

THE AVASTAR

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Fabulous 1st b'day bash!

The AvaStar party in **a-stars**

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SANTA VS. THE GRINCH

500,000 LOST INVENTORY ITEMS FOUND

LAB SAVES XMAS!

By **COYNE NAGY**

CHRISTMAS has come early for thousands of residents after Linden Lab found 500,000 missing inventory items. The discovery ended a long-running saga for 143,000 residents who had been searching for their property.

FULL STORY: SEE PAGE 3

• **SLers celebrate item return**

INSIDE OPINION

"I haven't got the slightest interest in having sex in SL, and I don't want to have to wipe the virtual saliva from my cheeks when total strangers blow me their 'kisses'."

YOUR MAIL
p.9

"Our slogan is 'Your World. Your Voice.' We have tried to stay true to that, providing you with a place to make your views heard, to communicate your message to the Lab as well as standing up for those who have been cheated."



REGIS BRAATHENS
p.11

THE AVASTAR

THE AVASTAR is published by Bild.T-Online AG & Co. KG. Check out the website at: www.bild.t-online.de.



NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

38

... sims on average were consistently operating below performance targets, according to Linden Lab's November metrics.

403

... residents are in the Hilary Clinton group, after the US Senator used a recent survey to ask which virtual worlds people used.

10,000

... in L\$ will be a nice present for the winner of the Greenies hoverboard race on Christmas Day.

THIS CONTEST IS SNOW JOKE!



THERE was plenty of festive cheer at the Winter Festival 2007 Snowman Making Contest, as these happy chappies made clear! Happy Christmas!

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XMAS IS EARLY AS LAB FINDS LOST ITEMS

EARLY CHRISTMAS: Ginger Marseille



By COYNE NAGY

THOUSANDS OF MISSING INVENTORY ITEMS ARE FINALLY REUNITED WITH THEIR OWNERS

CHRISTMAS has come early for thousands of residents after Linden Lab found 500,000 missing inventory items.

The discovery ended a long-running saga for 143,000 residents who had been searching for their property - but many more are still missing clothes, hair and skins. There is no single cause of sudden inventory loss, which is down to a series of bugs and glitches in SL's software.

Ginger Marseille was among those who ben-

efited from the Lab's breakthrough, and said she was delighted to see her lost things again: "I think it's wonderful that the Lindens have found the missing items so many people have been waiting for. I myself lost a pair of shoes and a good friend told me not to give up - and

low and behold they reappeared." But not everyone is looking forward to the festive season with a bulging inventory.

CONCERNS

Montana Corleone was one of the unlucky residents who missed out on having items returned, and she remained unhappy with the Lab: "Well, what is there to say? When the director of operations has been quoted as saying, 'most companies cod- dle their databases, we don't think they are that important', I think you have your answer on inventory.

"It's good they are finally addressing concerns of residents, even if it is months and months later, but they should listen better from the beginning."

REPAIRS

On the blog Hamilton Linden also revealed some missing library textures had been restored at the end of November and said: "We realise that these two repairs only re- cover some lost in- ventory. We continue to work hard behind the scenes to track down and begin to fix the root causes of inventory loss."



NEWS BITES!

QUICKTIME PATCH

APPLE have released a QuickTime patch to close the loophole that affected SL residents recently. A programming glitch allowed malicious users to use QuickTime to take control of computers to rob avatars of money and objects.

SL'S LATE TV DATE

SL will feature on the Discovery Channel's 'Rise of the Videogame' series on December 19. The program may already look slightly dated as the footage was filmed last year and features an interview with ex-Lab employee Cory Linden.

UNI SIM TO OPEN

THE University of Leicester has opened an experimental research island to study learning and teaching in SL. The university is collaborating with Two-Four Learning on the project, which includes RSS feeds and a theatre.

VIRTUAL AFRICA

BERLIN-BASED Inworld Productions will build the new Virtual Africa sim. The developer will help bring highlights from the continent to the virtual world to support causes and draw awareness to the people of Africa.

PHIL SPEAKS TO THE NATION

OUR KING: THE FUTURE OF SL STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

IN the tradition of the Queen of England, The AvaStar is proud to present... Philip Linden's (Unofficial) Christmas Day Message!

By LEIDER STEPANOV **"TO all my loyal subjects in SL, hello - I hope you are having a very merry Christmas!**

"As British SLers will know, the Queen of England gives a speech to her subjects every Christmas Day, and that's why I, the master of all things virtual, do the same.

CONTROVERSY

"So as I sit on my throne here in San Francisco, I am reflecting on what has been an 'annus insolitus' - that's a 'strange year' to any non-Latin speaking residents out there - for the wonderful world of SL. We have had new features and technology, an incredible expansion in population, and no little controversy.

"However, I like to think that the world I created - for I am your King - is still moving from strength to strength. Which makes it all the more confusing when you lot all start complaining about stuff which, frankly, I don't want to think about. I mean, there we were, happily not thinking about age play, gambling, age verification etc etc, but before we know we were forced into taking action. Don't you realise that we hate taking action when we, you know, don't have to?

"Oh well,' I thought, 'we'll give

'em a few new features, that'll shut 'em up.' Fat lot of good that did! All you did then was moan that we weren't spending enough time fixing 'problems' in my world. Don't you realise it is perfect already? Honestly.

LOVE

"Sometimes I wonder whether you truly appreciate me. But then I remember that millions of you can't all be wrong! I hope.

"But enough of all this negative talk. I know that deep down, you all love me and my virtual world. And I love you all too! In a very non-interventionist way, obviously. I mean, I don't want to intervene in every boring, trivial and inconsequential little spat. Just get on with it, that's my motto.

GLORIOUS

"So, let's all pull together next year and make SL the biggest virtual world EVER, and take a another step along the glorious master plan for me to take over the real wor... well, I've said too much.

"So once again, my loyal subjects, I wish you a very merry Christmas, and a date-changing New Year. And till we should meet again, I bid thee farewell."

Philip Linden, Dec 25, 2007

GOD SAVE THE KING:
Big Phil Linden sits
on his throne

**PAIN IN THE ASS**

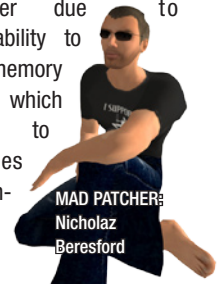
By Wizard Gynoid

AVATARS who don't know their ass from their elbow will benefit from a new patch by open source techie Nicholaz Beresford.

The infamous 'ass-tachments' bug, which causes hair and other add-ons to suddenly attach themselves to an avatar's backside after a teleport, has irritated countless residents.

FIXED

But now, Beresford, who won a Hippo award from Linden Lab this year, seems to have gotten to the bottom of the mystery. His new patch has fixed two problems in the code which were causing the phenomenon. He has also fixed a host of other bugs as part of his newest viewer release, BE-v0b, which is compatible with the official Lab 1.18.5.3 viewer, including the ability to mute unwanted group IMs. Beresford, who runs a software company in RL, is known as the Mad Patcher due to his ability to fix memory leaks which lead to crashes and instability.



MAD PATCHER:
Nicholaz
Beresford



THE
MEDICI ESTATES

WAR ENGULFS GRID!

COMBAT GROUPS FIGHT IT OUT FOR CONTROL OF SL

By MORRHYS GRAYSMARK

SECOND Life is engulfed in a vicious civil war, with mass battles taking place across the grid.

But the majority of readers may have no idea of the conflict engulfing countless avatars and regions.

That is because war is now one of the most popular forms of role-play SL, and for those taking part it is a serious business. But why have so many residents decided to spend their virtual existence by 'taking up arms'?

COMBAT

SL provides the opportunity to throw off the limitations of RL, and many choose to spend their time in-world being shot at. But in SL it is perfectly possible to spend all day in combat

with the enemy - then socialise with them afterwards. Admiral Harlequin Salome of the Alliance Navy said some combat groups, like 2142, are in SL for fun: "We've been warring with them for weeks, and me and one of their commanders had a nice chat yesterday. Good chaps."

ANIMOSITY

But war in SL is not all in good humour. "We have fun doing what we do," said Nanao Mahfouz, commander of a division of the AN, "but combat groups, in particular the major factions, tend to take conducting warfare in SL pretty seriously."

There is no love lost between the two major factions, led by the Merczateers, or Mercz, and the AN. Mercz leader Lurdan



MAIN FACTION:
Merczateers

Huszar hinted at the animosity behind the role-play. He said: "Our toilet paper features the logos of our enemies."

In the ever-changing world of war role-play in SL, anything goes. A group which disbanded in November 2006, known as the Ordo Imperialis, are back on the scene, and its 'Imperator', Aryte Vesperia, revealed his plans for the enemy: "We're going to bury them."

Just make sure you don't get in their way.

MEAN MACHINES:
Alliance Navy ships



SOLDIER:
Harlequin Salome

SANTA SAVES XMAS WITH A RIGHT JAB!

CHRISTMAS in SL was close to being ruined this week as the Grinch fought it out with Santa.

But a hard-hitting Father Christmas (Le-stat Kyomoon of Winter Spirit) floored the Grinch (Grinch Zerbino) to save SL.



By VERONICA2VIXEN DEVOIX

THE Grinch finally tracks down Santa's hideout at the Sunset Commerce sim. He's in the mood for causing mischief.



BUT Santa spies the evil creature and jumps out from behind the wall to tackle him. The Grinch grabs a snowball and prepares to fight.



"STICK yer hands up Grinch. Come on. You afraid?" growls Santa.



FIGHT! The Grinch goes for a left hook -- and misses!



BAM!!! A right hand jab square between the Grinch's eyes. That hurt!



GRINCH hits the deck and is out for the count. Santa has saved Christmas again!

your mail @ YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

AGE PLAY CONTROVERSY

Dear Regis, IN response to Luc Gi-ano's letter, issue 52, 'Age Play is a bad and stupid thing'. I disap-appeared months ago from 'Adult's World', as I couldn't stand the wandering lingerie clothes stands with their rubber-dingy lips any longer. And spend- ing the whole day being bombarded with shallow clichés is also not really my thing. I

haven't got the slight- est interest in having sex in SL, and I don't want to have to wipe the virtual saliva from my cheeks when total strangers blow me their 'kisses'. I now see all those who have problems with child avatars, as possible perpetrators.

Otherwise there wouldn't be any reason for their aversion.

By Walt Faulds

Hey Regis, WELL said Luc Giano!

I hate age play, but I agree there is too much paranoia sur- rounding it. Yet I can't agree "hypocrisy and a 'witch hunt' are no better" than age play. Sex with kids is the worst! By F.D.

AN APPLE A DAY IS BAD FOR HEALTH

Dear Regis,

THE graphics card in the newest Apple MacBook Pro is incompatible with SL, causing the machine to crash after only a few minutes in-world.

I understand that this is an Apple problem but they don't seem to be in any hurry to address it or even acknowledge complaints. Personally, I think this sucks as someone who just spent US\$2,700, partially to gain the ultimate SL experience. By P.S.

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...but it still makes a great christmas gift!



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Stop by in our penthouse gallery on top of the white warehouse at Cetus!

Holiday giving in the virtual world presents the same challenge as in RL. But giving here can be just as meaningful - if you choose wisely. So why not give a lasting gift of art, something authentic that will be enjoyed all year round? A gift of art says as much about the giver as it speaks about the importance of your friends and loved ones.

With nearly 30 art galleries and artist's studios, Cetus Gallery District is Second Life's answer to RL urban art gallery districts like Chelsea in New York, or the Pearl District in Portland, Oregon. Cetus was chosen "Best Cultural Place in Second Life" in an international competition and most recently voted among the Top 6 Most Influential in the Best of SL Art gala.

Contact: Xander Ruttan Tricia Aferdita whyzzer Bing Olaf Binder

REGIS BRAATHENS

THANKS FOR ALL THE JOY YOU'RE BRINGING... TO SL!

THE AVASTAR ENTERS IT'S SECOND YEAR - WE SAY THANK YOU!

ONE year ago I began this column by asking you, the readers, to "help us in our quest to uncover, investigate and bring the very best stories to the pages of The AvaStar".

After 53 cracking issues containing the most entertaining, interesting and exclusive stories from this fantastic virtual world of ours, I think we have achieved what we set out to do this year. That's why I want to say a big thank you to you all.

BEST

It has been a phenomenal 12 months. 271 different residents have contributed to the paper and helped not only make it by far the most read, but also the very best paper in SL. And that is not forgetting the hundreds of supporters who have put out vendors to help us spread the word and the more than 1,700 loyal members

of our readers group who give us their feedback, ideas and encouragement to continue to make the paper even better.

Last but not least, our dedicated and creative editorial staff, who have devoted so much time and effort to making the paper what it is. Our slogan is 'Your World. Your Voice.' We have tried to stay true to that, providing you with a place to make your views heard, to communicate your message to the Lab as well as standing up for those who have been cheated or lost out.

IMPROVE

So where do we go from here? We'll soon be relaunching our online site to provide you with even more SL news on a daily basis. We are also going to expand our coverage



SWEET! Regis and AvaStar columnist Callie @line at the birthday party

of the metaverse to other up-and-coming virtual worlds. So on behalf of the AvaStar team, I wish you a fantastic holiday, a Merry Christmas and a very happy start to the New Year. I hope you will continue to enjoy The AvaStar with us in 2008!



regis@the-avastar.com

NO PLACE LIKE SL

IT is amazing to see how much SLers get about. Every time the grid is down or particularly laggy, hordes of curious residents start wandering through other virtual worlds such as There and Kaneva. I've bumped into many on their travels, and it's always fun to have a chat and explore together. But as the festive season hots up, there's certainly no better place than SL. You can't match the Christmas markets, sims and fashion here!

LIND-O-METER Happy Xmas Linden Lab!

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



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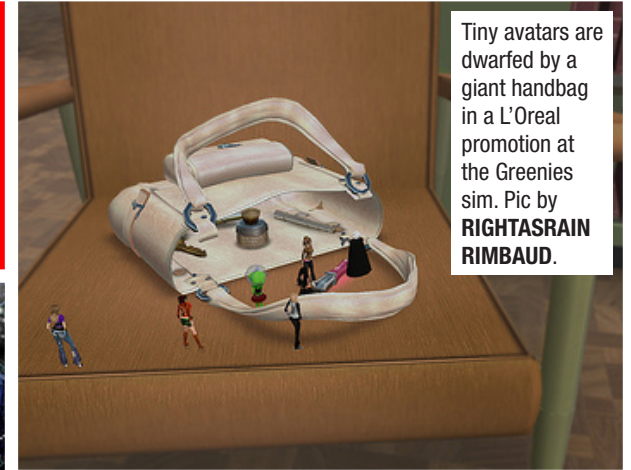


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PICS
OF THE WEEK
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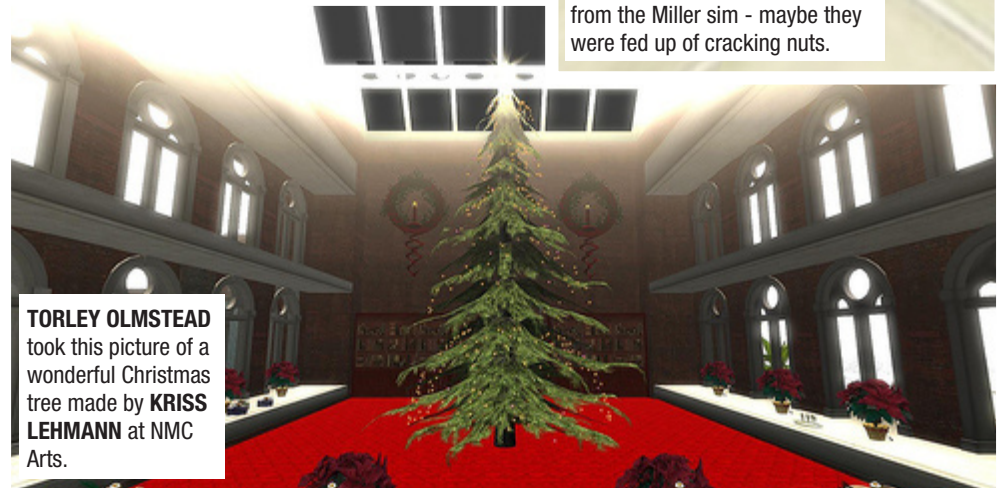
Tiny avatars are dwarfed by a giant handbag in a L'Oreal promotion at the Greenies sim. Pic by RIGHTASRAIN RIMBAUD.



Snow at night in December is always beautiful - as is **DECEMBER DOLLINGER**, pictured here on her birthday by **AZUFR3 CATTENEO**.



ISOLDE FLAMAND snapped these two nutcrackers as they escaped from the Miller sim - maybe they were fed up of cracking nuts.



TORLEY OLMSTEAD took this picture of a wonderful Christmas tree made by **KRISS LEHMANN** at NMC Arts.

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META-NEWS!

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

A TREE-AT FOR NEEDY KIDS

THERE.COM HELPS UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN WITH TREE AUCTION
By MORRHYS GRAYSMARK

UNDERPRIVILEGED youngsters will be able to enjoy a brighter Christmas this year thanks to a tree auction in the There.com virtual world.

The Winter Charity Tree Park has been created by the owners of There to support Toys for Tots, a fund run by the US Marine Corps that gives needy kids a message of hope through a new toy at Christmas.

DONATIONS

The park itself consists of lots, each containing a tree, which are being auctioned off. Each auctioned lot will receive a tip jar, and proceeds from both the auction and the tip jars will go to the charity. In addition,

There has agreed to match a portion of the tip jar donations. Each lot owner has decorated their tree, and the whole com-

free event. AngelzEyez bought one of the lots, and said she was excited about the scheme: "I buy toys and donate them every



SURPRISE: Gifts under a giant tree

community will have the chance to select their favourites before a holiday party at the park tonight (December 21) at 7pm There time (the same as SLT). Guests can bring an ornament to decorate the giant community tree at the

year," she said.

WONDERFUL

"When I saw that they were supporting Toys for Tots, I thought, why not? There is like real life for most of us." TracyNurse said she had personal reasons for buying her two lots: "My brother was a marine for 12 years. Toys for Tots is a wonderful charity and I'm happy There is supporting them."



GENEROSITY: The There Winter Charity Tree Park

CARY'S GAIA GIG

INDIE musician Cary Brothers has launched a presence inside Gaia Online.

The star arrived in-world last week with the help of Millions of Us and has already been involved in more than 100 pages of dialogue with residents as well giving out free guitars. There was also a screening of a film following him on tour and a live album went on sale exclusively to Gaia users. Borthers said: "The people [in Gaia] seem pretty cool, so that's a start. I'm looking forward to seeing what's out there."

VAMPIRE SLAYER

BLOOD-thirsty gamers can feast on a new virtual world featuring vampires which is set to be released.

Darkeden, from producer Joymax, has entered the open beta phase although the build is believed to be nearly complete. There are two races in the world, vampires and slayers, who compete against each other in small and large scale battles for territory. Slayers are more powerful during the day but vampires have the upper-hand when the sun goes down. Bats are used by vampires for travel.

Purple Rose
JEWELRY & FASHION

Miss December
Naturelle Santos

Purple Rose
Model of the Month Competition
For Info Contact: Aliyeh Yifu
or Visit (Purple Rose 128,128,28)

FESTIVE BOOST FOR SL SHOPS

By COYNE NAGY



SHOPPING FOR CHRISTMAS:
Dreamer Wilder

SHOPPERS ENSURE BUSINESS OWNERS HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS is giving the SL economy a huge boost as residents flock to buy presents for friends and family.

The festive bug has struck all over the grid, with designers and business owners having to work around the clock to meet the huge demand for gifts. But the resulting increase in sales will ensure they are able to enjoy a very merry Christmas.

Designer Kiana Dulce owns a number of shops, including a flagship store on Dulce Dal Mare, where she sells clothes.

SACRIFICE

She said she worked long hours but the rewards made it worthwhile: "I can't even think about sleep, let me just say short naps are my only rest right now. But I see my profit is up 65 per cent from a usual month and I know it is a sacrifice worth making." In her experience, she added, Christmas was no joke for SL residents as they looked to share the festive

spirit with their loved ones.

"I think people take it very seriously. I know that I have built up relationships in here that have lasted for years, so like in RL I think of them during the holiday and wonder whether their behaviour in last year has been naughty or nice!"

FRIENDS

Shopper Dreamer Wilder explained why giving in SL was so important: "I will definitely finish my SL Christmas shopping. "My SL friends are now as much a part of my life as my RL friends and I want to show them how much I care."



DESIGNER:
Kiana Dulce

BIZ BITES!

SL'S LOST FLOCK

THE Electric Sheep Company has laid off one third of their staff. The firm, which brought big names to SL including CSI: NY, has made 22 people redundant as they 'refocus' their business for 2008.

HELP THE CLIMATE

SPANISH energy firm Union Fenosa will use SL to help tackle global warming. When users complete a survey on its BosqueVirtual.com website, a donation will be made to help restore the Amazon rainforest, and a tree will be planted in SL.

HAMMERER AXED

SKYRANGER Hammerer has been fired as compliance officer of the Second Life Capital Exchange. CEO Bo Beck took the action after listed companies were left to trade while not meeting the rules of compliance.

GINKO ATM GRIEF

GINKO Financial is still causing grief on the grid despite having gone bankrupt. Old ATMs are still accepting money from younger residents unaware of the bank's history.

a-stars

A-STARS gossip with Isabel Brocco, Babu Writer and Kitty Otoole

HAPPY FIRST B'DAY TO US!

PROUD: AvaStar editor-in-chief Regis Braathens and columnist Callie Cline wait by the birthday cake.

By BABA COEN

SL'S favourite tabloid celebrated its first birthday in style, with a massive party at AvaStar Island. The highlight of the event was the finale of the contest to design The AvaStar's new fashion range, won by Moanasyrène Boucher with Emo Biederman. It was part of a fashion show, with designs from ViciV and Zhao Shoes.

DESIGNER:
Melanie Zhao of Zhao Shoes

KICKIN': The party gets into full swing

STYLE: ASPIRE! boss Blanca Darling

AVASTAR MODELS: Webgoddess Mars, left, and Princess Piarterson

ON THE MIKE: MC Delaney Renoir

TOP SPOT: AvaStar fashion contest winner Moanasyrène Boucher

WINTER WONDERS

By BABU WRITER

THE Shakture Couture label unveiled its Winter Solstice '08 collection with a fabulous fashion show at Avenue Inc.

A rapt audience offered their approval of the new collection at the Maria Christine sim, as Avenue's models arrived on flying ice at the event on December 15.

ICE COLD: Models Lucille Morigi (left), Shenandoah SaintSaintlouis (above) and Winter Juran (right).

Psychological rave!

By KITTY OTOOLE

A PSYCHEDELIC rave was held in SL to raise funds for a RL charity. Great Strides uses horses to help people overcome psychological problems. Prominent residents such as **In Kenzo** came to support the efforts of organiser **Veri Oddfellow** and made waves on the dancefloor in appreciation.

ALWAYS SUPPORTIVE:
In Kenzo

Joysco kicks off festival

SEXY DANCE A HIT

By PHIL SPACKLER

CLUB Mannequin celebrated its launch with a packed runway show on December 15.

Almost 70 avatars descended on the Simuality2 sim for the event, which included a sexy dance act before the models took over, showing off fashion crossover from RL to SL which the club specialises in.

SHAKIN' IT:
Dancer StarChild Sinclair

By ISABEL BROCCO

ICE-SKATING, live music and a stylish fashion show warmed up the crowds at the Joysco Winter Festival. There were some experimental new textile designs by **Lauren Fuller** of Lik-widunshine, and SLCN TV gave a live broadcast of the event at the Convention Center sim on December 15.

FESTIVAL FUN:
Brangely Bracken

Merry Christmas

HAVE fun in the snow without worrying about freezing. There are some really cute and festive lingerie sets that have been released into the stores especially for Crimbo. Forget about Santa Claus, fill up your own sexy stockings this Christmas.

By PAOLO BADE



Isabel Brocco is wearing **Sassy snowflake** from Lavish, **L\$225**, Oslar (37, 34, 94); **Puff Slippers** **L\$200**, Fletcher (41, 16, 148); **Snow Queen hair** from Sinsation, **L\$200**, Hairspray (78, 21, 52); **Diamond Necklace** from JCNY **L\$200**, Farrah Island (197, 64, 25).

Dolly Mathy is wearing **Shelley Hair** from Deviant Kitties Design, **L\$195**, Deviant Kitties (36, 53, 25); **Tasha Skin** from RaC, **L\$400**, RaC City (180, 125, 27); **Warrant Silver Shoes** from Indyra Originals, **L\$299** Namaste Isle (118, 133, 27); **Romance Bracelets** from *Solange*, **L\$350**, Wall (221, 148, 100).

callie cline's
STYLE HOTLINE



SWEET SUMMER SUNSHINE

BEING INDIVIDUAL AND STYLISH IS HOW SUMMER LOOKS SO STUNNING

WHEN one of my customers shows creativity, style and variation in their avatar's appearance, it's very exciting for me.

It's not often that my head turns, the cam zooms in, and I study someone's avatar. But the first day I met Summer Deadlight, that happened.

ADORABLE

A little cute neko kitty space-girl fighter with guns is sorta what she's like. I decided long ago I wanted to show her look to you readers, but instead of me dressing up like her, I thought I'd let you see just how she does it.

CREATIVE

Not everyone can pull off a look like it. The most stylish thing about Summer and folks like her who re-

I had never seen her wear silk before but no matter what she wears, she does it with her own individual style. One thing I don't ever remember her changing is her eyes or skin, and her look, no matter what she's wearing, is stylish, eye-catching and adorable. I love her way of using things many people wear, but adding her own twist like the jewelled choker, gold tats and pink hair.

ally take time to create their look is that, no matter what the event, they stand out, express their individuality and inspire others to do the same-notto copythem, but look for ways to express their inner beauty.



INDIVIDUAL: Summer Deadlight

WHAT'S HOT!

BIG HAIR - DIG IT

By CARRIE SODWIND

DIGIT Darkes looked as though she had taken an electric shock when she was spotted with the biggest and bushiest hair to hit SL this winter.

Keeping her warm, the Mohawk was more than a statement. Head-strong Digit carried it off without crumbling under the weight of her new look. If you are competing for attention with the Christmas tree, why not go all the way and hang baubles in there too?



ELECTRIC: Digit Darkes

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



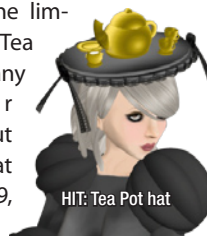
HIT: Boots

HIT: NOT sure what to get your girl for Christ-

mas? A new pair of boots is always a winner, and while at L\$399 Insolence's Charlotte boots are expensive, the leather looks so real you can almost smell it. Venom (197, 200, 28).

MISS: IF you're suffering from the cold, keep your head warm with a tea pot and cups in-

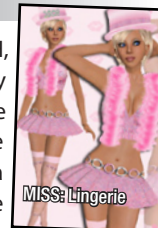
ited edition Tea Pot hat by zany designer Marni Grut is L\$250 at Le Zoo (179, 18, 22).



HIT: Tea Pot hat

HIT: KITSCH, cute and fluffy presents can be dangerous. The feather boa and lingerie set, L\$250

by Sexy in Pink from Athlone (32, 250, 77) is a stocking-filler which could easily end in tears.



MISS: Lingerie

FOR YOUR LAST MINUTE XMAS SHOPPING!

By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN



Traditional Snowman
By Robin Sojourner
Del Auga (146, 127, 32)

L\$100



L\$3

Christmas penguins
Price includes set of three.
By Xandi Mars
Del Auga (123, 181, 32)

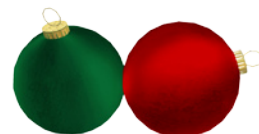


Small Santa Teddy Bear
By Susan Ramos
Ramos Island (73, 20, 25)

L\$100

Woodshed Sleigh
By RH Engel
Monarch Bay (235, 78, 28)

L\$800



Giant Christmas Baubles
In different colours.
By Carrie Grant
Where: Fauna (21, 83, 21)

L\$295



Rudolf With on/off nose glow

By Julia Hathor
Spellbound Woods (129, 140, 38)

L\$650



***F* Santa Baby Boots**
By Alexa Soyer
The Enterprise (70, 155, 22)

L\$300



L\$100

Rudolf Slippers
No transfer
By Rebel Hope
Del Auga (146, 127, 32)



Hanging Candle Wreath with stripey candles
By Caliandris Pendragon
NCC (230, 153, 22)

L\$150



Imagine! German Nikolausstiefel
With scripted candy cane
By Dinky Deschanel
Bruda Plateau (245, 17, 50)

L\$435



Christmas Pudding
Touch for edible Christmas pudding and fork.
By Casandra Jackson
Voti (225, 14, 23)

L\$300



Carved Turkey
By DavidDM Therian
Kichne Korner (201, 76, 42)

L\$295



Santa's Wooden Rocking Horse
By RH Engel
Del Auga (21, 218, 38)

L\$750



Stuck Santa
By Lisa Roffo
Clement (9, 173, 57)

L\$69

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.

NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: AN OLYMPIC STADIUM, BOTTLES OF WATER, SL DEMOCRACY AND A DUTCH IT FIRM.

GOLD MEDAL:
The Slympic stadium



By COYNE NAGY

A SPECTACULAR stadium has been constructed for the Slympic Games which will take place in August 2008.

The tournament is scheduled to take place just before the RL summer games in Beijing, with the build on the Montague sim being the focal point. Athletes will battle it out in a variety of disciplines as they hope to win



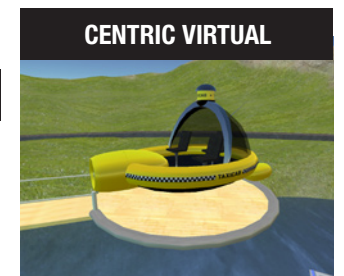
gold medals. There are also contact details for anyone who wants to become involved.

Sanpelligrino, the Italian bottled water producer, has launched a new upmarket bar in-world. Located by the sea on the Fragrance sim, the Aranciata bar features photographs from the 2007 Cafe Society competition which searched for the coolest cafe in Melbourne as well as a gorgeous swimming pool.



Residents who want to live under democratic rules will be interested in the Extropia Core sim. It claims to be an independent technocratic city state,

and will elect citizens to resolve disputes. It is a smooth build, but the attraction will be the democratic living arrangements rather than the land itself. Centric has opened its corporate presence, Centric Virtual. The Dutch IT firm has crafted a



nice sim, but there is little on it to really grab the imagination. The rolling green landscape is very easy on the eye, though, and there will probably be further additions to the stage and R&D office already constructed.



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

DEAR

IS RL MEETING WITH SL WIFE A SMART MOVE?

STAR
LETTER
L\$500
send me a mail

I'M MARRIED IN RL BUT NOW MY SL WIFE WANTS TO MEET UP - SHOULD I AGREE?

Dear Randi: MY SL wife and I are preparing to celebrate our first anniversary in January. Both of us knew from the start that we were married in RL, but we thought we needed an outlet to escape from some everyday problems. I consider my RL marriage good, and my RL wife knows about my SL relationship. My problem is that my SL wife

now says her RL marriage isn't going so well, and she wants to travel to meet me in RL. I admit I'm curious, but don't want to betray my RL wife. Should I go ahead and meet my SL wife? - D.H.

Randi says: Absolutely not! Odds are that the two of you would end up in bed together, and it would probably break

up both of your marriages, virtual and real. Then where would such impulsiveness have landed you? Maybe you could give your SL wife a virtual shoulder to cry on, but don't let her be a home wrecker. The odds on virtual-to-RL relationships just aren't very good anyway, especially if they aren't the kind that had a clean start.

DID CURIOSITY KILL THE CAT'S HESITANT LOVER?

Dear Randi: FOR the past six months I have been dating a wonderful guy, a very well-to-do, handsome and charming neko. He has proposed marriage to me, and wants a ceremony on Valentine's Day. I haven't told him yes yet, but I intend to do so on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. My problem is that my very best girlfriend has never liked the relationship. She says there's something wrong with 'sleeping' with a cat and it would even be more wrong to marry him. I say it's all harmless fantasy. Who's right? - L.G.

Randi says: You are! SL is a place where people can explore fantasies safely. I seriously doubt you want to have sex with a big cat in RL. Besides being sort of strange, you would probably get seriously clawed anyway. I just wonder what kind of 'friend' you have if she interferes like that in your happiness. My sense is that you should marry your SL dream guy and dump the friend.

FINDING THE BEST WAY TO PROPOSE VIRTUALLY

Dear Randi: I'VE had an on/off relationship with a girl for about the last five months. Even though things aren't always perfect, I find her fascinating and would hate to ever lose her. I'm thinking about making it permanent by asking her to marry me. My idea is to take her to one of the most beautiful sims in SL on New Year's Eve, get down on my knee and read her a poem. She would probably be pretty surprised. Do you think it's a good idea? - I.M.

Randi says: I think the success of a surprise proposals depends on how big the shock is. A guy could just carry a nice ring in his pocket and drop to his knee in front of every attractive girl he meets, but he probably wouldn't have a good success rate. You definitely need to prepare her. And unless you absolutely must do it on a holiday, don't. If it goes badly, you could ruin the occasion for both of you.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

BEST LOVER WAS REALLY A MAN

Dear Randi: I FEEL like the victim of a particularly bad and unfunny practical joke. I have not been able to find a long-time girlfriend in all the months I have been in SL, and I have spent lots of time, and no little money, with escorts in-world for female companionship. Last week the madam of the place I usually frequent said she had a special surprise for me, and set me up with a freebie with one

of her new 'girls'. The sex was great, absolutely amazing, but after it was all over they told me the new girl was actually the RL husband of the madam. My problem is that 'she' was the best lover I have ever had in SL, and I want to sleep with her again. Does that make me gay? - J.T.

Randi says: Of course not, although obviously it would be OK if you were. You thought you were making love with a

beautiful woman the whole time you were with 'her', so it is not as if you were imagining it was a guy. And besides, those who want to play the opposite of their RL gender in SL still know exactly what they like to do in bed. If you get special satisfaction out of sex with 'her', then I say do it again. It's the pretty avatar that's turning you on, not the guy who is sat at the keyboard.

ADVERT

Bouncy Castles

by Good2Go

Original Castle L\$ 2500

85 prims Min Size 2m x 2m
Max Size: 20m x 20m

Purple Castle L\$ 2500

71 prims Min Size 2m x 2m
Max Size: 20m x 20m

LOW
LAG

Unique Bounce Logic System
Handles Lots of Bouncers
Newbie and Tiny Friendly
Works at Different Sizes

Can Be Fully Retextured
Adjustable Bounce Force
Easy Operation and Setup
MOD No Copy No Trans

SLX Buyer Review:

★★★★★ This is a lot of fun, buy it!
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."
Good2Go

Ponderama 25,145,38 (PG)

HOT Slaggin'

ARTWORK:
Ermanno Spitteler



"WHAT A SANTA!"



Freebies

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

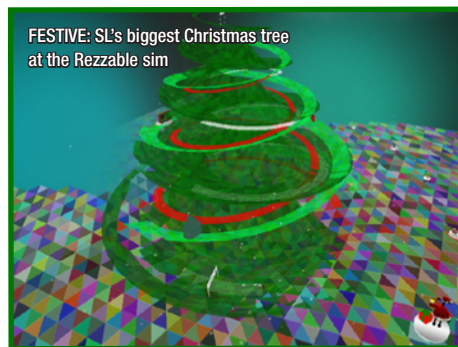
SL's best FREE stuff!

THIS WEEK: CHRISTMAS GOODIES

THERE are plenty of nice, free objects on the grid to make your virtual Christmas more enjoyable.

Death By Cheddar, the cuteshop of Isobel Piek at Cub Conclave

(53, 94, 31), is a treasure trove of great freebies - including three sets of Christmas stockings with little animals inside, a fluffy hat, a scarf, a funny Santa Claus inside a chimney, a set of six



sculpted Christmas trees (with or without snow) and decorations in various colours and shapes.

GIFTS
Perfect for the average-sized plot - but you'll need something a little more roomy

for the biggest Christmas Tree in SL, built by Miki Gymnast. You can find it at the Rezzable sim (238, 197, 72). And don't forget to take a look around, as there are plenty of nice little gifts, such as a lovely pair of Greenies slippers.

Merry Christmas!

ADVERT

THE AVASTAR
Your World. Your Voice.

WANTED!



WE ARE LOOKING FOR KEEN WRITERS AND EXPERTS FROM OTHER VIRTUAL WORLDS TO WRITE FOR THE PAPER

SEND AN E-MAIL TO:
NEWSDESK@THE-AVASTAR.COM
OR IM LEIDER STEPANOV



Merry
Christmas
to all...

callie cline

THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND
ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: ANTI-CHRISTMAS

NATURAL BEAUTY
BOTANICAL GARDENS

SHORE BREEZE:
Bora Bora



By GAETANA FAUST

BAH HUMBUG!

IF YOU'RE FED UP WITH THE FESTIVE SPIRIT, LOOK NO FURTHER

THE holiday season can be full of joy and fun, but sometimes there is an urge to escape the madness, and find peace somewhere on a quiet beach or in a tranquil park.

There's no better place to chill out and forget the holiday hubbub than at **Inspire Beach and Chill Park** in Shinda (103, 192, 26). Sit on the pier and watch the jellyfish play in the surf, work on your tan, or find a quiet spot for some meditation or tai chi in the peaceful beach sim.

Enjoy the sweeping natural coastline at **Bora Bora** public beach (134, 13, 22). Don't let the killer whales deter you as you head out into the surf in a boat or windsurf-er to ride the waves.

Total relaxation can be found at **Costa Luna Isles Resort and Spa** in Costa Luna (160, 139, 29). Soak away your cares in the mud bath, get a pedicure, or just nap on the beach. A massage by a cool running stream will help you forget your worries.

You'll find a haven at the **Isle of Tranquility** in Yemaya (128, 125, 21). Nymphs greet you with kisses as you land on the sandy beach, welcoming you to a day of lolling in the sun or paddling around in a canoe. Spend your day exploring the underground caves.

Learn about organisations devoted to peace, ecology, and social justice at **Commonwealth Island** (42, 194, 0) where altruism rules the day.



Unwind with daffodils, oak trees, green fields and plenty of other beautiful nature.

Where: The Botanical Gardens (194, 60, 38)

WILD WATERSLIDE
ATLANTIS NATIONAL PARK



Play on the waterslide and diving board as you take in the wonderful view, or relax in the hammock.

Where: Candy Islands (50, 109, 40)

TROPICAL DESTINATION
CARRIBBEAN BREEZES



Grab a cocktail and hit the dance floor as you breathe in the warm salt air.

Where: Breezes (115, 138, 31)

21.12. - 27.12.

DON'T MISS! –

All times are given in SL Time



LIVE MUSIC

CHELSEAMARIE NOEL

Escape the Christmas Eve madness by relaxing at this jazz and blues gig, and enjoy Chelseamarie's smooth voice.

When: Dec. 24, 15:00

Where: Blue Fusion Island (149, 16, 22)



NIGHTLIFE

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Put on your Christmas costumes and party all night, with prizes on offer for the best dressed male and female.

When: Dec. 22, 12:00

Where: Groningen Centrum (182, 114, 28)



ART & CULTURE

QUEBEC CITY PHOTOS

Regina Markova reveals some stunning pictures of winter scenes from Quebec city.

When: Dec. 23, 16:00

Where: Dobinson (28, 208, 21)



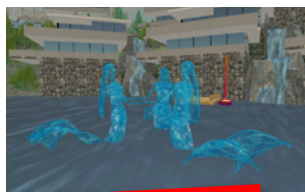
LIVE MUSIC

CANTELL MISZER

The musician performs original material aimed at a Japanese audience at the C-Music Lounge.

When: Dec. 22, 05:30

Where: Seonhan (206, 80, 23)



CONTEST

FISHING TOURNAMENT

Try your luck at fishing in a contest at SimKast Cove, with a prize fund of L\$600.

When: Dec. 24, 13.30

Where: Houghton (194, 84, 82)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

SNYE

The Surreal New Year's Extravaganza lasts 12 hours across four sims, with fireworks, a light show, contests and fashion show - all nine days before the real date.

When: Dec. 22, 08:00-20:00

Where: Delvaux (125, 125, 40)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



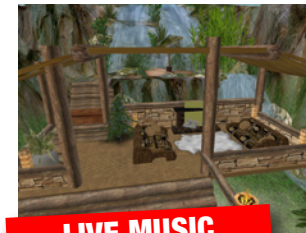
NIGHTLIFE

TRANCE FESTIVAL

DJs from countries including Brazil, Germany and America will help trance fans dance the day, and night, away

When: Dec. 25, 12:00

Where: Dance Island (153, 217, 22)



LIVE MUSIC

PELTZER HIRANO

The performer, new to SL, will satisfy many tastes with his eclectic mix of styles, including jazz and electro pop.

When: Dec. 27, 13:00

Where: Havens Paradise (66, 159, 32)



FESTIVAL

ELECTRONIC MUSIC

The sixth Electricity Festival takes place in RL and SL, and includes international acts in house, tech and 'hardtechno' music.

When: Dec. 22, 13:00-19:00

Where: Saarbruecken Virtuuell (182, 77, 27)

ADVERT

THE AVASTAR EVERY DAY IN DECEMBER...

THE AVASTAR ADVENT CALENDAR

CALLIE CLINE, DIGIT DARKES, BIANCA FOULON, POMPO BOMBACCI, SIX KENNEDY, QUEUE MARLOW, RAVEN LAMENT, ECO BROCCO, REZZABLE, NATALIA ZELMANOV, AYESHA BISIANI AND MUCH MORE...

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

FREE FOR MEMBERS OF THE AVASTAR READERS GROUP

Follow the link in the group notice to this vendor and click on it for your freebie!

FASHION FREEBIES AND MORE DESIGNERS INCLUDE



AVA - ID CARD

NAME: BARBOTINE DINGSON

BIRTH DATE: 11/17/2006

PROFESSION: Journalist

ATTITUDE: Witty and wily

INTERVIEW

THE AVASTAR: What is your job in SL?

BARBOTINE DINGSON: I'm a roving reporter - writing a column on SL twice a month for Le Matin Dimanche [Switzerland's highest-circulation RL French-language newspaper].

THE AVASTAR: How do you spend your time in SL?

BD: Roaming about, seeing, believing. Finding as many people and stories as I can - wherever they might be happening.

TA: What would you change in SL?

BD: I would make it more user-friendly for non-English speakers.

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

BD: My customised animation - I can hang myself to show how bored I am by a conversation.

TA: What's your funniest sex story?

BD: Getting chatted up by a frog, and being harassed by a disrobing samurai. What happens next, in both stories, is between me and my RL therapist.

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

BD: I prefer anarchy. No leaders, no trouble.