

THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

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THE SL MAFIA...



MEETING THE MOB

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DEAL: Stroker Serpentine
No precedent despite deal

A LEGAL expert has warned designers celebrating a landmark court settlement over virtual property rights not to rejoice just yet.

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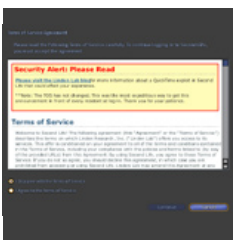
RESIDENTS AT RISK OF ATTACK

PANIC OVER VIDEO FLAW

Lab ToS warning puts grid on high alert over malicious streaming

By COYNE NAGY

PANIC is spreading across the grid after it was revealed an exploit in SL's video software has left every resident vulnerable to attack.



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INSIDE OPINION

"If you ask me, Second Life will need to keep looking over its shoulder to see what the competition are doing in order to stay ahead - I'm sure there will be plenty for it to learn."

YOUR MAIL
p.9

"Virtual worlds are set to explode in growth next year and SL can't afford to drag its heels. That Coca-Cola have set up in There this week shows that competition among other virtual worlds with real cash economies is high."



REGIS BRAATHENS
p.11

THE AVASTAR

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NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

- 14** ... books have been written by RL author Paul Levinson and several are available at his new Soft Edge store on Book Island.
- 16** ... per cent of the residents, some 7,000 avs, who were online on December 5 were logged out during a massive system failure.
- 500** ... residents have taken the orientation course to become a Linden Lab volunteer, according to the vteam.com blog.

FILM STARS OF THE FUTURE



L\$500,000 was shared between Trigit Amat, Uty Pfeffer and Tama Rotaru after an exciting and testing three rounds of final auditions to act in a SL film.

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VIDEO HACK SCARE IN SL

By COYNE NAGY

AVATARS CAN BE TAKEN OVER AND MONEY STOLEN USING QUICKTIME SOFTWARE EXPLOIT

PANIC is spreading across the grid after it was revealed an exploit in SL's video software has left every resident vulnerable to attack.

Fear struck as the news filtered through that a way had been found to take control of avatars and steal money from accounts using an exploit in the Apple QuickTime software, which runs all in-world video.

WARNING
Linden Lab put the grid on high alert by taking the unique step of warning about the problem in a fake Terms of Service up-

date to ensure every resident saw it when they logged on.

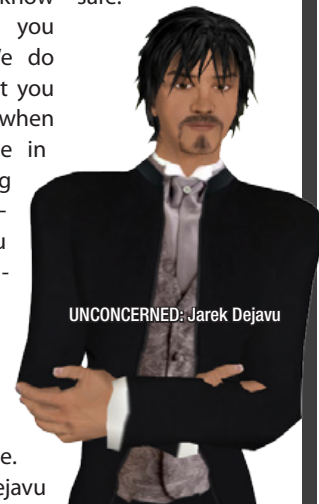
RISK
But with no software fix yet from Apple, avatars are still at risk of losing everything if they go within 100 feet of a streaming video which carries the hacked code.

In the quick-thinking 'ToS update' warning, the Lab made it clear the fault did not lie with them, and urged avatars to use caution in-world. Phoenix Linden later explained on the official blog why LL decided not to disable all videos in SL: "We do have

the ability to turn off all videos on the grid, but have instead chosen to respect the existing in-world content and experiences which rely on streaming video, as we know that many of you enjoy these. We do recommend that you employ caution when using QuickTime in SL, only enabling it in environments that you trust, and are familiar with."

SAFE
But not every resident was concerned about the issue. Techie Jarek Dejavu

said: "I think the chance of this being serious is very slim indeed. So long as you don't leave the video on automatic play, it should be entirely safe."



Terms of Service Agreement

ALERT: The Lab's ToS warning

Please read the following Terms of Service carefully. To continue logging in to Second Life, you must accept the agreement.

Security Alert: Please Read

Please visit the Linden Lab blog for more information about a QuickTime exploit in Second Life that could affect your experience.

**Note: The TOS has not changed. This was the most expeditious way to get this announcement in front of every resident at log-in. Thank you for your patience.

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Welcome to Second Life! The following agreement (this "Agreement" or the "Terms of Service") describes the terms on which Linden Research, Inc. ("Linden Lab") offers you access to its services. This offer is conditioned on your agreement to all of the terms and conditions contained in the Terms of Service, including your compliance with the policies and terms linked to (by way of the provided URLs) from this Agreement. By using Second Life, you agree to these Terms of Service. If you do not so agree, you should decline this agreement, in which case you are prohibited from accessing or using Second Life. Linden Lab may amend this Agreement at any

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Continue Cancel

NEWS BITES:

SISTER OF MERCY

TRAINEE nurses could soon be using SL to practice their life saving skills. JS Vavoom, a RL college nursing instructor, has produced a simulator which recreates many of the issues nurses have to deal with.

SNOWBALL FIGHT

LINDEN Lab has announced plans for the fourth annual Second Life Winter Holiday Celebration between December 14 and January 8. There will be events at winter-themed venues, and a giant snowball fight will take place on December 21.

SL PEACEFEST '08

A HUGE peace demonstration is set to take place in-world next year. SL Peacefest '08 starts on August 15 2008, and will feature three days of gigs, dances, exhibitions and discussions

CHRISTMAS FUN

THE Rendsburger Centre for Energy and Technology enjoyed a Christmas party in both SL and RL on December 6. Hot punch and festive decorations greeted the avatars in attendance at the Kiel Canal sim as well as in RL.

By COYNE NAGY

FUTURE UNCLEAR DESPITE LEGAL DEAL

WARNING: Julynn Lilliehook

STROKER GROUP SETTLE CASE, BUT WITHOUT LEGAL PRECEDENT

A LEGAL expert has warned designers celebrating a landmark court settlement over virtual property rights not to rejoice just yet.

Six SL residents have reached a settlement with avatar Rase Kenzo, who they were suing for in-world copyright infringement. Kenzo has agreed to pay the US\$525 he claims to have made from selling the copied items in compensation. The deal still needs to be rubber stamped by the judge. Butwhilesome have proclaimed

the settlement as proof virtual goods are now recognised by RL authorities, one expert has sounded a note of caution.

DISPUTE

RL lawyer Julynn Lilliehook, founder of the SL Law School, said the fact the case was never heard in court means no real precedent has been set: "It is not a judgement of the court. The issue was not tried on the merits. It is simply an agreement to settle the dispute which allows the court case to end. In my opinion this has no bearing on SL." Under the deal,

Kenzo will turn over his SL and PayPal transaction histories and inform the group of any alt accounts he creates. The designers, who include SL sex mogul Stroker Serpentine, took action after Kenzo used an exploit to copy items after sim crashes. Although the designers declined to comment this week, Kenzo was in bullish mood. Speaking to Reuters, he said: "I'm not paying their legal fees, they're paying that themselves. They might call that a win, but I don't. I made US\$525 playing a video game, so now I break even."

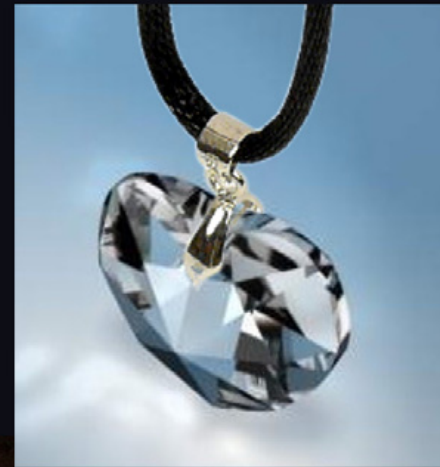


DEAL: Stroker Serpentine

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GRID TO IMPROVE SAYS JOE LINDEN

By Carrie Sodwind

DRAMATIC improvements will be made to the grid in 2008, according to a top Linden Lab technology expert.

Joe Linden made the announcement at a technical Q&A session on Dr. Dobb's Island on Tuesday. He reeled off a list of plans for the coming year, including in-world telephone calls and avatar voice design.

RELIABLE

But he added that the focus of the Lab will be on vastly improving performance, accessibility, minimising grid down time, and widening the grid to web-scale: "Our primary purpose is not to introduce new physics but make the grid more reliable."

Joe also revealed that the Lab is working with various specialist partner companies to see through the changes. First up is the release of a feature allowing SL chat with friends from out of world. The MSN-style chat will allow contact in SL using less powerful computers.



PROMISES: Joe Linden

'DON'T IRAQ IRAN!'

AVS OUT IN FORCE FOR WAR DEMO By CARRIE SODWIND, Pic By DALINIAN BING



ANTI-WAR: Protesters descend on Capital Hill

HUNDREDS of fired-up residents rampaged around the grid on Saturday in a day-long anti-war demo dubbed 'Don't Iraq Iran'.

The number of activists surpassed expectations, according to a representative from the organisers, political campaign group Lag4Peace. With around

400 taking part, the demo proved an even greater success than the first Iraq war protest in SL which took place on January 27 at Capitol Hill.

PASSIONATE

Protesting avatars could be heard chanting riotously around the grid for ten hours in various sims including Capitol Hill, Common-

wealth Island, Reuters and the Linden Estates. Dalinian Bing, one of the event's organisers, said protesters spilled out of the organised sims into emergency back-up locations: "The huge turnout was better than any of us had expected. People at all the protest sites were passionate and angry about the war drums beating in Washington."

Demonstrators demanded "peace not war" and "bread not bombs" in their chants, while others waved banners or photographs of family or loved ones fighting in Iraq.

TÜV NORD GOES VIRTUAL

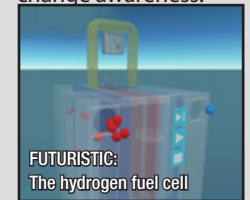
By COYNE NAGY

TÜV Nord, one of Germany's largest technical service providers, launched their presence in-world on December 7.

The company's CEO Dr Guido Rettig, appeared in SL as avatar GuidoRettig Proto. He toured the site and

invited in-world questions from the firm's 7,300-strong workforce. Dr Rettig said: "We will operate an important research centre to integrate ourselves with the scientific community of the virtual world and to include our own organisation from

roughly 70 countries around the globe." The TÜV Nord sim also features a hydrogen fuel cell to promote climate change awareness.



FUTURISTIC: The hydrogen fuel cell

THE SL 'FAMILY'

By KITTYYOTOOLE



A-SERIOUS-BUSINESS: Mob boss Fox Daviau

FROM GUNS TO GANGSTERS, ROLE-PLAYING THE MAFIA IN SL IS MORE POPULAR THAN EVER

THE Mafia is becoming increasingly popular in SL, as mobsters seem to be making residents offers they can't refuse.

But as hundreds put on fur coats and Italian accents and becoming full-blown members of the virtual mob, is the lifestyle of a SL gangster the seedy enterprise depicted in Hollywood blockbusters or just harmless role play?

PISTOLS

Fox Daviau is an in-world Godfather to the Corleone Famiglia, one of the many groups in SL dedicated to living virtual life in a Mafia style. He looks exactly as you would imagine an important mob boss would - dark-suited, sucking on a huge cigar and dripping in rings and necklaces with gold pistols strapped to each thigh.

And like a RL gangster, Daviau has his own business enterprise, Club Fox 77, although he lost money after the SL gambling ban. But he views the in-world Mafia as a lifestyle choice - it's all about the weapons, clothes, cars and big bucks, and he readily acknowledges that in SL he is living "the high lifestyle most people cannot get in RL without being locked up".

FAMILY

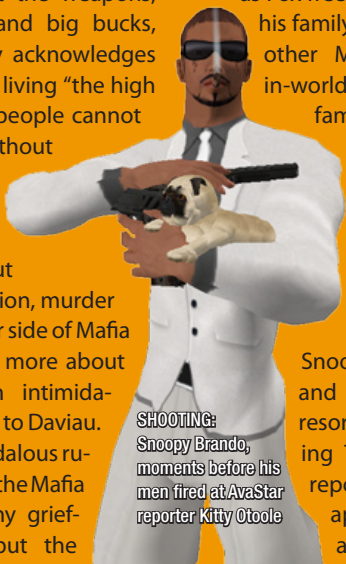
But what about power, corruption, murder and the seedier side of Mafia life? In SL, it is more about role-play than intimidation, according to Daviau. The most scandalous rumours are that the Mafia is behind many grieving attacks, but the

Godfather is keen to point out that the 'Corleone Famiglia' do not participate in this. In fact, the only similarities between the Mafia in SL and RL are the ties that exist between groups,

as Fox freely admits that his family is allied with other Mafia families in-world: "Family is family and we do stick together."

But even in SL, the Mafia can be dangerous - mob king

Snoopy Brando and his cohorts resorted to shooting The AvaStar's reporter when approached for an interview.



SHOOTING: Snoopy Brando, moments before his men fired at AvaStar reporter Kitty Otoole

your mail @ YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

RL KIDS NOT CHILD'S PLAY

Hey Regis,
AFTER reading last week's edition, I thought I had better write in about the woman who wants to adopt in RL having done it in SL [Myne-kogirl Ansett].

It sounded like a crazy plan to me. Firstly, looking after a 'child' in SL is absolutely nothing like doing it in RL - I am a father in RL, and though I have never adopted a SL kid, I think I have an idea what

that might be like - not the same.

Secondly, I think she might be underestimating the difficulty of adopting in RL, especially in a developed country like Japan. You can't just walk in and expect to pick up a kid or two. I have heard that it takes months and months of inter-

checks before it can happen.

I have nothing against this woman, and I suppose if adopting in SL has helped her work through some personal problems, then that is great.

But I think this is an instance where SL does not reflect RL. Good luck to her, but I hope she has thought this

through properly and done her research.

By Countvon Gazov

VIRTUAL WORLDS ARE KEY FOR SL

Dear Leider,

I FOR one am really glad that you are expanding into other virtual worlds.

If you ask me, SL will need to keep looking over its shoulder to see what the competition is doing in order to stay ahead - I'm sure there will be plenty for the Lab to learn. So it's good to know that you are on the case, to keep all us snobby SLers informed on the rest of the Metaverse!

By W.S.

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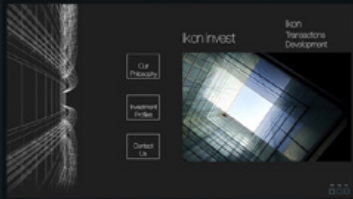
SIM: Mystical Island



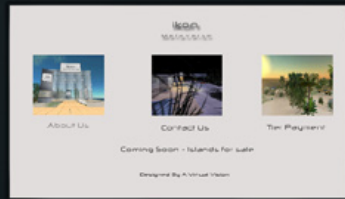
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SL MUST IMPROVE IN ORDER TO HEAD OFF COMPETITORS

RAPID VIRTUAL WORLD GROWTH MEANS SL MUST PERFORM BETTER

SECOND LIFE will have to improve in 2008 in order for it to stay ahead of the competition.

Virtual worlds are set to explode in growth next year and SL can't afford to drag its heels. The fact that Coca Cola have set up in There this week shows that competition among other virtual worlds with real cash economies is high. Entropia Universe is also being praised by many for its superior graphics, stability and user experience compared to SL. Our world set the RL media alight and woke millions up to what virtual platforms

have to offer – and now dozens of virtual worlds are fighting for a piece of the lucrative 3D pie. I was given a presentation recently by a new German platform, Twinity, set to be launched next year – and it was impressive, from the concept to the graphics.

HOT AIR

That's why we can only hope that Lab technology expert Joe Linden wasn't just blowing hot air when he announced at a Q&A that 2008 will be about improving performance. Because at the end of the day, that is what us residents want. That there are still long beta-style

grid down times is not on. That nearly 33 per cent of all sessions end in a crash is unacceptable. These things can't continue if SL wants to compete against more stable platforms and not be overtaken by them in the future.

To budding writers: The AvaStar is set to expand its coverage of the metaverse. If you are an experienced member of another virtual world and want to get involved with covering it for The AvaStar, then send us an email to jobs@the-avastar.com.

CONTENT THEFT VICTORY WILL SERVE AS A WARNING

DESPITE critics scoffing at the paltry US\$87.50 'the six' each won in their Rase Kenzo case, their victory is bigger than it seems. Although the case did not set a legal precedent, the proceedings have sent a clear signal to residents. Stroker and his partners have shown that SL is not a game in which anything goes, and residents

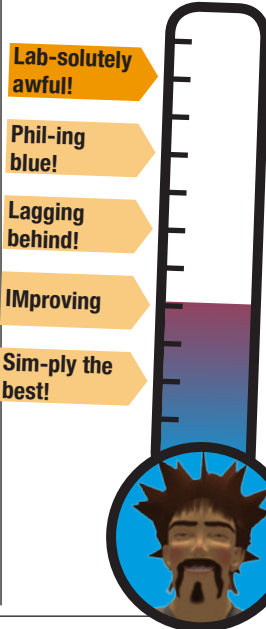
will not tolerate their hard work being undermined by a cheat. It would have been beneficial for everyone in SL if the case had gone through court, but I'm sure at Stroker's rate it won't be long until his next one does!

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

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

THE way in which the Lindens dealt with the Apple scare is commendable. They used the TOS to make sure everyone saw the warning message and despite the problems that caused, it was comforting that the Lindens who took quick effective action. A friend IMed me to say: "Credit where credit is due, for once they really showed they are trying to help us. I expected them to ban all videos which would have been crazy." Way to go.

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L\$500 PIGS OF THE WEEK

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ISOLDE FLAMAND sent in this pic with the rather apt title, 'in deep sheep'.



Fashion designer KAZUE VOOM pictured herself preparing for Christmas recently.

JANEY HUTCHINSON took her turn on the podium at an avatar auction for cancer research at the AICR charity event on Saturday. She eventually 'sold' for L\$15,005.



It seems Santa has been a good little boy this year, as VERONICA2VIXEN DEVOIX sits on his lap!

META-NEWS:

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

INTEL IN HIPIHI

TECHNOLOGY giant Intel has become the first IT firm to launch a presence in HiPiHi. It will create a 160,000-square metre island containing an Intel experience centre and a community club.

A BRITISH CLUB

DISNEY will release a version of the Club Penguin world for the UK. The firm has an office in Brighton to run the system, set to go live in 2008. It is not known how the British version will differ.

COKE TO LAUNCH IN THERE

By COYNE NAGY

COCA-COLA and Makena Technologies have announced a partnership which will see the drinks giant move into the virtual world of There.com.

Users of the Coke Studios environment at MyCoke.com will be transferred to the CC Metro community in There. Residents will be able to test their skills on a hoverboard and

mix their own music. Carol Kruse, a vice president at Coke, said: "With the increasing sophistication in the digital world and virtual environments, we knew it was time to create a richer, more life-like experience for MyCoke.com members." Michael Wilson, Makena CEO, said: "It speaks vol-

umes when Coca-Cola, one of the best known brands in the world, recognises the power of a virtual world to enhance the experience people have with their brand."



LINK-UP: Coke in There

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by Good2 Go

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Atsuko Otsuka on 2007-10-18

"I have a lot of fun creating immersive interactive experiences for avatars. Some have been based on real world fun, and others I could never do in the real world. This is one from the real world."
Good2 Go

Ponderama 25,145,38 (PG)

BIZ BITES:

QUELLE SURPRISE

LEADING German mail order firm Quelle will hold an expert forum on December 13 at the QuelleErfinderland sim as part of its campaign to use SL as an innovation forum.

PLACE YOUR BETS

ARBITRAGE Wise, chairman of JT Financial, has revealed profits made from RL sports betting is what enables his company to pay such high interest rates to investors.

FULL STOCKINGS

BIG-hearted SL entrepreneur Fox Diller is using the Christmas sim to ask residents to donate to the Canadian children's charity 'The Empty Stocking Fund'.

KRAFTY SCHEME

KRAFT Foods is holding a SL secret Santa party on December 20 at Food Island. If you give one gift to Santa you will get something in return.

A TASTY S-LATTE

COFFEE-MATE is sponsoring an in-world cafe, Swirl, to provide the perfect hang-out for coffee-loving residents.



ADVICE: Author GreeterDan Godel

By COYNE NAGY

PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE FOR SL ENTREPRENEURS

AUTHOR WARNS BUDDING SL BUSINESS OWNERS OVER EXPECTATIONS

BUDDING virtual entrepreneurs may discover the streets of SL are not paved with gold, one in-world business expert has warned.

Daniel Terdiman, avatar GreeterDan Godel in SL, is a senior reporter with CNETnews.com and recently published a book called 'The Entrepreneur's Guide to Second Life'. He gives advice to anyone wanting to start out on the in-world path to riches as well as the established virtual business community.

LEARNING

And with many people still flooding into SL seeking to make their fortunes after heavy exposure in the RL press, Godel stresses that new in-world businesses need time to work: "I believe that it is crucial that people don't set out to start making money the moment they sign up. Rather, I think they absolutely do need to spend time learning SL, learning the community, researching other SL businesses, meeting

people and getting the lay of the land. Only then will they be in a position to start a successful business."

OVERLAP

He also warned stepping into SL business is not guaranteed to generate enough money to live on in RL, and added: "There are plenty of people making a full-time living in SL, but they are the ones who have the combination of great talent, innovative ideas, total commitment to their business, terrific people and customer service skills and, frankly, a little luck. So, I would wait to quit the day job until the SL business is earning a lot." But he is optimistic that business success in SL is there to be had: "I think there is a lot of overlap between some of the fundamental business skills - creating a business plan, being committed to the plan, offering good customer service, doing great accounting, and things like that will soon bring their own rewards."

THE AVASTAR EVERY DAY IN DECEMBER...

THE AVASTAR ADVENT CALENDER



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FULL ON FASHION!

ASpiRE!

DANCE FEVER: ASpiRE! GEO Bianca Darling and Callie Cline

SMART SHOPPING: Yumil Darkes

KaDeWe

By ISABEL BROCCO

FASHION shows dominated SL's social scene last week, with stylish and sexy avs everywhere you looked. The ASpiRE! label, KaDeWe, Monte Napoleone, Kmadd and the Best of SL all hosted shows for models to strut their stuff.

Monte Napoleone

MODEL BEAUTY: Queenie Extraordinaire

CUTE: December Dollinger

Kmadd

SLEEK NUMBER: Risa Bright

DESIGNER: Nicanor Millions

SUITED & BOOTED: Carter Giacobini

Best of SL

TOYTOWN BLUES

By PHIL SPACKLER

MORE than a dozen musicians filled the Coconut Grove sim this week to take part in the Toys for Tots fundraiser.

The event was part of the December Arts and Music Festival, and the artists performed for over 12 hours in the beautiful Christmas setting. It raised more than L\$100,000 for the Marine Toys for Tots campaign, which provides toys and hope to impoverished children for the holiday season.

Venue owner **Tammy Connelly** said: "[We] can take that [money] and turn it into toys for approximately 39 children."



FANTOYSTIC: Ictus Belford

Machin' music

By COYNE NAGY

A MACHINIMA film is being used to promote the launch of a RL music album by Fabrice Crosby. The singer, **Fabrice Collette** in RL, teamed up with **Susi Spicoli** to make the music video for the song 'C'est Comme Tu Veux'.

ROMANCE: A still from the machinima movie

Special-blend

CAFE CULTURE: The Ama Gi launch

VIDEO: The contest was keenly fought

A GREAT IDEA

HUSSAYN Salomon won the first Universal and Idea Machinima Competition on Saturday. He beat off strong competition with his music video set to 'I walk alone', and took home the first prize of L\$5,000 at the event at Idea Virtual Island. The finalists will all be shown at the sim for another week.

By KITTY OTOOLE

THE Ama Gi coffee house opened on Saturday with free brews and champagne on offer.

It will serve as a meeting place for open source software fans, with an environment to meet and chat with fellow enthusiasts. The coffee house is on the Ama Gi sim, an island-wide project to enable and educate avatars on Linux and other open source media.

Swedish Lucia



Every year the 13th of December, Santa (Saint) Lucia arrives to Sweden to announce the Christmas season. This year, again, she will be in Second Life.

The Lucia Celebration features traditional Swedish songs, with a woman, representing Saint Lucia, dressed in white robes, with a headdress of candles, a halo of light to repel the darkness.

**LUCIA in Second Life –
13th of December
Svenskt Resurscenter –
sim (128 128 0)**

**21.00-21.30 and 22.30 to late.
12am (PST)-12.30am (PST) and
1.30 PM (PST) to late.**

Do not miss the opportunity to attend this celebration of light and meet a real Swedish Lucia, complete with an entourage of singers, a Christmas tree, Santa (the real one!), Swedish freebie gifts, Swedish live music and disco.

**Very welcome –
all residents in
Second Life**



**Do you want more info about Lucia and the Swedish People in Second Life
please mail: management@exakt.biz**

Do you want more info about Sweden and Swedish companys please contact Swedish Institute IRL.



TUXEDO VOGUE

By PAOLO BADE



A LETHAL weapon, razor sharp look, expensive designer cut, smooth satin lining, killer heels, a quietly distinct style, black revolver on crisp white, blood red lips - meet the object of desire for every 007.



Rosati Watch (L\$449)
Alyssa Bijoux Jewelry & Mall,
Cl, Kirkstone (86, 189, 37)



MODEL: Anessa Shine
Hair: 'ETD Lydia' (L\$150)
ETD - Erika Tiramisu Designs
ETD Isle (150, 187, 32)



Columbia Tux (L\$500)
Blaze*
Blaze (75, 141, 23)



Marco Glasses (L\$ 299)
primOptic eyewear
Terra Toulouse (120, 139, 27)



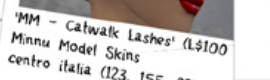
Falling Star Earrings (L\$165)
Alyssa Bijoux Jewelry & Mall,
Cl, Kirkstone (86, 189, 37)



'Natasha' Stiletto (L\$359)
Tesla Miles, TESLA
Dreamworld South (228, 228)



Bella Tuxedo Gown (L\$225)
Falpack at L\$600 for 4 colors.
PIN UP Dolls Boutique
Retrology (126, 235, 41)



'MM - Catwalk Lashes' (L\$100
Minnu Model Skins
centro italia (123, 155, 22)



www.lionhearts1.com



Visit the heart of "Ileina Cove" Sim and enjoy finest shopping at three modern and spacious designed floors.

We offer the perfect place to enjoy your time in Second Life.

We still have shops available for rent, with reasonable rates, tenant-friendly policy and service package.

Others just write about service. We offer it.



We also host live music and other events at our club lounge.

Meet People, dance, have fun!



Visit us at Ileina Cove, 127, 115, 32

caLLie cLine's
STYLE HOTLINE



LADY IN FESTIVE RED

DON'T LET YOUR DRESS OUTSHINE YOU - AND HERE'S HOW...

IT'S the holiday season and everyone is planning what to wear to parties and festivities.

I found a lovely dress made by a new designer called Isabella Magnot which is gorgeous. Isabella is not yet a well-known

designer, and I was so excited to have found this dress. It's elegant, simple, detailed and it's one of those dresses that doesn't 'wear you' but lets you shine when you wear it.

CLASSY

After trying a lot of different hair, I decided to go with a more dramatic yet classy styling. The dark 'updo' by ETD, combined with the Hybrid 2 skin with the deep red lipstick, seems to be just the right touch for hair and skin. Combined with simple ruby earrings by Sue Stonebender and a simple diamond bangle, it's all this dress really need-

ed. Any necklace I tried just seemed to take away from the lovely neckline and cut-outs in the dress.

MYSTERY

I was very impressed with the cut-outs on the back as well as the front. There is just a hint of sexy, but a LOT of mystery. The skirt flows wonderfully, and I think this would be the perfect dress for a Christmas party at a friend's house or a night out dancing. After trying on tons of shoes, I went with Shiny Things Dare pumps in red.



FABULOUS IN RED: Callie shows off her new look



WHAT'S HOT!
CHAIN REACTION

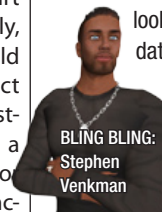
By CARRIE SODWIND

CHUNKY silver chains are everywhere... and they are over-rated.

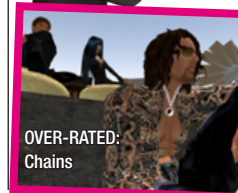
How can you look a charming well-dressed guy in the eye when the bling around their neck is just screaming for attention?

Heavy chains are hip-hop street-wear and don't mix well with professional life. Handsome Stephen Venkman, manager of trendy Avatrait gallery,

looked intimidatingly street as he chaired an artist's talk this week.



BLING BLING: Stephen Venkman



OVER-RATED: Chains

DESIGN OUR EXCLUSIVE NEW AVASTAR CLOTHES LINE!



EARLY FRONT-RUNNER: Emo Biedermann shows off her great designs

THERE is still time for you to enter YOUR creations in our competition to design The AvaStar's new clothes line.

The winner will walk away with **LS\$10,000 plus four weeks' promotion in The AvaStar!** All the entrants will be on display at our first anniversary party on December 19, so simply email your pictures to newsdesk@the-avastar.com by December 16 to be in with a chance of winning. Remember - entries must include The AvaStar logo and feature our official colours of red and white.

FASHION PAGE CONTEST

WATCH out for the two winners of our amazing fashion page contest!

The talented designers will see their work displayed in The AvaStar over the next two weeks, as well as taking home **LS\$3,000** each. So make sure you keep up-to-date with SL's most stylish newspaper!

STUNNING...

Low prim, high quality at fair prices.

New-resident friendly

Livingroom, bedroom, kitchen, 'sex rug', throne, wall art, shapes with skin, jewelry, accessories, ...and so much more.

She has designed and built for the most popular shopping attractions in Second Life. And now she has opened her own store to bring amazing new designs and builds to the masses directly from the source.

A highly detailed perfectionist attitude shows clearly in every piece.

Outstanding quality and new resident-friendly. Low prim design for the prim-frugal designer.

Visit Zodiac House in the *Land of Hope* SIM.

See what you've been wanting.

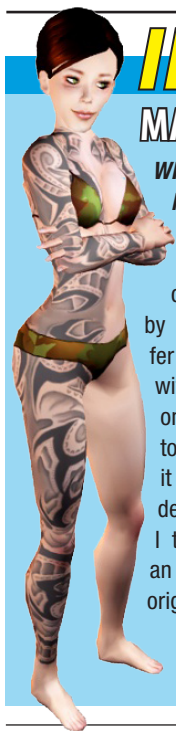
LAND of HOPE



low prim. fair price. high quality

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

MARLEEN VAUGHAN OF MARLY'S By ISOLDE FLAMAND



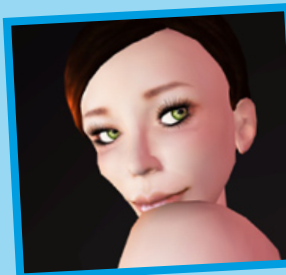
WHEN I'M FEELING NAUGHTY I WEAR...

"...my full-body tattoo from EtchD, called Hyde, made by Sinjun Soyer. I prefer just black tattoos with no colour, and this one you can modify to make it a bit faded, which I think adds an element of originality."

I ADORE...

"...my dark jeans from WRONG. I love everything about them - the low waist, the prim bottoms, the style, the colour and the fact they show off my hourglass shape. I am so thankful that Kaysha Sion created these jeans - they make my bum look fantastic!"

I LOOK SWEET AND WHIMSICAL IN...



"...my skin by BettiePage Voyager called Tomboy. I feel that I have a unique look, and the rosy cheeks make me feel happy. It also has great 'bits' and cost only L\$300. I take all the photos for my shop in this skin and these photogenic green eyes from TULI, by Tuli Asturias."



TOP-CLASS TIKIS



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

Tiki House Dock Area

By Madison Gardner
Faith (171, 245, 36)

L\$2,000



L\$600

***CE* Cabana 3**

By Onyx Bijoux
Lichtenstein (46, 145, 22)



L\$1,500

The Solwara Hut

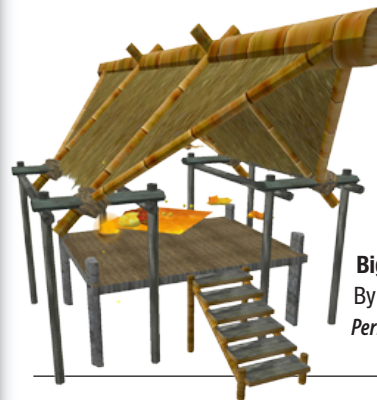
With furniture
By Cory Edo
Trompe Loeil (134, 195, 32)



L\$425

Big Tiki Beach Hut

By Siss Truss
Perfect Prefabs Cyan (69, 151, 35)



Fiji Island House 70P

By ArchTx Edo
Shona (66, 204, 30)

L\$400





primoptic rayon photographed by gabrielle sinatra

NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: AN ITALIAN SOCCER GIANT, A BALTIC EMBASSY, A SWISS BANK AND A KOREAN COMPLEX

NERAZZURI:
The Inter Official Site sim



By *COYNE NAGY*

INTER Milan may be one of the biggest names in world football but their SL effort so far is struggling in the relegation zone.

There is enough black and blue at the Inter Official Site sim to leave even the staunchest of Nerazzurri fans feeling queasy, although there are plenty of memories of past glories to

reported delays. A colossal building designed by Scope Cleaver, the embassy is situated on the Virtual Estonia sim and will host discussions, exhibitions and other events. The labyrinth-like sim appeared to be causing some confusion amongst avatars this week, however. The Banque Cantonale Vaudoise

reserved for bank use while a more general area is available. Despite the garishly coloured buildings there is presently little else to attract traffic.

FREEBIES

Korea has become another country to be well represented



keep them interested. The Estonian embassy in SL has opened almost on time despite



represents the Swiss banking community in SL, but despite a nice build it has some work to do on its presence. A part of the two-island BCV complex is



on the grid through the massive Sera Korea complex of 20 sims. The information is nearly all in Korean making it hard for the casual visitor but there are plenty of freebies available in the giant set of orientation islands.



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

DEAR

SHE WANTS ME IN RL - BUT SHE IS MARRIED!

STAR LETTER
L\$500
send me a mail

SHOULD I TAKE OUR RELATIONSHIP INTO RL AND RISK BECOMING A HOME-WRECKER?

Dear Randi: SINCE I started dating this girl several months ago both the conversation and the sex have been wonderful. But last week she let me know she isn't really who I thought she was in RL. It turns out she is nine years older than I am (I am 22) and is also married. That isn't too much of a problem for me, but now that

she has been honest about herself, she says she wants to take our relationship to the next level, into RL. But I'm worried about what our friends might think. Is nine years too much of an age difference? — C.U.

Randi says: The age difference isn't any problem at all. But the fact that she is married in RL, I think that IS a huge problem!

Tell her you're happy dating her in SL, but don't even think about taking it offline. Not only would it turn you into a RL home-wrecker, but in this case it might not even be the right thing for you. If the woman dumps her husband for you now, don't you think she might dump you in five years for another fantasy man?

DOES MY FRIEND NEED RESCUING FROM BDSM?

Dear Randi: MY best girlfriend in SL and I used to spend nearly all of our time online together. But recently she has become very elusive, and has said she has begun to spend most of her time at BDSM clubs. Most times I see her, she is dressed up in leather and on a leash, accompanied by someone she calls her 'mistress'. I told her I was concerned about her behaviour, but she said she's having a lot of fun. Is what she is doing dangerous, or should I just mind my own business? — V.S.

Randi says: It's OK to express your initial concerns to her, but don't be a nag. It sounds as if you'd never be interested in BDSM, and you're probably in the majority even in SL. But she's an adult and has the right to experiment with things she might never do in RL. Besides, in SL she wouldn't have to rely on safewords. If she doesn't like a situation, she can simply log out!

I DON'T NEED TO HAVE SEX AS OFTEN AS HIM

Dear Randi: MY SL husband and I have been married for two months now. When we first met, he seemed to be all about romance, giving me flowers and taking me dancing. We spent lots of time talking about our dreams and aspirations, both in and out of SL. Lately his time here has been limited, and all he seems to want is sex, sex and more sex. That's something I don't need more than a couple of times a week, and I think he's seeing me more as an object than a person. Do you think we're heading for trouble? — H.R.

Randi says: It's possible. But you definitely need to be clear to him about your feelings. Tell him that just because you're not interested in three lovemaking sessions a day it doesn't mean you don't love him. There are certainly exceptions, but most women are hard-wired to need sex less frequently than men. And besides, the less sex you have, the better it might be.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

A BITTER DIVORCE

Dear Randi: I HAVE always tried to be an attentive husband, but my wife recently left me, saying she needed more space. But she has since taken up with a rough guy who treats her like a possession. What should I do? - D.S.

Randi says: Cherish the memories, but eventually you'll realise you're better off without her. It sounds as if you've been rejected for no good reason. Be her friend if you want, but don't take her back - it would just lead to more heartache.

CHRISTMAS can be a lonely time for many people. It can be difficult for anyone in rocky relationships, or those still searching for true love, to enter into the true spirit of this time of year. But don't worry! If you think you need some help with relationship woes this holiday time, write to me at dearrandi@the-avastar.com for advice on in-world love. You could be cosyng up to the partner of your dreams in front of a warm virtual fire in no time at all!

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK WHEN WOMEN FALL IN LOVE, WEEK FOUR:

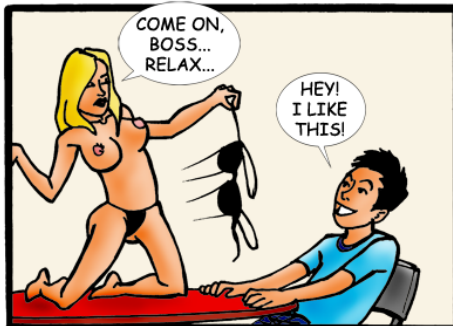
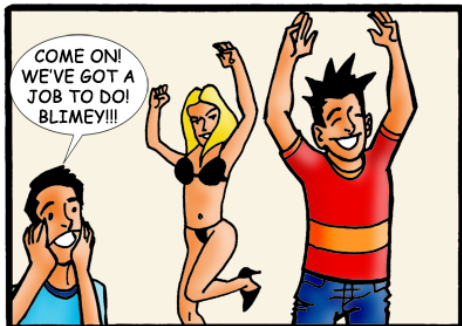
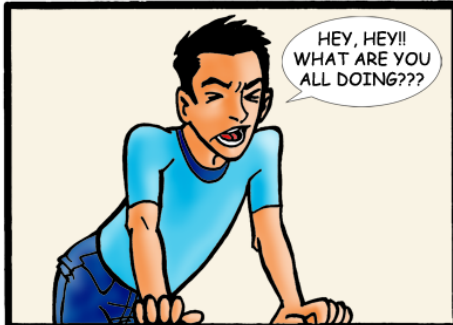
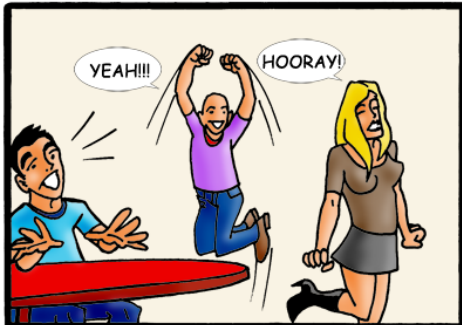


RANDI SAYS: It is clear you both entered this relationship under false pretences - and it has come back to haunt you! I'm afraid you have to forget about this particular romance, and next time, tell the truth earlier!

HOT Slaggin'

ARTWORK:
Ermanno Spitteler

"CLOSE TO HOME"



© Andrea Manfredini 2007



Freebies

SL's best FREE stuff!

By *PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL*

THIS WEEK: SNOW EMITTERS

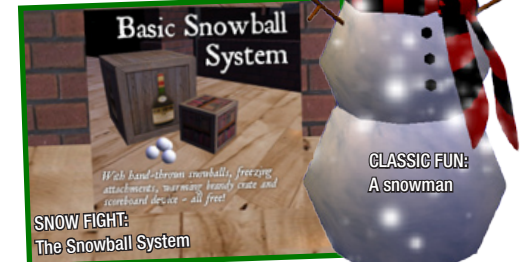
WINTER has arrived on the grid, and **Christmas** is coming, so it's time to see the snow fall from the SL sky.

There are lots of free emitters about, but the pick of the bunch is the Snow Generator by Argent Stonecutter. You will find it hidden in a box of L\$1 freebies at LostFurest d'Alliez (144, 8, 529). The script is open source and fully configurable, so you can choose a delicate touch of white as well as a true winter storm - so get out there and start a snowball fight!

When hit by a snowball, the wearer's 'cold percentage' increases, indicated by a floating text. When it reaches 100, the wearer is 'frozen stiff' - snowflakes begin to shower from the cube, and the person can't move for ten seconds. After the action, it's time to build a snowman, like the detailed one made by Stormy Roentgen (Plush Rho 86, 85, 22).

FROZEN

You can manage that thanks to the nice Basic Snowball System created by Ordinal Malaprop, available at Caledon (92, 33, 26). To throw a snowball you have wear the object, enter 'mouselook' and click on a victim. Each participant has to wear an attachment called the 'cold victim cube'.



ADVERT

RAVELONG SL

& Doubledown's Dj Shop

Dj & Club News, Info, & Equipment

Yeolmae (10, 20, 80)
Click [HERE](#) to get SLURL

- Dj Booths
- Intelligent Lighting
- Club Setups
- Turntables
- Mixers
- Speakers
- Headphones
- Dancefloors
- Dj Animations
- BIOSPACES:**
- Advertising, Networking, and Promotion for Djs, Clubs, & Events
- Shoutcast Streams
- \$3800L/month
- 128kbps/100 listeners
- SL Humor T-Shirts
- "Keepin' it Real in SL"

SL DJ & Club Scene Blog
DJDoubledown.blogspot.com

ROMANS DISCOVERED SL BEFORE LINDEN LAB!



WEDDING BLISS:
Tania Juran and Hiperit Giha

LONG ago in the mists of time the Romans discovered Cream Island (120,107,23) and settled there, long before Linden Lab.

How do I know this? Well, specialist archaeologist teams have been busy during the past few months excavating the ruins discovered by Tania Juran and me, Hiperit Giha as we wandered through a mystic woodland while courting one day. I remember the date well - July 1, 2007 as Tania made such an impression on me that on December 1 we will open Cream Island (120,107,23) to share our romance. Recently, we celebrated our love in a stylish wedding at Dragon Inn, with Kim Seifert singing live at the reception. I say that I if you've never been to a Kim Seifert concert, you haven't lived. It was awesome! In fact, when Tania and I open our Cream Island Sim there will be a place for concerts and I am already booking them up to March next year. We have also found the remains of a medieval town complete with a

castle overlooking it. Tania has been busy ensuring the castle takes on a modern theme for two floors of fun-filled dancing.

ROMANCE

Full of energy and enthusiasm, Tania runs differently-themed contests regularly with prizes for best male and female outfits. Tania is busy putting the finishing touches to another exciting club with VIP rooms hidden under... well, you'll have to explore for yourselves. Suffice it to say that the Mystic Wood gives way to a Romantic Lovers Meet, and other delights await you as well.

Tania says: "Are you looking for romance? Boys, girls will not tell you what they want when you romance them nor will our girls but here our dancers will show you! Girls, the Chippenhunks would be put in the shade by our male dancers." Group notices are sent out in six major languages. Ready for fun? We certainly are! Come discover yourself.

THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: AUSTRALIA

ICONIC: Sydney Opera House

G'DAY, MATE!

By GAETANA FAUST

HEAD DOWN UNDER AND THROW ANOTHER PRAWN ON THE BARBIE

GO for a walkabout down under, mate, and find adventure in Australia on the grid, from the rugged Outback to the urban streets of Melbourne.

Start your tour of The Pond sim in the **Australian Outback**, a no-fly zone that encourages you to take the 'Bush Walk' and explore on foot. After your rugged hike, take a quiet stroll through the romantic **Echo Park** (The Pond 90, 83, 21), a peaceful green oasis, on your way to downtown Sydney, and perhaps take a peek in at the Gold Emu Cinema to see what is playing. Walk across the amazing **Sydney Harbour Bridge** (Ponderosa 42, 56, 32) and marvel at its beauty and stunning setting between the harbour and the city.

No visit to Australia's largest city is complete without a stop at the spectacular **Sydney Opera House** (Ponderosa 148, 54, 32).

MAGNIFICENT

It is an amazing sight to behold, with its curvaceous geometric design, and below the ground you will find the Cavern Gallery, now showing a cool pink and orange exhibit of astounding colour and life by Adam Ramona. For another take on Sydney, visit the **Australia** sim (101, 101, 23). Step inside the Opera House for a photo-realistic view of what it's like to be in the magnificent lobby. Grab a bench along the brick-paved harbour for a good look at the bridge, or stop by Surfers beach club to hobnob with the Aussie surfer crowd.

A GLIMPSE OF DESTINY
FUTURE MELBOURNE 2051



A vision of things to come, where the streets are guarded by robots and gas masks are 'de rigeur'.

Where: Victoria University (108, 60, 131)

OUTBACK DRINKING
BILLABONG BAR



Enjoy a refreshing cold beer in the bar set in the red dirt of the Australian Outback.

Where: The Pond (46, 129, 22)

MELBOURNE RECREATED
ABC ISLAND



Take the fun Melbourne 'hovertram' and check out the broadcast tower.

Where: ABC Island (31, 183, 23)

12.7. - 12.13.

DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in SL Time



FASHION

WINTER STYLE

Four designer stores reveal their warmest and cosiest looks for the cold season at the Ivalde Sim Winter Fashion Event modelled by ASpiRE!

When: Dec. 9, 12:00

Where: Ivalde (66, 27, 22)



NIGHTLIFE

SECOND MIRAGE

Fashion-savvy avatars will head to the designer store for a party in its Grand Ballroom venue, with the trendiest models and designers showing off their winter looks.

When: Dec. 9, 13:00

Where: Second Mirage (194, 71, 27)



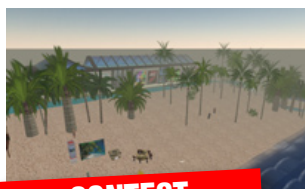
ENTERTAINMENT

AL ANDALUS OPEN DAY

Have a look around the stunning replica of the RL Alhambra.

When: Dec. 8, 11:30

Where: Al Andalus Generalife (94, 74, 62)



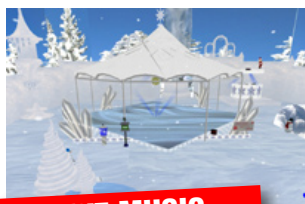
CONTEST

BEACH BABE

Party all night for a chance to win the hottest beach babe contest.

When: Dec. 9, 10:00–12:00

Where: VooDoo (221, 142, 23)



LIVE MUSIC

ROCK ACRONYM

Listen live to the harmonic acoustic and voice set in the wintry wonderland.

When: Dec. 7, 12:00

Where: Design Factory (250, 226, 23)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

CLASSICAL QUARTET

The Associated Humans will put on some classical music to mark the first day of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

When: Dec. 10, 12:00

Where: Ile Verte (22, 22, 29)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



ART & CULTURE

LUCIA

The Swedish Lucia Celebration features traditional Swedish songs, with a woman, representing Saint Lucia, dressed in white robes.

When: Dec. 13, 12:00–till late

Where: Svesnkt Resurscentrum (125, 159, 30)



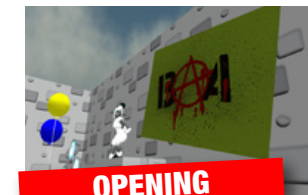
LIVE MUSIC

DJ BATTLE

Turn up your speakers as loud as they will go and blast out the sounds of the best SL techno DJs as they go head to head at this live mix battle.

When: Dec. 12, 12:00–15:00

Where: Dance Island (34, 225, 23)



OPENING

BAA OUTPOST DIVUM

Fans of cyber punk fashions should come along to the opening party of a crazy new store, where they can get their hands on some great gifts.

When: Dec. 9, 8:00–11:00

Where: Chamnamoo (191, 246, 99)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

A NIGHT WITH NEXEUS FATALE

The singer will perform at this bash for Breast Cancer Care by No.7, also organised by Rivers Run Red. Entry on the night is free, and there is an exclusive set give away to download to your iPod.

When: Dec. 12, 11:00–15:00

Where: Avalon (142, 209, 24)



ART & CULTURE

MEET THE ARTIST

Cienega Soon discusses her work with experimental SL photography at Avatrait Gallery, where you can ask her questions.

When: Dec. 8, 10:00

Where: Simuality (33, 201, 35)

WANT TO SEE YOUR EVENT HERE?

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



She wished upon a star & dreamed until the dusk, her wish was found within the glowing Diamond Dust.

Limited Edition Gown **caLLie cLine**

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

By PAOLOBADE

DOLLY MATHY

DOLLY MATHY IS A SHOPPING-MAD MODEL WHO LIKEY BEING KIND AND CONSIDERATE TO HER FELLOW AVATARS

INTERVIEW

THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?

DOLLY MATHY: My personality. I'm kind and caring and will always try to understand other people's point of view.

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

DM: I love to shop. I buy clothes and accessories to make every day different. Partying is also a great love of mine. I love music so to be able to go out is fantastic. When not shopping or partying I like hanging out with friends.

TA: What would you change in SL?

DM: There is not a lot I would change as it's our world and we live it how we want to.

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

DM: I don't have one precious item – it's the whole lot! I would cry if it went wrong and I would need a loan to replace it all!

TA: What's your funniest sex story?

DM: I don't have one unfortunately...or perhaps fortunately!

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

DM: I wouldn't vote for anybody. I'm not a political person. Wouldn't Linden Lab rule anyway?

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: DOLLY MATHY

PROFESSION: Model

BIRTH DATE: 2/25/2007

ATTITUDE: Play nice