

THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

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'You are the love of my life'

Widow's moving message to SL hubby before his RL funeral

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FRESH LANDBOT BATTLE

BAN THE BOTS - SAYS BRAGG!

"Lindens must take action or face more court battles"

By TRICK MERTEL
A RESIDENT expelled from SL for snapping up under-priced land is now helping victims fight the landbots.

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INSIDE OPINION

"I don't want all the fancy bells, whistles and widgets that they seem adamant that they're going to tack on for us, I just want a damn system that works! Is this really too much to ask?"

AMANDA SHINJI
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"Out of everything dark must come a ray of light, and after all the recent negativity surrounding SL it made me proud to see the reaction of our disparate community to the tragic death of Thor Bishop recently."



LEIDER STEPANOV
p.10

THE AVASTAR

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NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

10 ... finalists of the New World Valley Expo 2007 'engaging avatar' competition have been announced.

60 ... international speakers will be featured at next week's Virtual Worlds Forum in London.

100,000 ... in L\$ was awarded to a resident for coming up with the word 'Metapparatus' in the Electrolux innovation contest.

NICE CAULDRONS!



Check out KRYPTONIA PAPERDOLL's cauldrons! With Halloween coming up, send us your sexy & spooky snaps to yourphotos@the-avastar.com and win L\$500!

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LL: "We cant stop bots"

SL: "Its bloody simple!"



NOTORIOUS: One of Landbaron Merlin's landbots

BRAGG PUTS HIS WEIGHT BEHIND CALLS FOR LL TO TAKE ACTION ON BOTS

EXCLUSIVE BY TRICK MERTEL

A RESIDENT famously expelled from SL for snapping up under-priced land is now helping victims fight the notorious landbot scourge.

Marc Bragg, known as Marc Woebegone in SL, hit the headlines this month when he reached a settlement with Linden Lab and Philip Rosedale after taking RL legal action against them. He had been thrown out of SL for using an exploit in the land auction system to snap up cheap property. But Woebegone is now fully on the

side of landowners after he formed the 'Class Action Against Landbots' group, and hopes to use the momentum from the media storm surrounding his court settlement to lobby the Lab to do something about landbots. He said: "I'd prefer to see LL step up and make a solving strategy rather than a court decide it. LL action is required." A landbot is a script designed to monitor land sales in SL. It automatically acquires land that sells under a designated price before anyone else has a chance to

manually buy. One of the most notorious landbot owners is Landbaron Merlin. The co-founder of the group, Jezebel Bailey, is one of the many landbot victims. Her simple demonstration of land sale to a friend went horribly wrong when a bot swooped and bought the property before she could do anything. It cost US\$481 to buy the sim back, as the landbot owner refused to

even answer her numerous messages.

SIMPLE

In response to a complaint filed by Bailey to LL, Robin Linden said: "I'm so sorry this happened. We're looking into it, although if the land has already been sold I'm afraid there's not much we can do."

But Nobody Fugazi, a prominent SL blogger, has a simple solution to the problem: "A five minute wait period before land is listed in search. Bloody simple."



VICTIM: Jezebel Bailey

LAB CRACKDOWN

By **CARRIE SODWIND**
LINDEN Lab have launched a crackdown on lost inventories – but sceptics say results will be a long time in coming. Hamilton Linden announced the ‘Reduce Inventory Loss Initiative’ on the official blog last Friday, following on from a story in The AvaStar revealing that popular freebie designer Arcadia Asylum had left SL over problems with her inventory.

ANALYSIS

Recognising that the issue has caused serious problems for many residents, Hamilton said the project would include an analysis of all reported resident inventory loss. Delilah Karas, who lost her engagement ring, said: “They spent a long time getting their act together. As I understand the problem, the loss often happens from some small glitch or hiccup in the database which then resets itself during maintenance and may be months before it happens again. I think it will be a long time before they truly solve it.” Business owner Carrie Grant said: “I wish they would advise merchants on what they should do in the mean time.”



CLASSIC STARAX: Sculpture by the legendary SL artist

BY DEE WITTE

A LEGEND RETURNS

LEGENDARY ARTIST RETURNS AFTER REDISCOVERING FAITH IN SL

FANS of a legendary master builder from the early days of SL have been thrilled by the news he is back under a different guise.

Starax Statosky left SL in mid-2006 and his account was deleted, leaving behind just a magic wand which contained a variety of his creations. But rumours quickly circulated that he was back earlier this year when the Rezzable sims were unveiled, bearing more than a passing resemblance to his previous work.

FAITH

Speaking to The AvaStar this week, avatar LightWaves confirmed he was an alter-ego of Starax, and revealed

some of the reasons for his sudden disappearance: “I closed Starax for many reasons. But a big reason was that I became disillusioned with prims. Sculpties have helped to restore my faith in SL.” Since taking on his new identity, Waves has helped create the popular Rezzable sims



TWO FACED: Light Wave's two avatars

including the Greenies, Toxic Garden and most recently Hallucinogen. But he has hit back at allegations that his vanishing trick as Starax was a pub-

licity stunt designed to drum up business. He added: “From a financial point of view I was probably insane to close the account because I was earning a living from the wand and sculpture sales. God knows how people saw it as a stunt. Suicide more like. “I was quite surprised that some people saw Starax in the Greenies builds. I deliberately tried to do something different there.” As for anyone still hoping to see the old Starax re-emerge, Waves said: “I have no plans to reopen Starax and even if I were to reactivate his account, I imagine all of his inventory would be wiped by now.”



BY CARRIE SODWIND

HELP FOR GRIEVING WIDOW

HAPPIER TIMES: Thor and Sierra's wedding kiss

SHRINE: Flowers at a memorial to Thor Bishop

DEATH OF POPULAR RESIDENT SHOCKS COMMUNITY - FRIENDS HELP SL WIDOW

A GRIEVING widow has thanked the SL community after receiving US\$1,000 in donations so she can attend her SL husband's RL funeral.

The money helped pay for Sierra's flights from Florida to New York for the RL funeral, as well as flowers for the memorial. **MOVING** Residents across the grid were united in grief and shock at the death of in-world surfing champion Thor Bishop at the age of 38 last week, with many rushing to help his SL wife Sierra Sugar. She said: “I woke up the morning after I found out, completely in shock to find my email flooded with messages and donations. Several hundred people sent donations and well wishes - some in the form of L\$, some in US\$. But whether it was \$5 or \$100, the gesture was overwhelming and still makes me cry.”

ple. Not only the surf community, but all of Thor and Sierra's friends have come together to support her, us and each other in the most moving and incredible way.”

New Yorker Thor had been a SL resident since April 2006, and married Sierra in SL in July this year. His death on October 9 came as a complete shock to Sierra, who was unaware he had been suffering from pneumonia for a week. She added: “We had talked many times about getting married in RL when the time was right. He was and always will be my love of a lifetime.”

GRIEVING: Widow Sierra Sugar

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

Absolutely Fabulous Galleria

Absolutely Fabulous Galleria

Shopping made easy and enjoyable!

(Lag Free,13,64,21)

LL TOOK L\$2M!

LAB WON'T HELP RUINED RESIDENT *By CARRIE SODWIND*

A FRAUD victim who lost millions of L\$ has slammed Linden Lab for failing to return his money.

Chmarr Walcott says he lost L\$2million after a credit card fraudster struck at an in-world Christmas party last December – and he still hasn't recovered his money despite many pleas to Linden Lab for help. His account remains in serious debt, and will cost US\$4,000 to clear.

DISAPPEARED

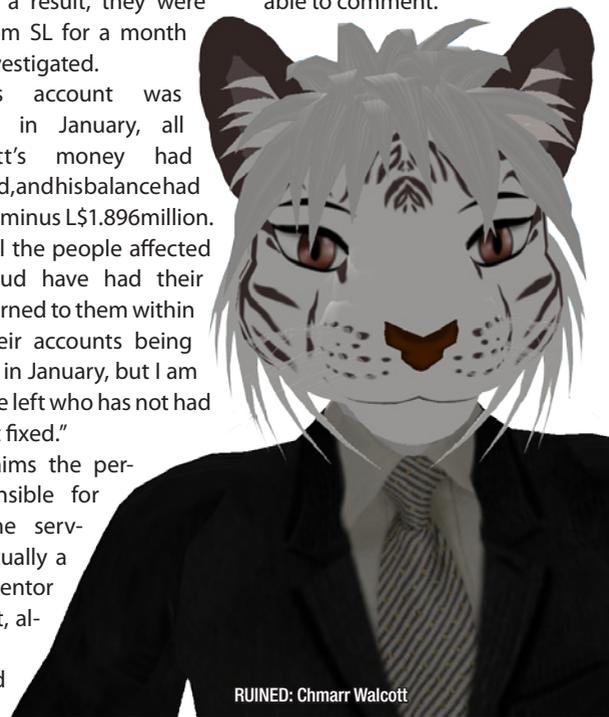
Walcott said he and other guests at the party were given two payments of L\$600,000 as part of a credit card fraud involving hacking the Lab's servers. As a result, they were banned from SL for a month while LL investigated.

When his account was reactivated in January, all of Walcott's money had disappeared, and his balance had been set to minus L\$1.896million. He said: "All the people affected by the fraud have had their money returned to them within days of their accounts being reactivated in January, but I am the only one left who has not had my account fixed."

Walcott claims the person responsible for hacking the servers was actually a Linden mentor using an alt, although he offered no evi-

dence to back it up. He also says Lab employees were uncooperative and rude when he tried to resolve the situation on the phone, and that the ordeal has changed his whole SL experience: "I stopped DJing as I couldn't get prizes. It's really getting to me in RL - I lost a few friends over this and also made enemies."

In response to enquiries made by The AvaStar this week, Jill Linden said: "It is against policy to speak about accounts to anyone other than the account holder in respect for customer and account privacy. I am unable to comment."



RUINED: Chmarr Walcott

NEWS BITES!

TEXT TO VOICE

A NEW script developed by Falk Bergman is able to turn typed text into synthesized voice chat. He aims to release the package to the public in the near future.

CLIMATE ACTION

CLIMATE change is being put on the in-world agenda by international non-profit network OneWorld.net. They hope to use their OneClimate island to promote public action on the climate issue.

SL TRADE SHOW

DEPO Consulting, a virtual brand experience specialist, is hosting a Virtual Content Developer's Trade Show in SL. The event runs until 8pm on Oct 19 and features a presentation from Ham Rambler, the inspiration behind the Dublin sims.

SWISSCOM HELP

THE Switzerland sim received a boost thanks to a new helper initiative introduced by Swisscom Directories. The maker of the Swiss telephone directory is ensuring two RL employees each devote two hours a day to answering questions and helping out residents.

GOING TO THE POLES

POLISH GENERAL ELECTION HOTLY CONTESTED IN SL

BY TRICK MERTEL

ELECTION fever has gripped the Polish community in SL in the run up to the RL parliamentary vote this weekend.

Three separate events were organised in-world as Poles prepare to go to the polls on October 21.

At a pre-election vote count at Digital Zion last week, supporters of RL politician Marek Wojcik, of the Platforma Obywatelska party, promoted their candidate in-world in an attempt to woo voters both virtual and real. The results of the 168 votes

are displayed next to a RL pre-election count. Cezary Fish, organiser of the event, said: "SL is a great platform for interaction, and I think interactive politics is the future. The smart politicians definitely will come to SL."

SUPPORT

A political debate was held at Second Krakow on October 17 in front of TV cameras and a live audience. Lukasz Montes, socialist and left-orientated newcomer to the political arena, and Polski Polityk Kowalski, his right-leaning coun-

terpart, addressed current Polish political topics in an attempt to muster in-world support. There will also be a vote in SL to coincide with the RL vote on Sunday at Centrum Polska.



POLLS ORGANISER: Cezary Fish, CEO of aHead



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NO SHOCK AT LL ATTITUDE

THEY DON'T CARE

Hey Regis,

I READ with interest the inventory loss story last week ['No Linden help over missing items'].

While I have the utmost sympathy for anyone who loses possessions in this fashion, people should surely know by now to keep anything valuable in a back-up alt if it's possible.

After all, everyone is well aware that Linden Lab do not give a hoot about ordinary

residents and it is not surprising at all that they are doing nothing about this problem. When have they ever listened to resident concerns about anything in-world from grieving to ad-farms to gambling?

Linden Lab may have created Second Life as a glorious experi-

ment but they scent corporate money now and that is why everything is focused on the grid technology. It seems that Linden Lab will happily neglect the main grid so long as enough people hang around to keep it attractive to companies who will soon host their own sims.

Normal residents, as ever, are being left at the bottom of the heap.

By F.R.

L\$500 E-MAILS
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BRAGG CASE WAS WRONG

Hey Regis,

I READ the Marc Bragg interview last week ["I just wanted my stuff back"] with disappointment.

It seems that more and more RL problems are rearing their ugly head in SL, and I'm worried about the direction being taken to solve such issues. The Bragg case is the next example of a resident dispute being resolved in a way which I didn't feel was wholly appropriate.

I understand why Bragg felt he was forced into taking RL legal action, but I just don't think it was the right thing to do.

He has perhaps set a trend where residents will drag the Lindens to court when they feel any injustice has occurred in-world. This is certainly not the direction that I hope virtual worlds are heading in.

One can accuse the Lab for not being more proactive in their decision making, but you can also defend them by saying their policy has always been clearly non-interventionist. Residents can decide with their feet - if they don't like in-world events or Lab policy, then they can move their avatars elsewhere.

By T.L.



Dear Regis,

I'VE had to contact LL several times now with this problem and they simply don't care.

I don't want all the fancy bells, whistles and widgets that they seem adamant that they're going to tack on for us, I just want a damn system that works! I want to be able to know with confidence that what is showing in my inventory is actually there and that I'm not going to lose unique, irreplaceable items that I've spent hours making, because someone can't be bothered to sort things out.

Is this really too much to ask?

By Amanda Shinji

HAVING recently read your story regarding SL bears ['Freebies' in issue 42] we at Bolders Boutique have decided to join in by creating seven Bolders Own Boutique Bears for 2007.

There will be a free bear for any one calling into the store and additional bears included in all purchases.

By Bolder Ballinger



LEIDER STEPANOV

BEAR NECESSITIES

LINDENS should be afraid – very afraid.

After we featured the Linden bears in our Freebies column a few weeks ago, Sirinka Voom wrote in to tell us about her answer, the Anti-Linden Bear.

For those of you who didn't catch our article (shame on you!), each Linden has his or her own unique teddy bear which they give away on request. Sirinka and her partner Greasy Sparkle, however, had other ideas - their bear is scripted to say 26 things about their 'friends' the Lindens.

GRIZZLY

The pair wrote it in protest at issues like age verification and lag, which have left them frustrated like most of the population of SL.

That is perfectly clear, of course, when you hear some of the thoughts on the bear's mind: "I love Lindens - deep fried and rolled in corn meal."

Now THAT is what I call a grizzly proposition.



SHARP: The Anti-Linden Bear

DOING OURSELVES PROUD IN THE FACE OF SORROW

COMMUNITY PULLS TOGETHER TO HELP GRIEVING VIRTUAL WIDOW

DEATH is the great leveller - even in SL we can't escape its icy touch.

But out of everything dark must come a ray of light, and after all the negativity surrounding SL these days it made me proud to see the reaction of our community to the tragic death of Thor Bishop recently (see page five).

Thor, an in-world surfing champion and RL



MISSED: Thor Bishop

IT seems that someone in San Francisco has had the good sense to be reading The AvaStar recently.

And it wasn't just us - residents have been complaining about inventory loss for months now. After a series of stories over the past few weeks

resident of New York, died at the age of just 38 after suffering from pneumonia. He was exceptionally close to his wife in SL, Sierra Sugar, and she desperately wanted to travel the thousands plus miles from her home in Florida to the Big Apple for Thor's RL funeral.

GRIEF

Cue a fine moment from the people of SL, as donations poured in to help Sierra pay for the cost of her trip.

I think sometimes we are all a bit too quick to be cynical about the misfortunes of others, but I applaud everyone

about the negative impact inventory loss is having on some of the most popular residents around, Linden Lab has answered our demands to do something about it (see page five). It is a real shame that their efforts may be too late to prevent the per-

manent loss of freebie designer Arcadia Asylum, but at least the 'Inventory Loss Reduction Initiative' looks set to tackle the problem head on.

THERAPY

On the subject of grief in SL, it was interesting to hear what in-world therapist RJ Muni of SL's Sunshine Therapy had to say on the matter: "SL grief can be as real as RL... social support and a strong social network, which can be found in SL, are very important."

Even though we may not be able to outpace death in our exciting new virtual world, we at least have others to share the pain with.

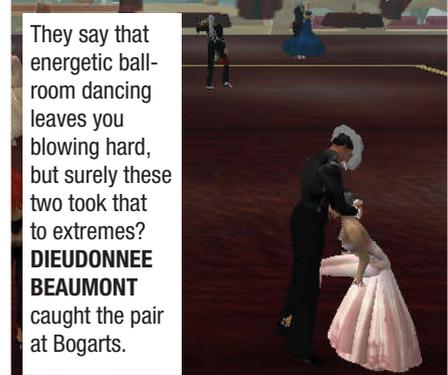
PLEASE SEND ME YOUR COMMENTS:
regis@the-avastar.com

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

Wowsa! **PAMMY MACMAHON** certainly attracts stares from passers-by with those enormous, erm, attachments! Pic by **A.S.**



Lucky she was wearing undies! **BING SEWELL** saw her friend's clothes detach from her body due to the lag.



They say that energetic ballroom dancing leaves you blowing hard, but surely these two took that to extremes? **DIEUDONNEE BEAUMONT** caught the pair at Bogarts.

GRID CAM WINNER!

This week's winner of the Limited Edition AvaStar Grid Cam from SLAB designs, worth L\$1,900, is **DALINIAN BING** for his photo of laggy campers at the Moscow sim.

META BITES!

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

MILLIONS FOR HIPIHI

CHINESE virtual world HiPiHi has announced a partnership with SL content creator Millions of Us. The firm will be able to use HiPiHi's tools to develop content in the world, and will also have access to the market provided by the mainly Chinese user-base.

TOYOTA'S WOW ADVERT

JAPANESE carmaker Toyota is utilising a World of Warcraft raid to promote its new Tacoma truck. The thirty-second advert has been shown on American TV recently. Comedy show South Park has previously won an Emmy award for a World of Warcraft episode.

TWINITY SET FOR TEST

GERMAN firm Metaversum will launch the latest version of its virtual world Twinity for closed beta testing. The firm is aiming to have 1,500 testers by Christmas. Twinity will run on a real cash economy but there will be no user-generated content in-world.

A FINANCIAL GESTURE

FIX8, which creates technology to animate avatar facial expressions, has received US\$3m in financing from the Vickers Financial Group. Fix8 digitises human expressions and gestures via web cameras, allowing users to broadcast videos on popular social networking sites and IM services.

MEN FROM BLUE MARS

AVATAR Reality will unveil parts of its new virtual world, Blue Mars, at the E for All conference. Users can create customised avatars and live out sci-fi fantasies in a setting based on the surface of Mars. The project aims to appeal to a wide clientele by bridging the gap between computer game and virtual world.

THERE'S LOTS OF TIME

THERE is still time to enter the second annual There film contest. The deadline to hand in submissions is October 31 with the grand prize winner walking away with a flat screen television. Organisers want to see entries showing the virtual world from the eyes of the residents.

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A VIEW INTO THE FUTURE FOR SL

By COYNE NAGY

WEB-BASED BROWSER IS THE WAY FORWARD, SAYS TECHIE EXPERT

A NEW browser-based SL viewer could represent the future for the virtual world, according to one technical expert.

Dedric Mauriac believes the OnRez viewer, developed by the Electric Sheep Company (ESC) and set to be released on October 24, could be a huge step forward for SL. It is the first viewer to be officially licensed by Linden Lab and is based on a web browser, with a more user-friendly interface for the mass market and smoother interaction between SL and the web. Mauriac, a prominent member of SL's techie community, was enthusiastic: "I can see many uses for SL to support websites such as opening

a video arcade that runs flash-based games. The usefulness is unlimited. The future of SL viewers will not be different viewers, but the ability to run plug-ins or add-ins that are separate from the client."

Will SL become a new operating system? Giff Constable of ESC thinks SL has the potential to be as important a platform as the world wide web. But the primary aim of the viewer is to simplify SL: "We

need to make SL easier and better if we are to improve retention rates and grow effectively," he said.

Sibley Hathor, CEO of ESC, said: "By launching a more intuitive consumer interface, we're allowing brands to maximize the appeal of their virtual world initiatives."



METRICS GLOOM FOR LAB

SL continued its August struggles into September, according to newly released metric figures.

The figures show that while SL is still growing, the rate of growth has slowed drastically in recent months. With Linden Lab's aggressive business plan requiring

ever-increasing growth to remain sustainable, it could prove problematic in the future. Total sign-ups went up by 343,961, less than half the number who registered in August. Premium accounts also increased, but only by a meagre 454, another huge decrease com-

pared to August. One bright spot was total user hours, up to 24 million, but even that was only a three per cent growth, the lowest percentage increase since March 2005. Some business owners said the figures had caused them to scrap expansion plans.

STOCK EXCHANGE OPENS ITS DOORS

SL'S fourth stock exchange has opened for trading as the in-world financial sector looks to consolidate after several scandals.

The Ancapistan Capital Exchange (ACE) has been founded by IntLibber Brautigan, who said he is determined to reassure investors and will even employ a private investigation agency to look into the RL credentials of CEOs who wish to list their company. He said: "We felt that it was time for an exchange that understood the necessity of stability, transparency, and accountability."

A TAXING TOPIC

TAX in-world was the subject of a Q & A session to help residents get to grips with the topic.

The British Chartered Institute of Taxation (CIOT) held the event as part of Tax Advice Week. Tax Anderton, a RL chartered tax advisor, explained what is taxable in-world. CIOT President Rob Ellerby said: "We feel it is very important SLers understand the tax issues they are facing, as we suspect many will not be fully aware of the implications of their virtual activity."

a-stars



A-STARS gossip with Dylan Miles and Babu Writer

PICS BY PHIL SPACKLER, GOLDIE LARSSON AND SULA LAVAL

PAY HERE TO BID

AUCTION: Hosts Balthier Dagostino and Kristopher Tenk, main pic, 'lots' Linzi Barfjs, top right, and Goldie Larsson, bottom right.



A DATE WITH DESTINY

BIDDING was frantic when some of SL's hottest avatars went under the hammer in the name of charity.

The Second Date Auction held at the Loch Lomond sim on October 15 raised a massive L\$250,000 - more than double the amount from the first event.

Dates with a total of 21 residents were up for grabs, with the proceeds going to the Association for International Cancer

Research. Host **Balthier Dagostino** said: "The event is a great way for people to meet new friends while raising money for a worthwhile cause."

SUCCESS

Kristopher Tenk, founder of the date auction, said: "Tonight's auction was a mega success. This all would not have been possible without the great participation from the auction candidates and the bidders."

ONE GUY - TWO DATES!



21:00: Chuck Soderstrom dancing with date no. 1, Goldie Larsson



23:00: Chuck moves on to date no.2, Sula Laval



01:00 Chuck and Sula end a wonderful evening in a romantic embrace.

SL-GOES PINK FOR CHARITY

BY LEIDER STEPANOV

THE fight against breast cancer was taken to SL in the form of the 'Pink for Life' charity bash.

Organised by ConceptSL, the ten-day event at the Elyseum sim coincided with an RL equivalent in the French city of Paris.

In SL, 22 designers donated pink items for an exhibition, and a total of L\$65,000 was raised.



TICKLED PINK: The charity bash was well attended, with several stunning pink dresses (see left) on display.



RUTHED BUT HAPPY: Klute Coppola

By KITTY OTOOLE

RUTHED!

DJ Jenns entertained the crowds at the launch of 'Ruthed', an exhibition of what can go wrong for avatars.

The event, at the Turville sim, features images of the mishaps suffered by residents going about their daily lives, and is the brain-child of **Isolde Flamand**.



Stunners at men's fashion party!

By BABU WRITER

THE impressive new Kmadd Enterprise sim opened with a bang on Saturday.

Scores of well-turned out guests turned up for the party to launch the sim, which contains top men's fashion stores including Redgrave, Shai and Paper Couture. But it wasn't all male - among the stunning revellers were the delicious duo of **Callie Cline** and **Jada Hoyer**.

The sim also hosted a birthday bash for top male model **Frolic Mills**, which was attended by SL celebs such as **Maddox DuPont** and **Kirk Claymore**.

SIZZLING: AvaStar columnist Callie Cline

bianca F
designstyleart



NEW main store ENVY (79, 42, 22)

RIP AND TEAR

BY ISABEL BROCCO



Paula Glasses
by Artilleri
Artilleri (43, 117, 26)
L\$120

Moth Eaten Cardigan
by Frustrated Inc.
Talana (143, 16, 351)
L\$250

Kitty Shirt by Curious Kitties
Curious Kitties (213, 164, 20), L\$90



Denim skirt and pants combo
by PB* Lions Shore (96, 13, 34), L\$180



Kon Backpack by Inspired
Sibine (61, 13, 51), L\$100



Bracelets by EMJ,
Southern Paradise (152, 235, 55), L\$75



London Trash shoes by Next Step
St Envy (21, 198, 23), L\$320

WIREfencetears, motheaten more designers are using elbow holes, and spur of worn-out urban textures to the moment rips - more and add interest to designs.

2 Cute Hat
by Fuel
Delphinium Island
(164, 175, 23)
L\$200

Black Pearls
by Paper Couture
Barcola (79, 128, 25)
L\$250

Raggy Ass Stockings
by D3volution
Muir (18, 181, 54)
L\$300

Black leather boots
from KaDeWe2
KaDeWe2
(251, 213, 36)
L\$200

Dirty Torn Mini Tank
by Neko Gear
Ganesha (142, 221, 21)
L\$50

Mesh Skirt
by Sh*t Happens
Lions Shore
(253, 31, 33)
L\$100



come into
the blue.

blue shy

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The grid contains the following items:

- SRS** (Scripting & Rigging Systems)
- SL-FACTORY DESIGN** (Interior Design)
- DESIGN** (Interior Design)
- Mobile Skippod Retreats** (Real estate services)
- BAY COEN DESIGNS** (Logo with 'B')
- Susi's Dark BDSM Dream** (Logo with 'S')
- PSSMG** (Logo with 'PSSMG')
- Aimesi Design** (Furniture, Plants)
- Karoneko's** (Logo with 'K')
- High Heels** (Merlin logo)
- Fashion Point** (Logo with 'FP')
- DYSTOPIA CREATIONS** (Logo with 'DC')
- AW Design** (Logo with 'AW')
- art fashion** (Logo with 'art')
- Szentasha** (Fashionable & Feminine)
- Lizard Design** (Logo with 'LD')
- INDI Designs** (Logo with 'INDI')

callie cline's
STYLE HOTLINE



WE'VE COME A LONG WAY!

FASHION HAS CHANGED SO MUCH - JUST LOOK AT CALLIE'S HAIR!

IT'S been just over two years since I joined SL - and boy do the newbies have it much easier now!

Back then there was little if any prim hair... so this hair I have on (see pic) was one of the types you could buy. When I look at it now, I think - how ugly could it be?!

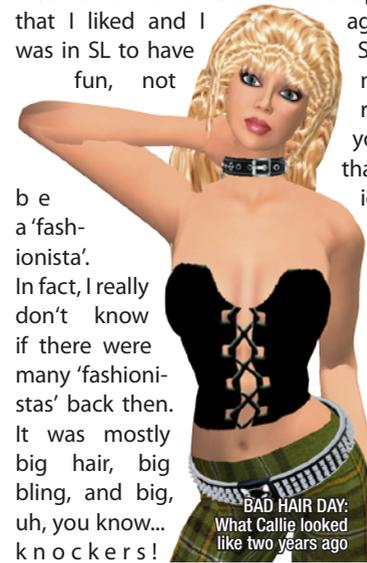
As for your shape, you had to make your own. The one I wear today is actually the same one I had back then, except I grew a bit taller and put on a few pounds!!! I was so happy to find this 'Irish lady' outfit. It was MOD so this is how the jacket looked after I made it my own. I couldn't find

the exact necklace or belt, but they did look something like these. I wore these pants a lot and of course my duck slippers. Why? Because I couldn't find shoes that I liked and I was in SL to have fun, not

be a 'fashionista'. In fact, I really don't know if there were many 'fashionistas' back then. It was mostly big hair, big bling, and big, uh, you know... knockers!

Wow, fashion has come a long way in two years! And what's more, back then there were no direct teleports - so you had to fly from shop to shop which took ages!

So if you're new, you can really count yourself lucky that SL fashion has gotten just so much better over the last few years and no doubt will only continue to do so in the future!



BAD HAIR DAY:
What Callie looked like two years ago

WHAT'S HOT!
WARM AND SEXY

BY CARRIE SODWIND
COSY winter jumper-dresses are the latest look, as designers increasingly draw influence from the RL seasons. Trendy model and AvaStar reporter, Kitty Otoole wore a thick-knit mini jumper-dress this



WINTER STYLE:
Kitty Otoole

week, accompanied by a waist-line belt, brown stockings and some maroon riding boots. The dress is Starley by Last Call, and is a dynamic winter piece that can be dressed up or down.

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

HIT: A GIRL can never have enough handbags in SL or RL, and one in ten examples of this new selection of free designer bags have an online voucher for a RL bag.



HIT: RL handbags

MISS: If you have spent time cutting and refining your perfect shape in SL, don't cover it up with a huge carpet dress. Long stiff skirts like this release from French Spirit, (Sunset Beach 68, 233, 25) will hide your beautiful avatar shape.



MISS: Corset dress



HIT: Strawberry Ice Cream

HIT: Neko Gear has released all sorts of Wear-it-and-lick-it goodies. The strawberry ice cream looks good enough to eat, and if you want to get festive, try out their pumpkin lollipops and candy apples. With animations at L\$50 (Ganesha 137, 206, 21).

*fall in 2 color
all year long*



visit "caLLiefornia" and see what's new at caLLie cLine, ::home::, tomboy, and come pick up some cool freebies and enjoy our club "caffeine au go-go"

caLLie cLine

HOT YOUNG THINGS

By HONEY BENDER
THE hottest young things in SL fashion showed off their latest creations at the EFA fashion event last week.

Quimilan Quimby's Tree and Delaney Whippet's Microphage labels were among the designers to take centre stage at the event, while Ewing Fashion Agency CEO Una Ewing opened the show last Monday looking every bit the diva in a sassy red frock from Blaze Columbia. The week was

dedicated to showcasing the work of a range of up-and-coming designers. Designer wild child Whippet describes Microphage as eclectic, sometimes bohemian and sometimes 60s retro, with a dash of 90s rave style thrown in for good measure. Also at the event were Aspire! models Summer Deadlight and Luther Carfagno along with fashionista Suzi Phlox.



STYLISH: LayDeebird Chastity in an outfit from Microphage, left, and more hot outfits, below.

GOTHIC BRANCH



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

L\$500

Halloween Tree Black
By Erin Burks
Tahiti (190, 99, 22)



Gothic-barren3
By Liliith Heart
Hearth 3 (57, 22, 24)

L\$65



L\$1,000

Burnt Tree of Despair
Choose from four, all sculpted.
By Seph DaSilva
Bruin (174, 138, 69)



L\$75

L\$245

NIRVANA - Bare Twisted Tree
By Carrie Grant
Flora (92, 154, 21)



Julia's Raven Tree
By Julia Hathor
Shadow Brook (22, 82, 54)

TAKE YOUR PICK

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



SECTOR 7

NAME: MICHAEL BIGWIG
SECTOR 7 (127, 211, 28)

Sector 7 is one for all the robot and 1980s figurine fans among the SL crowd. It is a great recreation of the Hoover Dam setting used in the recent big budget Transformers movie. A towering statue of Megatron is housed in the depths of the wall.



SVARGA

NAME: CHINGALING BLING
SVARGA (114, 126, 31)

A peaceful place, perfect for stressed actors to relax and wind down after a hard day's film shoot. The extensive tropical gardens and green terrain need plenty of exploring, and provide a chance for a spot of romance with star-struck movie fans.



COMIC BOOK GALLERY

NAME: DUDER PAHUTE
Movix Media (140, 96, 120)

As virtual worlds constantly improve their graphical capabilities, the Comic Book Gallery helps you to remember where it all started with some retro exhibitions. At the moment, visitors can catch a collaboration between UK artists and comic book creators.

ADVERT

Angel - Dessous

[HTTP://SLURL.COM/SECONDLIFE/BLUE%20SKY/129/43/23](http://slurl.com/secondlife/BLUE%20SKY/129/43/23)

NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: AN AMERICAN COLLEGE, BUILDING TOOLS, A LUXURY STORE AND AN OPERA HOUSE.



FRAT HOUSE:
The Kindly sim

By **TRICK MERTEL**

COLLEGE life American-style has come to SL with the opening of the Kindly sim.

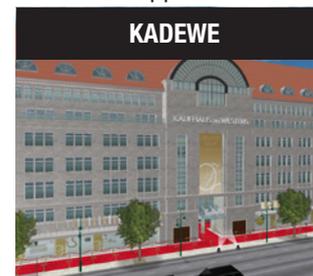
The island contains the KSU College Campus, which offers its students tuition, sports facilities, live concerts and Frat houses to start the party right. A more technical new entry to the grid is the floating island of simimage, which showcases the latest SL building tool de-



SIMIMAGE

veloped by SimImage of Tokyo. Visitors are towered over by two rows of impressive looking

statues which have great texture and detailing. A recreation of the German battleship Bismarck also models the capabilities of the product, which is available for purchase. KaDeWe is the latest luxury department store chain to open its new virtual doors, following its French rival Galeries La Fayette which appeared in-world



KADEWE

last month. The launch coincides with the famous Berlin-based chain's centenary, and in an integrated approach the four-sim island store stocks

virtual products from in-world designers, instead of only pointing shoppers to RL websites.

The latest RL replica to appear on the grid is the Zurich Opera House on a corner of the Zurich City sim. True to the original, the venue will be used for regular live music performances, host-



ZURICH OPERA HOUSE

ing a variety of acts on Saturdays throughout November. Elsewhere, catch a glimpse of the Kaiser in the old city of Koblenz. A stunning monument has been erected at the Deutsches Eck sim.



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

DEAR

SHE STOLE MY HUBBY - THEN LAUGHED AT ME



FRIENDS ARE TELLING ME TO GET OVER THE BETRAYAL BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN

Dear Randi: ABOUT a month ago, I found out that my SL husband had been cheating with my best friend. Once I caught them, they didn't try to deny what had been happening. My husband immediately asked for a divorce, and my now-former best friend laughed in my face about the whole thing. I feel deeply

betrayed and now have a big hole in my life. I haven't lost any other friends over it, and in fact they've been sympathetic. But they have all now told me they're tired of discussing it and I should just "move on", even though I don't feel I can. What should I do? — R.N.

Randi says: All break-ups are painful, but the ones you

don't see coming are the worst. You had invested love in your husband and your best friend, only to suffer a betrayal. Right now that's probably all you want to talk about, and your other friends are naturally sick of hearing about it. You should find other, more willing ears to talk to - maybe a therapist or a support group could help.

WE WANT TO MEET IN RL - WHO SHOULD TRAVEL?

Dear Randi: MY in-world girlfriend and I have been dating for about a month, and I like her so much I want to take the relationship off-line, as does she. Unfortunately, we live in countries about 5,000 miles apart. I want to buy her an airline ticket to come visit me and my family. But she says I must come to visit her in her country first, although I don't particularly want to do this, I just want her. How can I persuade her to come to me? — A.Q.

Randi says: I'm afraid I cannot take your side in this. In my experience, relationships work best when guys do the heavy lifting early. Until you are engaged, you should do all the travelling and pay for everything. You are probably a nice guy, but in the case of meeting strangers I am always concerned for the woman's safety. If you want to see her, you should go to her country and meet her family.

HE WANTS ME TO PAY FOR MY OWN WEDDING

Dear Randi: I MET a very sweet guy who has taken me on several cheap dates. The more we talk, the more I think we might be soul-mates. The problem is that he says he is very poor. I make a very good living in SL and have a great place of my own, and he just wanders the grid. Now he says he might like to get married, but says I will have to pay for the whole wedding. The poverty he claims is the only thing I don't like about him. Should I marry him anyway? — G.M.

Randi says: Any time a girl uses the phrase "marry him anyway" I have to say no, or at least not now. Put your foot down on this one. Tell him if he's serious about marriage, he needs to get his financial act together. Since most ladies here don't have SL fathers, it must be the groom's responsibility to pay for the wedding. You buy an amazing dress, and he takes care of everything else. If he can't, or won't, tell him he must wait.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD

Dear Randi: I HAVE been asked to be maid of honour at the wedding of my very best friend. I owe her a lot, since she introduced me to my SL husband. The problem is that I don't want to wear the horrible dress she picked out for me and the other bridesmaids. They're red and green, and she

won't budge because they are her college colours. I don't want to look like a Christmas decoration, but that's all I can think of when I model it. I don't want to hurt her feelings, so how should I solve the problem? — G.P.

Randi says: This is an age-old problem. If you're not the mil-

lionth girl to hate what she has to wear as a bridesmaid, you may be the ten millionth. But she's the bride and you're not, and remember all the things she has done for you in the past. It is her special day. Just try to grin and bear it. The wedding will be over before you know it.

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

"Listen, me and some others are going to a strip club tonight. You wanna come?"

"Sounds good... but maybe I shouldn't, Gina wouldn't like it."

"Loosen up Mickey, your wife never needs to know about it."

"That's true. Why should I stop having my fun?"

to be continued...



How to...

Everything a newbie needs to know!

HOW TO USE THE MINI-MAP TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR EXPLORING AROUND THE GRID



USING the map is a great way to explore SL, as has been discussed here before.

But the mini-map, the button for which is located next to the one for the main map at the bottom right of the screen, is also an invaluable tool for land-owners and explorers alike.

While it only shows the sim you are in, you can find out where you are (the white and yellow dot) and which direction you are facing. Your field of view is the white triangle. The mini-map also shows objects owned by you in a bright aqua

colour, and objects owned by others in grey colours. If you are not on your own land, then you will likely see no aqua items, but if you have lost an item in a sim, it can be a useful tool for finding it again.

MEGAPRIMS

Other avatars are in green, while if a sim is crashing, the mini-map might be in red colours. The only drawback to the feature is the depiction of megaprimms. The mini-map interprets most megaprimms as huge blocks. Instead of pretty terrain, you may see huge grey squares.

ADVERT

Private sims, romance, dancing and beautiful tropical sunsets

Click to teleport

Aroha Tahi

a private lovers retreat



Freebies

SL's best FREE stuff!

THIS WEEK: SHOULDER PETS

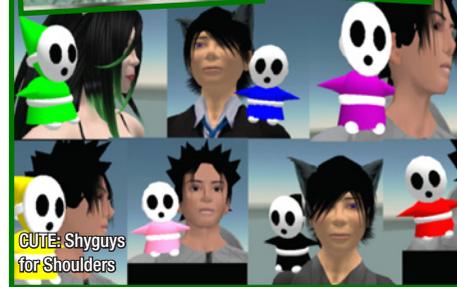
SHOULDER pets are perfect for wandering around the grid with a little friend right by your ear.

They can show your mood, and add a bit of originality to your look. It is nice to have a whole bunch of them to stay fresh, and there are none better than the ones you can pick up for free. A

favourite is Plushie Quetzal Sobek by Psyra Extraordinaire. It is a colourful little mythological animal, who flies just near you, flapping his wings and wiggling his tail. Who can resist his big blinking eyes? You can find it in Grendel's Children, Avaria Tor (226, 188, 259), together with similar ones in different colours, for L\$1.

SCARY

Nearby, and for the same symbolic price, there is a whole wall filled with shoulder pets by Flee Bussy. The choice is wide, from the more traditional black cat to a bomb, toaster, or sand worm – all to wear on your shoulder. If you want to get ready for Halloween, head to Funny Things, in Deep-scale (74, 177, 303) where you can find a scary skeletal hand by Klannex Northmead for free.



DOS AND DON'TS OF PROTESTS

By CARRIE SODWIND

DO

- + Get there early so the sim isn't already full.
- + Look out for freebie demo t-shirts and banners.
- + Be loud and use eye-catching aids like fireworks to make it more exciting.
- + TP as many of your friends in as possible.
- + Join the demonstrators' group to wear the protest sign above your head.

DON'T

- = Shout out the same old slogan over and over again.
- = Go AFK, as avatars standing still and silent make for a terrible demo.
- = Complain about lag – overcrowded sims make more exciting demonstrations.
- = Bump around rudely in the crowds.
- = Make jokes about the topic. If you don't care just leave.

My First Day in Second Life

SCLUPTER AND SCRIPTER CUBIST SCARBOROUGH:

By Trick Mertel

THE AVASTAR: How was your first day?

CUBIST SCARBOROUGH:

I spent a bit of time on the old orientation island, not realising that everyone else was as freaked out as I was. I flew around for what seemed like weeks, and then discovered that you can click on the map to randomly teleport.

TA: What was your most embarrassing moment?

CS: When I met AngryBeth ShortBread for the first time. I tried to show off by wearing this ridiculous spinning invisiprim outfit that I had just made. I just looked daft and impressed her not, I think.

TA: What was your funniest moment as a newbie?

CS: There was a NMC teachers buzz session I attended, when somebody forgot to switch their X-Cite sex HUD off. Their sex-watching habits were available for all to see.



BD- Bodies by Dalian
click advert to teleport

Abe

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THE GUIDE TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: DANCING



By KITTYOTOOLE

**LET'S FACE THE
MUSIC AND DANCE!**

FROM JAZZ TO THE TANGO, YOU CAN BOOGIE ON DOWN IN SL

HAVING a good old-fashioned boogie is a popular pastime in SL, with plenty of hot spots to indulge your dancing feet.

For a formal, romantic evening, try the **Enchantments** dance lounge at Phoenix Isle (207, 187, 22) before you and your beloved teleport to the lovers' garden. Don't miss a trip aboard the astounding **SS Galaxy** cruise liner at Galaxy AFT (144, 118, 53), which includes the magnificent **Zodiac Ballroom**.

If dance tunes are your passion, then there are literally hundreds of clubs on the grid to cater to your needs. You can enjoy some serious chilled out beats at **Hot Jazz** (186, 48, 33) which is popular and often bursting at the seams, while another classy venue is the **Sphynx**

Jazz Club at 2nd Avenue (215, 32, 25) which usually has some hot avatars enjoying the music.

Fans of rock and metal should check out **Sanctuary Rock** (131, 61, 54), while reggae enthusiasts can head to the **Cosmic Beach Club** (Augsberg City Maxx 203, 39, 24) to enjoy the vibes and shop for some funky dreads.

Among the all-purpose dancing venues are **Havens Paradise** (66, 159, 32), where visitors can enjoy a sunset shake-down in a lush tropical setting, and the **Three Lions** at Bourton Village (76, 96, 31), which is an English-themed pub featuring different DJs, a party atmosphere every night and a proud promise that there are no camping chairs or escorts.

SINGIN' THE BLUES
TOBY'S JUKE JOINT



Enjoy some deep, down and dirty blues music at this wonderfully authentic venue.

Where: Garden City
(192, 181, 29)

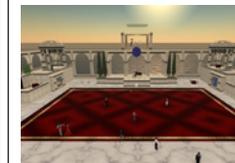
RAVE REVIEWS
CLUB REPUBLIK



Dance yourself silly to the latest rave sounds at this popular hang out.

Where: NuRepublik
(122, 146, 23)

FANCY FELINES
PHAT CATS JAZZ LOUNGE



Grab a ballgown or tux and dance the night away at this popular venue.

Where: PhatLand
(131, 128, 28)

Purple Rose
JEWELRY & FASHION

Miss October
Bonny Bunyip

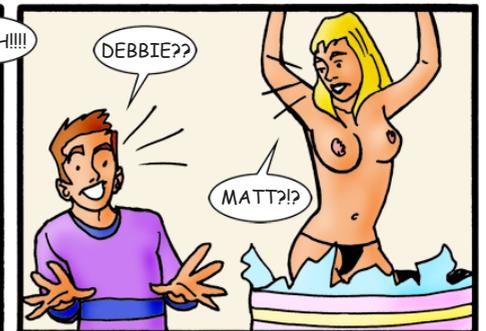
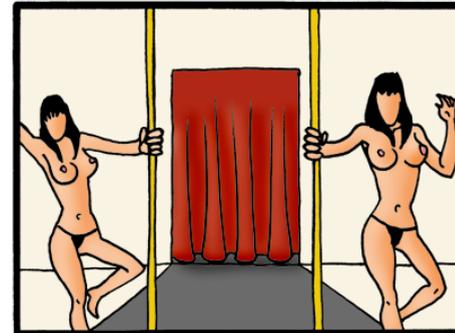
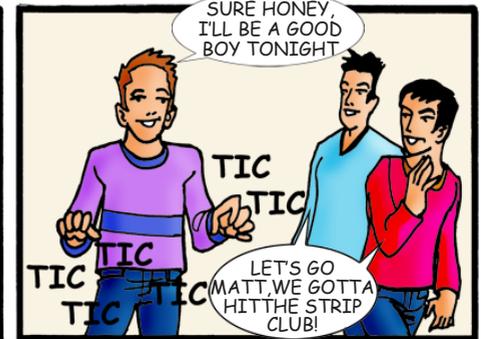


Purple Rose
Model of the Month Competition
For Info Contact: Aliyeh Yifu
or Visit Purple Rose Jewelry

HOT Slaggin'

ARTWORK:
Ermanno Spitteler

"STAG NIGHT(MARE)"



10.19. - 10.25.

DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in SL Time



LITERATURE

JULES VERNE

Join residents in discussing Jules Verne's classic 'The Secret of the Island', the conclusion to his 'Mysterious Island' trilogy.

When: Oct. 21, 14:00

Where: Caledon VictoriaCity (59, 196, 23)



DISCUSSION

ASPERGER'S SYNDROME

Discuss the issues surrounding Asperger's Syndrome, a type of autism, with those who are affected by it themselves or who have loved ones who are.

When: Oct. 24, 17:00

Where: Dreams (218, 213, 24)



ART & CULTURE

KADE KLATA

The Gallery of St Agnes Isle hosts an exhibit featuring the work of photographer Kade Klata.

When: Oct. 21, 08:00

Where: Conway 4 (94, 205, 22)



FASHION

RED CARPET RUNWAY

Check out the latest styles at Grace Winnfield's autumn fashion show, 'Red Carpet Runway'.

When: Oct. 21, 17:00

Where: Rutha (240, 76, 461)



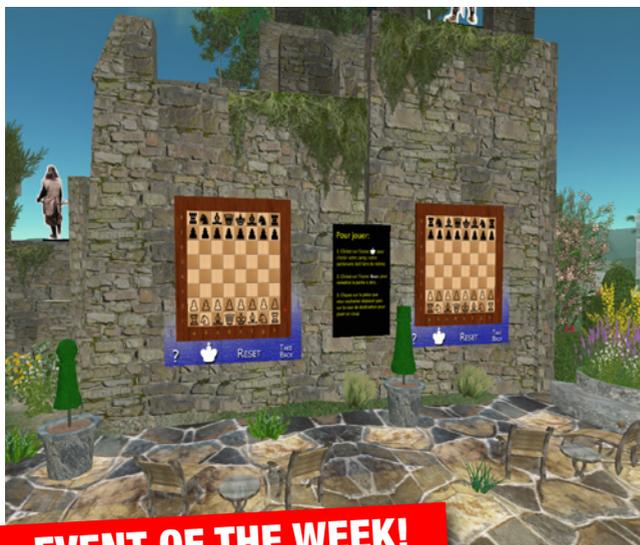
ENTERTAINMENT

EXPRESS YOURSELF

The results of the contest from 'elle', YSL's new fragrance.

When: Oct. 23-30

Where: YSL (126, 10, 23)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

CHESS TOURNAMENT

Join leading RL chess players for a tournament at a castle by the Loire being simulcast into SL by BNP Paribas, a top sponsor of the game.

When: Oct. 20 from 05:00 and Oct. 21 from 06:00

Where: BNP PARIBAS (67, 172, 26)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



OPENING

LOVERS ESCAPE

An exciting fashion show celebrates the opening of the medieval-themed Lovers Escape island, with music by Nexeus Fatale.

When: Oct. 20, 15:00

Where: Lovers Escapes (88, 106, 49)



OPENING

LOVE MUSIC HATE RACISM

There will be something wonderful on display for everyone at the launch event for the new SL Group Love Music Hate Racism at Irie's Reggae Resort.

When: Oct. 23, 11:00

Where: Irie (138, 126, 26)



ENTERTAINMENT

TUI PARTY

Join in the fun at a German pop music party to promote the musical 'I was never in New York', and win a RL trip to the city in a machinima competition.

When: Oct. 25, 11:00

Where: TUI Island (240, 21, 25)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

BLOODSPELL PREMIERE

A feature length SL machinima film, 'Bloodspell', premieres at Machiniplex.com while a discussion and cocktail party takes place in-world.

When: Oct. 21, 11:00

Where: HatHead (88, 149, 128)



LIVE MUSIC

SHIROTAN KIDD

Enjoy a taste of the Orient with Shirotan Kidd, who will be performing some beautiful songs in Japanese.

When: Oct. 20, 06:00

Where: Koenji (93, 39, 38)

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.

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK



BY COYNEINAGY

DIANA ALLANDALE

DIANA IS AN AUTHOR OF EROTIC NOVELS AND IS KEENLY INVOLVED IN THE SL LITERARY SCENE.

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: DIANA ALLANDALE

BIRTH DATE: 10/24/2006

PROFESSION: Author

ATTITUDE: Energetic observer of life

INTERVIEW

The AvaStar: What is your best feature?

Diana Allandale: I hate to say it, but my skin. I resisted a new skin for a long time as I was perfectly happy with my freebie. I had it almost since day one, so losing it after ten months in-world was hard! But friends talked me into getting something more sophisticated and the new one gives my avatar more vitality.

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

DA: Mainly giving readings of my RL books and hosting writing workshops and discussions. I also update my shops including two speciality stores where I provide MUCH more explicit excerpts of my books - and the toys to use in re-enacting them!

TA: What's your funniest SL sex story?

DA: This one is hard! I think the newbie guy with a newbie tan skin who bought a Goth penis because someday he'd have the money for the full skin and in RL he considered himself a Goth. That meant he walked around the public dungeon completely naked with a paper-white penis. Looked like the best part of him had died!