vodafone InsideOut Island, and calls or texts made in-world are free until November 30.

BIZ BITES!

PARTNER PORTAL

COMPUTING giant SAP plan to create a 'Partner Portal' in SL as a way of introducing their business partners to the world. It will feature overviews about companies such as Adobe, HP and Redwood, and look in-depth at the solutions they use.

COCKTAILS IN SL

VODKA firm Smirnoff is planning a media launch for their new sim next week. The company has constructed a stunning build which features an ice rink and recipes for vodka cocktails.

TOP GADGETS

ELECTROLUX are sponsoring the 'Innovation Hub' as their first event in SL. The grand opening of the manufacturing firm's sim took place on October 4 with the acknowledgement of some of SLs leading gadget designers and innovators in the first ever 'Innovation Awards'.

ISLAND HOPPING

ACCOUNTING giant Accenture are gradually increasing their presence in-world, with the appearance on the map of Accenture 1-6 islands.

a-stars



A-STARS gossip with Dylan Miles and Babu Writer

10 DOWN, 2 TO GO



IN THE MIX: Callie Cline

WHAT AN AVASTAR: Rebel Hope

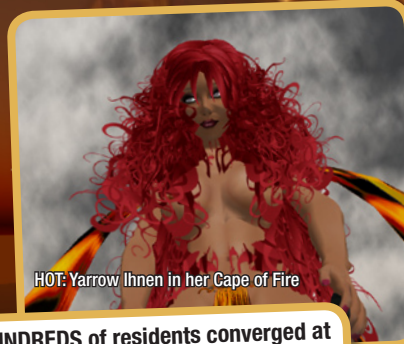
TOP OF THE PILE: Babyhoney Bailey

By **CARRIE SODWIND**
THE 12 Avatars calendar girl contest announced ten of the models set to feature in the RL calendar. Babyhoney Bailey had the highest number of votes of all the 76 models who entered, with the dark haired freckled beauty, who is hoping to be Miss October, polling more than 400 votes. She said she was grateful to her friends, as she believed the contest was

about much more than just looks: "So many girls entered and all of them are attractive in their own way, it's hard to say that looks alone actually counted for the majority." Also on the list are popular fashion designers **Callie Cline** and **Rebel Hope**, who was AvaStar of the week earlier this year. Only two winners are left to be named in the competition, run by US firm Apollo Interactive and in-world agency Centric.

FEEL THE HEAT!

By **BABU WRITER**



HOT: Yarrow Ihnen in her Cape of Fire

HUNDREDS of residents converged at the intersection of four sims to watch the traditional Burning Man spectacle on Sunday. The event was the climax to this year's Second Life Festival, which finished on Monday, and proved as popular with residents as always. Those lucky enough to see the man burn had to put up with the searing heat, while the strobing dance balls were a popular giveaway.

ABLAZE: The Burning Man goes up in flames



DANGER: Zena Oh

FIERY FASHION

SIMONIE Swain

featured her latest designs at the Casablanca Society Lounge this week. The clothes on display at the fashion show at the lladil sim were a hit with the assembled avatars, and there was dancing afterwards.

By **ISABEL BROCCO**



PLAY IT AGAIN, SAM



By **ISABEL BROCCO**

A FASHION runway in Saint Barth was literally set alight on Saturday for a blazing catwalk show by Raven Pennyfeather to mark the launch of a new SL style magazine.

Among the fashion celebrities at the Best of SL party were **Callie Cline**, **Betty Doyle** and **Nicky Ree**.

AUTUMN STYLE

BY BIANCA FOULON

IT'S the rainy season, and the trench coat is in lots of major stores. The trench is a fashion classic, but it looks great with this autumn's looks: long warm socks, tartan, bold colour and thick-rimmed glasses.

BIANCA FOULON is wearing **Powersuit Charcoal**, L\$350, by Storma Amarula, *Exotica Island* (79, 132, 26); **Tights**, free, by Paper Couture; and **'Leeloo' Stiletto**, L\$400, by Sylfie Minogue, *Sylfie* (67, 25, 23).

ANNABEL CIOC is wearing **Trench Libertine**, L\$450, by Shai Delacroix, *Deco* (112, 150, 30); **Wool Socks**, L\$50 by Beanster Potato; and **Boots**, L\$300, by Digit Darkes.

ABYGALE CARTER is wearing **Chanel stars* fur beret**, L\$300 (with outfit), by Alex Elytis, *Plush Alpha* (146, 226, 22); **Jumper**, L\$110, and green **BB Bag**, L\$130, by biancaF., *Belgique belgique* (224, 212, 24); **Jeans**, L\$150 by Digit Darkes, *Dacham* (62, 122, 48).

DILETTA CLAYMORE is wearing ***FI* Pleated Trench**, free, by Pukk Abel, *Shepherd* (233, 48, 95); **wool beige socks**, L\$50, by Beanster Potato *Daffodil Island* (229, 21, 401), **Bana Bag**, L\$100, by Bianca F.; and **Glasses**, L\$120, by Paper Couture *Barcola* (72, 127, 25).



WHAT'S HOT!
SAFETY NET

BY CARRIE SODWIND

NOT many designers have attempted a good quality item of net clothing.

It is hard to get right, without being string-vest tacky. However, this week wild party girl Lilibeth Andree, designer for Talisman, went net crazy, and it looked just fantastic. The sparkly feather and net skirt, part of an outfit by Last Call, really moves like net - crisp and bouncy. The large-diamond fish-net tights were a bold addition - but looked great with the delicate details of the skirt.



NET GAIN:
Lilibeth Andree

caLLie cLine's
STYLE HOTLINE
KEEP AN EYE ON FASHION

PRIM LASHES ARE A GREAT WAY TO PERFECT YOUR EYES

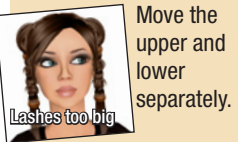
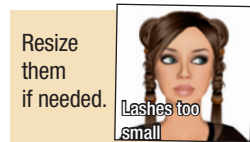
BEAUTIFUL eyes are something everyone wants to have, and there are many ways to enhance the eyes available to us.

From the many eyes available to purchase, from regular to cat, the choices out there are endless.

One of the things I love to add to my eyes to really bring them out are prim lashes. You can find many out there, from Lynixx Muse's (who I believe was the first to make them) to ones by many other designers. The problem with

them is, YOU MUST FIT THEM PROPERLY. Each face is different and no set of prim lashes will fit right unless you take the time to fit them. Some people don't think it's worth it, so they keep the regular lashes, but personally, I think it's worth the time.

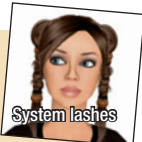
Here are a few hints:



Turn off the regular lashes, as they have a way of interfering with the look of the lashes.

Have patience - it may take a while, but if you work on it you can get it right.

I think this is a well worth it 'beauty hint' if you will and certainly a 'must have' for your avatar's face. So go find some prim lashes and let your eyes shine!



HIT OR MISS
Successes and flops from this week's new fashion releases.
By CARRIE SODWIND

HIT: It is always a pleasure when a favourite designer releases something surprising. It just shows that they keep on getting better. Mooie Vogel (meaning 'Pretty Bird' in Dutch) is Nicky Ree's irresistible new feathery gown, and at L\$780 it is worth breaking the bank for.



Nicky Ree Boutique, Deco (86, 118, 28).

MISS: This latest release for men and women from DE Designs (DE Designs 104, 135, 38) has got some incredible tiny details. There are great detachable elements like the leather gloves for example. However, all together the outfit is fussy, aggressive and, at L\$375, expensive. Action man was never a style icon anyway.



HIT: The cute Doll Flats, L\$200, are a bit different because not much other fashion in SL promotes cosy, comfortable and practical footwear. The slip-ons come with layered short woolly ankle socks and black stockings. Draconic Kiss gets thumbs up for promoting a healthy curvy figure as part of their design image (Koreshan 210, 121, 25).

High Heels
==Merlin==

Angel
Lingerie and more
Dessous

High Heels
==Merlin==

Angel-Dessous & High Heels Merlin

High Heels
==Merlin==

Paris Boots

CELTIC
Angel-Dessous

Paris Boots

Come to visit our Mainstores
at
Blue Moon Bay
&
Volksland Beach

Volksland Beach : <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Volksland%20Beach/99/79/21>
Blue Moon Bay: <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Blue%20Moon%20Bay/164/156/22>

Brand new Mall!
Hurry, space still available to rent! ^ _ ^

AW Design

Absolutely|Fabulous
Galleria

fickie
Fe

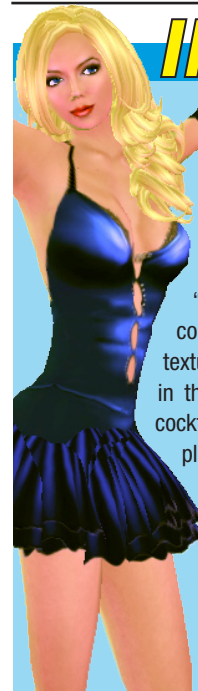
**Absolutely|Fabulous
Galleria**

Shopping made easy and enjoyable!

(Lag Free,13,64,21)

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK BY HONEY BENDER

WEBGODDESS MARS, ASPIRE MODEL & NEXCORE STYLIST

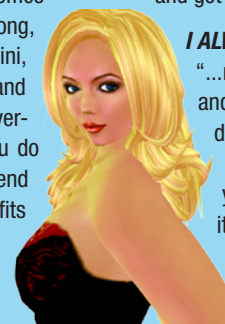


I FEEL GREAT IN...

"...my dress from Rebel Hope. It's called 'Tease...The Little Blue Collection'.
"First of all I love the colour and the delicate textures. The dress comes in three lengths – long, cocktail dress and mini, plus dress pants and shoes. It is so versatile, so if you do not want to spend a fortune on outfits it's a winner."

I LOVE...

"... my boots by Minx. They would be worn out by now if this was real life. They just look great with almost everything except formal dresses. I actually saw them on someone else and instant messaged to ask for a landmark to the shop, and got them the same day."



I ALWAYS WEAR...

"...my Naughty Designs skin. It's called 'Aina' and it is my all time favourite. It is beautifully done, and photographs well so I always wear it for modelling. As a model the type of skin you wear can make or break you, so even if it's expensive it is the best investment ever. Together with my walk and my shape it's made my modelling career successful."

TREE-T YOURSELF



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

Wisteria blue giant
By Hamish Stuart
Wisteria (192, 151, 25)

L\$333



Red Maple Sculpture
With falling leaves and pose
Shadow Brook (82, 148, 38)

L\$550



Sculptie tree with falling leaves
By Rowan Carroll
Reduz NW
(159, 186, 22)

L\$100



Purple Dreams Tree Swing Middle
By Luna Bliss
Callahans Isle (23, 244, 231)

L\$495

L\$295

NIRVANA Magic Mushroom Tree
By Carrie Grant
Flora (31, 96, 26)



MY TRAVEL TIPS

BY TRICK MERTEL

ROBY HAIFISCH is an active RL and SL saxophonist, who plays jazz, rock and pop.

THE AVASTAR: Which sims have you explored recently?

ROBY HAIFISCH: I was on Verloren recently, where there is an absolutely amazing build of a RL castle in Germany from King Louie II.

TA: Where do you hang out and relax?

RB: I like to go to Bali Hai. There aren't so many people so I don't get disturbed. For me relaxing in SL means writing scripts.

TA: Where do you party?

RB: I normally log into SL in the evenings, usually to play a gig. But if I have time I often listen to other live musicians so I can enjoy and also learn from them. Some

places I go to often are The Lily Pad Lounge, F.E. and Galveston.

TA: What sims do you find the most creative?

RB: I'm not so interested in places that were built without love. The Dresden Gallery, or Gemäldegalerie, is a great example of a building done with care.

TA: What are your top tips for exploring SL?

RB: Instead of buying things I built most of the items I own myself. Newbies should find out themselves what they are good at and what they like in SL, whether it be building, scripting, press or whatever. The possibilities are infinite.



ADVERT

Private sims. romance. dancing and beautiful tropical sunsets

Click to teleport

Aroha Tahii

a private lovers retreat

NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: THE CANALS OF VENICE, A COMBAT SIM, A NAVIGATION AID AND LOTS OF FUN AND GAMES.



HISTORIC: The Rialto bridge

BY TRICK MERTEL

THE famous monuments of one of Italy's most beautiful cities have been built in SL at the Caovilla Venice sim.

It is a recreation of the tourist haven, with a designer showroom placed conveniently in the centre. The iconic gondolas line the canals, which are shadowed by the Rialto Bridge, the Campanile in Piazza San Marco

launch of the GOA roleplay battle area on the Passion of Venture sim. The dark and Gothic urban playground is the first German-speaking roleplay zone. Vampires, victims, werewolves and 'antikers' will tear each other to shreds on the streets, or in the designated fight cage where only the winner survives.

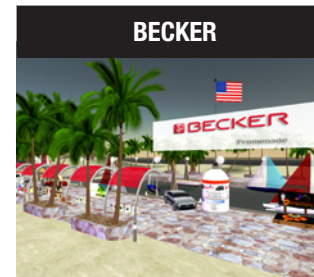
system manufacturer, whose history and products are prominently displayed across the island. Visitors can pick up a free SL navigation system, which works as a simple landmark manager tool.

Although yet to open, the Juliet



PASSION OF VENTURE

and the Doge's Palace. Violence in SL will increase this week, meanwhile, with the



BECKER

The German archipelago grows further with the appearance of the Becker GPS Lounge sim, a stylish but formulaic marketing pitch for the car navigation



JULIET

sim is packed with businesses and activities, including parachuting, go-karting, bull riding and shops and cafés. The crowded mainland sim is convenient for the visitor but can be laggy with the full prim count.



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

DEAR

I'M TOO BORING TO GET A HOT GIRL - HELP ME!



EVEN MY FRIENDS TELL ME I'M DULL, SO HOW CAN I ATTRACT A PRETTY LADY?

Dear Randi: ONE of the reasons I came into Second Life was to meet women, and although I keep trying I just can't seem to get anyone I like interested in me. I thought I wouldn't be as shy here as I am in RL, but when I am dancing with a girl I have a hard time thinking of things to say. And she often makes an excuse to

leave after about ten minutes. I think I'm a nice enough guy, but I've had a couple of friends tell me I'm usually boring. Now I'm at a loss. What do I have to do to attract a great girl and keep her? — H.S.

Randi says: Looks mean a lot in SL, so make your avatar as handsome as possible. Then update your profile with every

RL and SL interest you feel comfortable sharing. Check a new lady's profile soon after you strike up a conversation to see what you have in common, and discuss those subjects. Make sure you type carefully to show your intelligence. And if you are really interested in someone, shower her with compliments and gifts!

MIND-BLOWING SL SEX WITH RL MUM-IN-LAW

Dear Randi: I WAS divorced in RL in February from the sister of a guy who remains my best friend. Their other sister is very active in SL, and recently introduced me to a new girl. We hit it off fantastically, and the night we met we had several hours of mind-blowing sex! Yesterday the sister let it slip that the girl's typist is my former mother-in-law. I returned to SL last night and confronted her, and she said she had long had a crush on me. She isn't bad-looking in RL and is only 12 years older than me. Should we take it offline? — J.T.

Randi says: You certainly shouldn't rush into it. A relationship with the mother of your ex would always be complicated. If your ex-wife dumped you, then she really has no business getting involved. But everybody you know in RL is going to talk. Tell your new girl the situation. Then keep it online and see how it proceeds. But by all means, take it slow.

GREAT IN THE SACK BUT HE REFUSES TO WED ME

Dear Randi: MY SL boyfriend and I have been dating for over a year, and a couple of weeks ago he asked me to move into his beautiful new home with him. I know I want to marry him and think we'd be great together long-term, but he's showing no interest whatsoever in marriage. He says it is 'just a piece of paper', and doesn't want to go through a big ceremony. Meanwhile, I continue to perform better than most wives probably would in the bedroom. Should I insist he marry me or move out? — E.F.

Randi says: Yes. You're satisfying him in bed without a solid commitment from him. Perhaps he doesn't want to marry someone in RL, but marriage can be a lot less complicated here. Tell him that you have been making his bedroom fantasies come true and you want him to reciprocate by indulging your wedding fantasies. If he won't, dump him.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

I WANT TO BE A VERY FOXY LADY

Dear Randi:

EACH time that I have had a long-term boyfriend in SL, the relationship ended because we discovered we just didn't have very much in common. But a few weeks ago, I met someone who I think might be the guy of my dreams! And last night he presented me with a beautiful

engagement ring. The problem is that he is a gorgeous red wolf, and a lot of my friends think I have no business dating someone of another 'species'. Is it OK for a human to marry a wolf in SL? — D.D.

Randi says:

I don't see anything wrong with it. Anti-furry prejudice

is, to me, akin to RL racial prejudice. Some people have denounced furry sex, but I hardly expect your relationship with him to lead to you seeking a RL relationship at your local wolf preserve. If the two of you want to get married, then proceed and let your 'friends' react as they will.

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK A MARRIAGE STRIPPED OF HONESTY, WEEK ONE:



to be continued...



By Deeep Witte

How to...

Everything a newbie needs to know!

HOW TO PUSH OBJECTS AND AVATARS BEYOND THE BORDERS OF AN ISLAND SIM
MANY sims in SL are islands, surrounded by the deep blue sea.

There seems to be an invisible wall surrounding each one, but it is possible to push objects and avatars beyond this barrier. With objects, the important thing to remember is to ensure the root is within the sim border.

For example, if you link a ball and a stick, the root prim (the base of the link, outlined in yellow when editing) has to stay within the sim itself. The other part can go out into negative coordinates - beyond the sim

border. Remember, everything goes towards the sim's prim count.

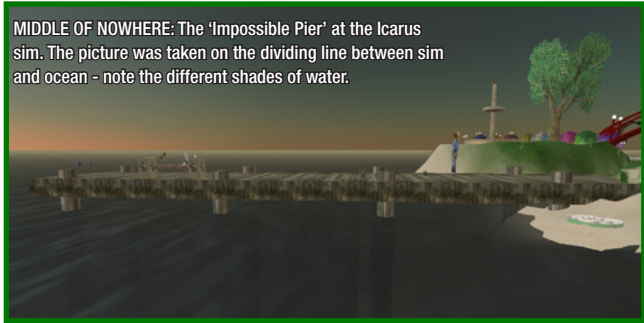
BEAUTIFUL

For avatars, it is simply a case of setting a sit pose target on part of an object outside of a sim.

A pose could be set on a pier inside the sim line, but which places people beyond the invisible wall.

It all means that you can create and enjoy some beautiful scenery away from your sim.

MIDDLE OF NOWHERE: The 'Impossible Pier' at the Icarus sim. The picture was taken on the dividing line between sim and ocean - note the different shades of water.



ADVERT

GRAND OPENING OF

Town & Country HAUS

THE TOWN & COUNTRY GRAND OPENING
 8. Oct. 2007 - 10:00 AM Second Life Time



Live Music with
Juel Resistance

www.myspace.com/7juel

PLEASE CONTACT
 CHICSAW BADE OR STEFAN GUNAWAN
 INWORLD FOR THE GUESTLIST

INFOS:
WWW.HAUSAUSSTELLUNG.DE

COORDINATES: Apfellaund TownCounty (93, 16, 24)



Freebies

SL's best FREE stuff!

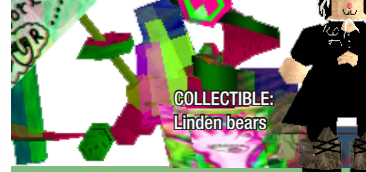
THIS WEEK: LINDEN BEARS
MOST new residents don't know about the Linden Bears.

So what are they? Almost every Linden has a personal teddy bear, made especially for residents. If you are lucky enough to meet a Linden wandering around in SL, or if you pop into their office at Linden Village, feel free to ask for one: it is a unique gift - no transfer, of course.

RARE

They are funny, creative, highly refined (and high-prim) and sometimes scripted. There are many Linden bears hunters, who seek out rare bears from old Lindens.

But what about us



COLLECTIBLE: Linden bears



CLASSIC: The Resident's Bear

common avatars? Photographer Daedalus Young said: "If Lindens have bears, then so should residents!"

And so he created the Resident's Bear, available for free at his place in Shepherd (245, 155, 84). It is a lovely, classic teddy bear, reminiscent of childhood. You could even exchange it with the next Linden you meet!

DOS AND DON'TS: FREEBIE FASHION

DO

- + Ask around for the best-known freebie fashion designers and find out where they have plots.
- + Approach well-dressed people in social places and see if they have any old freebies they don't wear any more.
- + Use modifiable freebies so that you can edit them.
- + Check the name of the maker under 'Properties'. Good freebie designers are rare and special.

DON'T

- Stick just to the freebie junkyards. There are lots of great designer stores that give out free stuff.
- Try too hard to stand out, as people are more likely to notice you are wearing freebie clothes.
- Dress head-to-toe in freebie items from one store or junkyard.
- Wear the age-old freebies that everyone has.
- Wear your freebie hair or skirt long unless it is flexi - which is rare.

My First Day in Second Life

SL SINGER ANGEL STORMWIND:

By Trick Mertel
THE AVASTAR: How was your first day?

ANGEL STORMWIND:
 It was exciting and confusing at the same time. I spent most of my first week fixing my appearance, trying to wash off the dreaded 'newbie' look.

TA: What was your most embarrassing moment?

AS: I teleported to the front of the stage at a concert, and decided to change my skirt for a pair of blue jeans. I right clicked myself to take off my skirt, but I hit shirt by accident.

There I stood completely topless in front of many of my friends. I prayed the ground would open up and suck me in.

TA: What was your funniest moment?

AS: I had just learned about scripting and building and I wanted to try it out. I was playing around and I accidentally linked a ceiling fan to my house and every thing started to spin.



IN A SPIN: Angel Stormwind

fab in 2 color
all year long



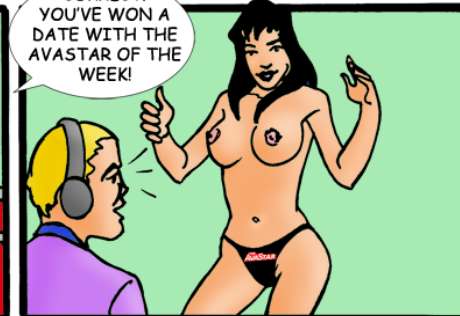
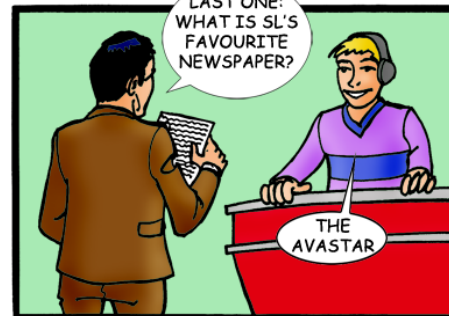
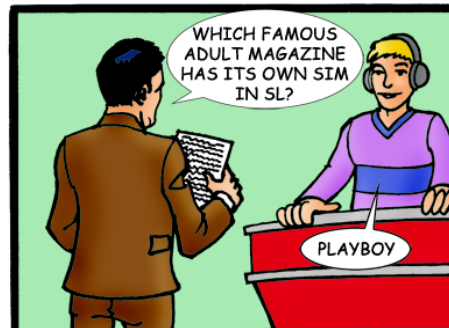
callie cline

callifornia • asplene • girlwood • nevermore

HOT Slaggin'

"DETAILS"

ARTWORK:
Ermanno Spitteler
FROM AN IDEA OF:
Giada Visconti
and
Tasty Tiramisu

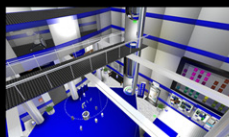


© Andrea Manfredini 2007

Dedric Mauriac's Gadgets



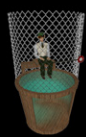
Located in Woodbridge



Offering a wide variety of scripted gadgets. Products to suite many different types of residents including educators, businesses, residents, explorers, land owners, bloggers, podcasters, and machinima vloggers. With over 100 items, you are bound to find something that interests you.



Visitor Notifier



Victorian Dunking Booth



Comment Drop Box



Feed Display



Message Board



Visitor Counter



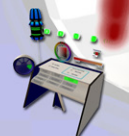
X-Ray Glasses



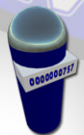
Password Generator



Sim Land Owner Scanner



Particle Lab



Item Dispenser



USA Timezone Clock

Work Requests

Web Browser

Gadgets, Gizmos, Doodads, Doodicks, Widgets, Devices, Contraptions, Jiggers, Girs, Widdets, Dev, Gimmicks, and more! Gadgets, Gizmos, Gadgets, Devices, Contraptions, Jiggers, Girs, Widdets, Dev, Gimmicks, and more!

THE GUIDE TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: MALLS

SHOP TILL YOU DROP!



By CARRIE SODWIND

ENJOY THE BEST SHOPPING MALLS IN SECOND LIFE

RETAIL therapy in SL is guaranteed to hit the spot, with something to satisfy every mood.

Combine your shopping trip with a discovery of **Knightsbridge**, a fashionable shopping district in the centre of London. Teleport to Knightsbridge (184, 89, 21) and wander around the smart narrow streets, which are similar to the real thing.

Potter Village in Potter (74, 110, 28) is perhaps the prettiest mall on the grid. Shops are huts on wooden planks, and a stream runs down the centre. Decorative iron-work bridges connect the two sides, with fairytale trees and burning lamps dispersed among them. All the shop fronts in **Lalique Square**, Lalique (208, 114,

25), are individually designed Art Deco-style buildings. There are familiar names on offer including Shiny Things, Artilleri, Callie Cline, and Canimal, all just a short stroll away from one another.

PRETTY

The vast fetish mall **Lumiere**, Webworm (160, 108, 78), is a civilised and lively place to be. You can find all sorts here, from underwear and BDSM gear to 50s style, tattoos and jewellery. It is edgy, varied, and full of surprises. It has its fair share of ugly billboard advertising, but it is unlikely shoppers go there for the pretty view anyway. If you are serious about shopping then head to **MetaMall** in First Meta (66, 130, 0), where you can spend on an SL credit card!

THE SIGN OF QUALITY CARTIER



A clean marble hall full of expensive jewellery shops and other upmarket fashion outlets. Where: Cartier (139, 174, 22)

A KIND OF MAGIC POTTER VILLAGE



Perhaps the prettiest mall in SL, shops are on wooden planks and a stream runs through the middle. Where: Potter (74, 110, 28)

STING IN THE TAIL SCORPION MALL



Easy to navigate around with small boutique stores and marble arches. Where: Beaulieu (136, 71, 70)

DON'T MISS! –

10.5. - 10.11.



FUN & GAMES

AVATARUM OPENING

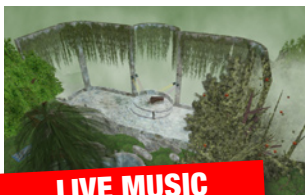
If you feel SL is becoming too serious, head down to the opening of Avatarum. The sim is filled with games and puzzles to test even the sharpest mind.
When: Oct. 6, 17:00
Where: Avatarum (131, 128, 55)



NIGHTLIFE

WELCOME BACK DOUBLEDOWN

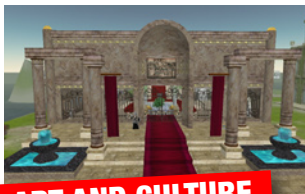
The well-known SL DJ makes his in-world comeback after a month on the sidelines with a wide range of dance music genres on display.
When: Oct. 5, 14:00-16:00
Where: Ravkom (54, 188, 24)



LIVE MUSIC

NTIDA RIDGE LAUNCH

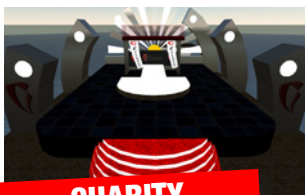
The music venue opens with performers including Tony Lancaster playing as the sun comes up.
When: Oct. 6, 12:00
Where: Ntida (239, 102, 228)



ART AND CULTURE

TAXUS GUSTAFSON

Chat with the artist, who displays his art work and pottery at the Gallery of Harpestry.
When: Oct. 6, 14:00
Where: Meola (34, 78, 28)



CHARITY

INSTITUT GUSTAVE ROUSSY

Wear a free pink ribbon and support the RL cancer research centre, with a fashion show and auction.
When: Oct. 9 and 10, 21:00
Where: Elyseum (206, 43, 25)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

TONIGHT LIVE

Paisley Beebe's chat show is the highest rating TV programme in SL, and features three interviews with prominent SL personalities as well as a live performance.
When: Oct. 7, 18:00-18:30
Where: Northpoint (211, 142, 32)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK



CELEBRATION

MMAC SIX MONTHS

Join the fun as the Multi-Media Arts Centre celebrates its six-month anniversary in SL, with arts, entertainment, music and comedy.
When: Oct. 6-10
Where: Somerset (230, 200, 66)



READING

DIANA GABALDON

The author will read from her new novel, 'Lord John and the Brotherhood of the Blade', before taking questions from readers.
When: Oct. 11, 18:00-19:00
Where: Bantam Dell Island (126, 141, 25)



LANGUAGES

2@LINGUA

Come along and join a new project aimed at helping residents speak and learn Italian, using SL to explore new possibilities in teaching languages.
When: Oct. 8, 11:00
Where: Torino1 (153, 47, 26)



Pos. VW Wo.

- 1 2 Rihanna - Don't Stop The Music
- NEU 1 Rooney - When Did Your Heart Go Missing?
- 2 2 Kanye West feat. Daft Punk - Stronger
- NEU 1 50 Cent feat. Justin Timberlake - Ayo Technology
- 3 2 Gwen Stefani - Now That You Got It

Top 5 of the Week



FASHION

GLITZ AND GLAMOUR

Part of the Deigoland California Festival, Alaska Metropolitan and Mathew Alonzo are among the featured designers at the show.
When: Oct. 6 and 7, 14:00
Where: Diegoland (217, 147, 33)

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 newsdesk@the-avastar.com.



Purple Rose
JEWELRY & FASHION

Miss October
Bonny Bunyip

Purple Rose
Model of the Month Competition

For Info Contact: Alheh Yifu
or Visit Purple Rose Jewelry

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

By TRICKMERTEL

CODEBASTARD REDGRAVE

CODEBASTARD IS A BUILDER, MODEL
AND PHOTOGRAPHER.

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: CODEBASTARD REDGRAVE

PROFESSION: Builder

BIRTH DATE: 1/8/2007

ATTITUDE: Curvey

INTERVIEW

The AvaStar: What is your best feature?

CodeBastard Redgrave:

It would be hard to chose just one. I couldn't decide between my brains, my legendary ass, or everything in between.

TA: How would you describe yourself?

CR: I'm extraverted, a bit crazy, exhuberant, hyperactive, and I never let myself get down. I have friends to keep me up.

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

CR: Scripting, shopping, partying, photo shooting, and some good lovin' of course. All in a day's work.

TA: What would you change in SL?

CR: I would revert back to the old chat interface. It was easier to use.

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

CR: I couldn't live without my skin and my scripts. I have some pictures of present and lost friends that are also essential items in my virtual hand-bag.

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

CR: I would support Governor Tyffany Flintoff. She's an amazing woman who is always in control.