

**THE**  
**AVASTAR**  
 Your World. Your Voice.



**Benazir Bhutto memorial shock:**

**Griefers ruin service**

SEE PAGE 3

**HOTTEST AVS IN THE UNIVERSE!**  
 ...TEN GIRLS ...ONE CROWN

SEE PAGE 12

**LINDEN LAB SAYS:**

**GET LOST YOU BANKERS!**

- **SLers back Lab's bank ban**
- **Savings fears as ATMs close**

By **COYNE NAGY**  
 LINDEN Lab's ban on SL banks has been praised by many residents.  
 FULL STORY: SEE PAGES 4 & 5

**INSIDE OPINION**

"Our avatars represent who we are on the inside, we wear our insides on the outside in SL. I treat everyone in SL with the same care and respect I would if I met them in a cafe."

YOUR MAIL  
p.7

"The Lab says it wants to prevent residents from being ripped off, and the last 12 months are littered with stories of those who blindly trusted their hard-earned virtual cash to a bank, only to see it disappear."



LEIDER STEPANOV  
p.8

**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**

- 383** ... per cent is the amount by which user hours in SL grew across the course of 2007.
- 58,738** ... residents were logged in at 1.40pm SLT on Sunday, setting a new concurrency record despite server issues.
- 100,000** ... in L\$ has been raised for needy children so far by the Polish Great Orchestra of Christmas charity.

**HILARY'S IN THE HOUSE!**



HILARY Clinton has made it into the White House - at least at the Caricavatars sim in SL! Her avatar was created by political caricaturist Christophe Hugo.

**THE AVASTAR STAFF**

**CEO** Lorenz Philbin  
**BUSINESS MANAGER** Ikarus Santos, Azriel Enoch  
**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Regis Braathens

**ASSISTANT EDITOR** Leider Stepanov

**WRITERS & CONTRIBUTORS** Randi Barracuda, Honey Bender, Tina (PetGirl) Bergman, Isabel Brocco, Ginger Cazalet, Callie Cline, Gaetana Faust,

Isolde Flamand, Morrhy's Graysmark, Kitty Otoole, Dylan Miles, Coyne Nagy, Pham Neutra, Petronilla Paperdoll, Phil Spackler, Carrie Sodwind, Deeeep Witte, Babu Writer, Konstantin Waechter

**GRAPHIC DESIGN** Raoul Cimino, Gordon Yue  
**ADVERTISING & DISTRIBUTION** advertising@the-avastar.com  
www.the-avastar.com

**COVER PIC** Isabel Brocco and Chloe Looby, by Turlututu Chaffe



**BHUTTO SERVICE IN ATTACK SHOCK**

GRIEFERS MAR SL MEMORIAL FOR ASSASSINATED RL POLITICIAN

**PORNORGRAPHIC grieving shocked a crowd of well-wishers at an in-world memorial service for assassinated RL politician Benazir Bhutto.**

The attack at the service for the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, who was killed on December 27, left many of the 200 residents who had turned up to pay their respects distraught. ToolsRMe Shan, who described the grief-

ing as "relentless", said the intruders used offensive slogans and tasteless pictures: "The images they put up were both rude and pornographic. The idea was to be as gross as possible.

**SOLIDARITY**

"The Lindens actually had to shut us down for a bit because of the strain. It was so sad... but it was good to see people stay as a sign of solidarity." He revealed that one of his friends who

had helped construct the memorial in Wells sim, Selena Goodliffe, was fighting back the tears at the event.

**SORROW**

The memorial has received a large numbers of visitors since it was opened the day after the her murder, and the organisers of Sunday's service said it was held for the SL community to share their sorrow.

Jennette Forager, who designed the memorial to Bhutto, said she was heartbroken. She spent the time at the service organising security and trying to get rid of the tasteless intruders.

"It was awful. The griefers ruined the whole event."



**SYMBOLIC:** A tiger, a symbol of bravery, at the Bhutto memorial

**150% CONFUSED**

**LINDEN Lab** have rubbished claims their 150 per cent penalty for buying fraudulent currency will hit innocent residents.

Peter Gray, the spokesman for LL's PR firm told Reuters: "The policy seems to have caused some confusion. Linden Lab has no blanket policy to fine all buyers of fraudulent Linden dollars, and any incident is handled on a case by case basis." The PR spokesman indicated that the 150 per cent penalty would apply to exchanges but not necessarily the resident buyers.

**LAB CEO GREET'S MAYOR NEWSOM**

By CARRIE SODWIND

**PHILIP Linden met the RL Mayor of San Francisco in-world for a Q&A session in front of a huge SL audience this week.**

Mayor Gavin Newsom and the Linden Lab chief were introduced by the CEO of MillionsOfUs, Reuben Steiger. Themes of the talk included virtual and real life parallels, governance issues, education and the digital divide.



**DISCUSSION:** Philip Linden and Mayor Gavin Newsom

**STOCK EXCHANGE BOSS CONFIDENT**

AS news of the ban on SL banks spread across the grid, The AvaStar caught up with Shaun Altman, CEO of MetaVerse Stock Exchange and Cyberland, to see what the future holds for exchanges as well as his view of the ban.

**THE AVASTAR:** Have Linden Lab taken the right decision here?

**SHAUN ALTMAN:** Overall I think it is a good idea, but a little late and a little lacking. The bankers will certainly take off with everything. Also, a better time would have been 2005.

**TA:** Will stock exchanges be included in the ban?

**SA:** I think it would be hypocritical to ban for example dividend yielding stocks when the group system itself yields dividends. But who knows what the Lab are up to. I don't think there is enough information in yet and I wouldn't want to speculate. I am confident this will be clarified soon.

**TA:** Should Linden Lab seize all bank funds?

**SA:** I don't know that there is anything to seize. Only Linden knows that. I think a better idea would be to do a bail out now before its too late.



ANGER: Crowds gather at JT Financial to demand their money back

**BANKS CLOSE UP SHOP AFTER LINDEN LAB BAN**

**LINDEN Lab's ban on in-world banking has met with praise from many residents - while others are left sweating on whether they will get back their investments.**

The decision to ban anyone from offering interest or direct return on investments after January 22, announced by Ken Linden in a blog post on Tuesday, was greeted by many residents glad to see the back of a dubious and scandal-ridden system.

In two weeks time, only the banks which have a recognised RL charter or license, or exist purely for educational or marketing

purposes will be allowed to operate. Ken Linden claimed the banks "have brought unique and substantial risks to SL, and we feel it is our duty to step in. Offering unsustainably high interest rates, they are in most cases doomed to collapse - leaving upset 'depositors' with nothing to show for their investments. As these activities grow, they become more likely to lead to destabilisation of the virtual economy."

**FEARS**

But there was no euphoria for anxious investors who immediately rushed to ATM

machines in an attempt to access their savings, prompting fears of a run on many banks. In order to combat the threat, banks slashed withdrawal limits or ceased to pay out altogether. Many business owners were angry at the lack of warning from the Lab and now face an uncertain future. Murphy Larsson, who tried in vain to recoup his savings from a JT Financial ATM said: "I have to pay my employees and if I can't pay them my business is closed. Linden Lab is stupid in that way, they don't think before they do anything."

The CEO of the Royal Bank, Christopher Whitfield, explained in a statement that financial institutions in SL need to stabilise the situation by reducing outgoings without provoking a run in the process: "At this time we had to freeze all accounts. We do not want all customers to withdraw their balances, this would kill the bank. We will find a good solution for all sides, in any case, so please do not worry. The worst thing is to panic."

**DAMAGE**

Alyssa Vella, who works for BCX in-world and says she is a private banker in RL, also played down fears the decision would threaten residents' savings and commended customers for keeping things



in perspective: "Far more damage can be done by unnecessary panic than the policy itself. Many people have been very understanding as we have slight delays in service while we progress, and I thank these people as this more rational behaviour would surely assist all companies affected within SL."

But not everyone in the financial industry was upset at the new ruling. With the fate of the stock exchanges still unclear, Lukecon-

nell Vandeverre, CEO of the World Stock Exchange, sought to distance himself from the banks: "Almost all the virtual banks consisted of an ATM, little or no terms of service or conditions, extremely low cash reserves and limited account management facilities for customers. In many cases these banks were damaging the SL brand and not making a positive contribution to the user experience of residents participating in the SL economy."

**Q&A WITH ROBIN**

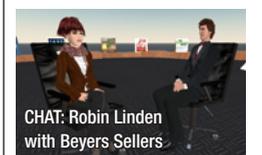
By BABU WRITER

**ROBIN Linden discussed some of the challenges facing the Lab at an appearance on the popular interview show, Metanomics.**

The Lab vice president talked with host Beyers Sellers on Monday about issues such as policing in SL and a new rating system. She said that due to a lack of resources, the Lab has had to focus its policing efforts on things which directly affect SL's usability. That included fraud: "If we see a pattern of events associated with one person or group we spend time investigating that."

**CONCERN**

There are also efforts to continue to increase the number of groups residents can be members, Robin added: "We already raised the limit from 15 to 25, and we're exploring other options. The problem with upping that number further is degrading performance, a very big concern." She said she hoped some new tools would be developed during 2008.



# SL/RL PRODUCTION DRAWS PLAUDITS

MIXED REALITY THEATRE PERFORMANCE GETS RAPTUROUS APPLAUSE BOTH IN SL AND RL

By KONSTANTIN WAECHTER

**AN ambitious SL and RL theatre production received a standing ovation at both its virtual and real premiere this week.**



VIKING PERFORMANCE:  
Actor Sigurd Knoller

the SL theatre in Helgeland at Hamburg North Beach. The actors sat in front of their PCs in the first act of the Viking epic, based on famous Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen's 'Nordische Heerfahrt', as they acted out the play in SL.

**UNIQUE**

Despite minor sound interferences, guests thoroughly enjoyed the innovative production, with many staying to listen to the second act, which only took place on the RL stage. SL theatregoer Ziara Heron said: "The technical realisation was unique and the idea is just great!"

**FANTASIES**

Hjoerdis Halcali, one of the RL actresses in the production, told The AvaStar that the combination of the two worlds within the play made sense. She said: "It has a lot to do with the world of SL. A world where you can flee to because you can be anyone you want to, live out your fantasies, be a hero. The play is about personalities who fool themselves, only live in their imagination and who have lost their sense of reality. This is especially the case with my character."



BEWARE: Here come the Vikings!

The next performance is on January 24, Helgeland (176, 130, 31)



IMAGINATIVE:  
Actress Hjoerdis Halcali

## your mail @ YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

# SL IS AS REAL TO US AS RL

*Hey Regis,*  
I THINK it's time to stop saying 'RL' and 'SL' as the idea that SL is somehow cut off from real life is wrong.

I've made a lot of actual friends from my virtual ones. We've met in the fleshy world, gone on trips, bought gifts for each other. We worry when our friends are sick, or when they've got a problem. We keep in contact.

Friends have visited me from the US, I live in Australia. Our avatars represent who we feel we are on the inside, we wear our insides on the outside in SL. I treat everyone in SL with the same care and respect I would if I met them in a cafe. It's very strange how peo-

ple can say SL isn't 'real life'... think about it, the computer is connected to the phone line. How is meeting someone on the computer not real life, when using the phone is? I think it's time to stop using the term 'real life' - perhaps we should stick to 'first' and 'sec-

ond' to differentiate between the two I'm amused when I hear people say "get a life" when they hear of what we do in SL. OK, if the words came from a person who was an astronaut, brain surgeon, Olympic gold medalist or superhero, then sure. But nine times out of ten I think it probably comes from the mouth of a couch potato with a vast DVD collection.

By Wolfe

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

ADVERT

Your Virtual Travel Partner

- \*Must See Tours
- \*Sport Action Tours
- \*Themed Tours (Art, Education, SL Wonders, Under Water)
- \*Special Programs for SL/RL Business

5-Star Personal Guided Tours with "ADDITIONAL" background" info

★★★★★

We'll show and talk to you, you just relax & enjoy the tours. "A great way to make a gift"

Visit us at Fishermans Cove (29,89,24)

Find your way.

Scout-It SL Guide Agency



# LEIDER STEPANOV

## SHOCK, HORROR – LINDENS DO THE RIGHT THING FOR SL

LAB WAS RIGHT TO BAN SL 'BANKS', BUT DON'T EXPECT ANY MORE LINDEN INTERVENTION

I'VE written here in the past about how foolish it is to give a large amount of money to any SL 'bank'.

And now it seems that Linden Lab agree with me, as they have banned any organisation in SL from paying interest on deposits unless they have suitable accreditation – an unlikely scenario, unless the big RL banks move in-world.

### RESPONSIBILITY

While cynics may consider the move an attempt to retain control over the virtual economy, and specifically over the supply of currency, it seems to me Linden Lab has made the right choice. They say they want to prevent residents from being ripped off, and the last 12 months are littered with stories of those who blindly entrusted their hard-earned

virtual cash to a bank, only to see it disappear. It is a responsibility of the Lab, one which they do not always meet, to look after their residents, and to ensure SL is not lawless.

### DESPERATE

It does mean, of course, that residents will now eagerly await the next time the Lab feels it has a duty to "step in", to use Ken Linden's words, in order to make SL a better place. They may be waiting a while. But full credit to the Lindens for taking action which I, and many others, felt was desperately needed.

I'm not sure,



VICTIMS: Lexus Davian and Xavier Hathaway lost more than L\$3m when Atlas Venture Capital CEO Jasper Tizzy disappeared

however, that I agree with some of the logic employed by the Lab to justify the ban.

### COLLAPSE

One of the most immediate concerns expressed when the news broke was that it would cause a run on banks as customers rushed to withdraw what they could of their savings. As in RL, SL banks only keep a small part of their assets in cash, and there were, and still are, fears that this kind of event would see in-world financial institutions collapse. In his blog post, Ken Linden said: "We unfortunately have no control over this [runs on banks]. If in fact there are insufficient funds to cover what's owed, that

PLEASE SEND ME YOUR COMMENTS: [newsdesk@the-avastar.com](mailto:newsdesk@the-avastar.com)

### FANFARE

So, by ensuring banks in SL collapse, they will show that banks in SL are in danger of collapse. At least this time there has been some warning of an imminent ban. Still, don't be surprised to see Barclays or Bank of America launching in SL with a Lab-backed fanfare in a couple of months.

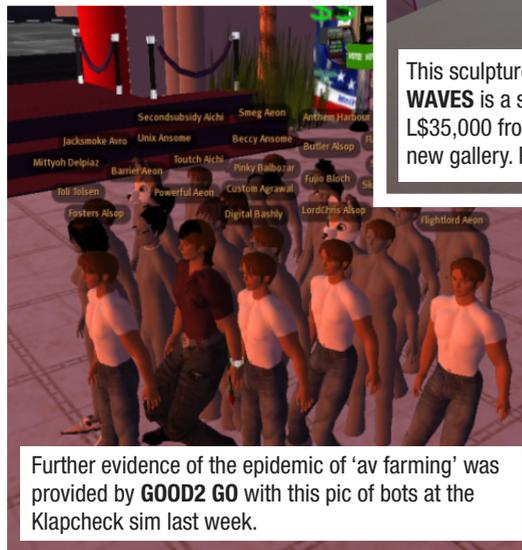


## L\$500 PICS OF THE WEEK

[yourphotos@the-avastar.com](mailto:yourphotos@the-avastar.com)



This sculpture by LIGHT WAVES is a snip at L\$35,000 from Rezzable's new gallery. Pic by F.W.



Further evidence of the epidemic of 'av farming' was provided by GOOD2 GO with this pic of bots at the Klapcheck sim last week.



Visitors to the new sim of French record label Hangars Liquides will find an edgy city scene with dark walkways and burning rubbish. Pic by P.P.



SAMANTHA LAMONT showed the magic of WindLight with this breathtaking snapshot of King Kong at Havens Paradise.

# SL'S 2007 STORY

**IN THE FIRST OF TWO PARTS, DISCOVER HOW SL DEVELOPED OVER 2007** 2007 was a landmark year for Linden Lab and Second Life, but what was the truth behind the events, and what does the next 12 months hold in store for residents? AvaStar analyst and renowned SL expert Gwyneth Llewelyn gives her views.

WE have had an astonishing year, with most predictions made in 2006 failing to prepare us for the events of the past 12 months.

So where to start? Technology was a major talking point in 2007, with advances including an open source client, a new renderer (WindLight), and a

voice chat application. Despite this, the grid is as unstable as before. Old-timers may remember how it was in the past, but newcomers are more demanding, and expect near-perfect availability. It's not there yet, not by a long way.

The voice feature, although not as good as, say, Skype, has transformed live performances



VOICE: Transforming conferences, like the one at Dr Dobbs Island featuring Ginsu Linden talking about universal avatars.

and conferences, which are now much more similar to their physical counterparts.

## CULTURE

There were also dramatic changes in SL's social scene. Live music has filled the gap left by the ban on gambling nicely, with residents able to enjoy a dazzling array of live music. In culture, professional artists are using the platform for all sorts of performances and presentations, and are being given grants to do their work inside SL. A vast array of galleries and in-world museums are being sponsored



By GWYNETH LLEWELYN

## ADVERT

**SECOND LIFE LINK** facebook

<http://apps.facebook.com/second-life/>

facebook My Profile Friends Networks Inbox (1)

Second Life Link

My Profile Second Life Friends

Head Life Name	Second Life Name	Online Status	Home Location	Favorite Destination
Avatar	Avatar	Online	My Virtual Home	Favorite Destination
Avatar	Avatar	Offline	My Virtual Home	Favorite Destination

- ✓ Meet your Friends Virtually!
- ✓ View Online Status!
- ✓ See your friends' avatars!
- ✓ Share your favorite destinations!
- ✓ New! Search for SL Friends in FB!!!

...more to come!



Want to enhance your Social network in Second Life? Add Second Life®Link to your Facebook profile, and you will be able to manage your SL contacts better, see their online status, send messages, and utilize Facebook's social networking functionality!

To find us, just do a google or facebook search for "Second Life Link" or teleport to English Village

by private and public organisations. Conferences, seminars, presentations, and discussions are also regularly held in-world, coming both from established RL organisations (like Dr. Dobbs' TechTalk) and a few

*2007 was the year everything fell apart - or so the media claims.*

that only exist thanks to SL (like the Metanomics conferences).

## CHAOS

So many RL companies entered SL in 2007 that not even the media can keep track of them. The early entries have stuck in the minds of residents, but not so the latecomers. For example, the largest clothes retailer in Europe, the Inditex group, has been in SL for over half a year, but all people remember is how American Apparel's virtual presence shut down earlier in 2007.

The RL media, however, turned off the hype button, and we were told about all the terrible things which are supposedly happening around

us. If you believe the press, there is terror, chaos and instability on the grid. Residents left en masse following the gambling ban (but strangely, after a few weeks, they weren't missing on the statistics).

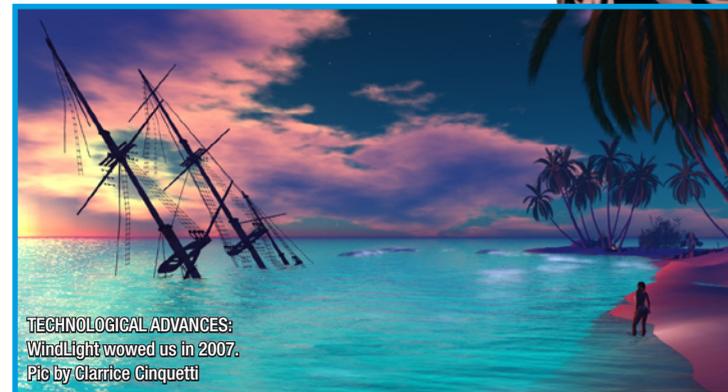
## PARALLEL

RL lawsuits over content in SL have flowered, while paedophilia and other deviant sexual behaviour has been on every journalist's mind - even if some recent statistics show that only 18 per cent of content in SL is sex-related (slightly below the figure for the Web). In fact, 2007 is be described as the struggle between the media's attitude towards SL. 2004 was the year of the 'weirdos' living a parallel life, 2005 was when business boomed in SL, 2006 was the year when the corporate world found out about us and jumped into it eagerly. And 2007 was, well, the year everything seems to be falling apart. Or so the media claims.

• See next week for Gwyneth's predictions for a busy 2008.



LAWSUITS: Stroker Serpentine led the fight to establish SL's legal rights



TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES: WindLight wowed us in 2007. Pic by Clarrice Cinquetti

## BIZ BITES:

### EMMY FOR SLERS

RESIDENTS have been recognised for their creativity with an Engineering and Technology Emmy award for user-generated content. Philip Linden said: "We wouldn't exist, let alone win awards, if it wasn't for the vision created by our users."

### TURKISH DELIGHT

TURKISH firms will continue to flood into SL, according to a report in the Turkish Daily News. Companies like Vestel and Remax are already in-world, and a further ten are expected to arrive in the coming year.

### SL'S FLY-BY-MICE

SANDIO Technology has launched a mouse which allows users to navigate through 3-D space. SL residents will be able to fly using only the mouse, and will also be able to control gestures with it.

### SL LINK FEATURE

SECOND Life Link, an application created by Fire Centaur for popular social network Facebook, has added a cross-network messaging feature. SLers can now send IMs into SL from Facebook.

# a-stars



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

## THE HOTTEST AVS IN THE UNIVERSE!



SL'S MOST BEAUTIFUL: MISS BRASIL (WILLAMINA FITZGERALD), MISS CANADA (CHERIE PARKER), MISS COSTA RICA (PUP WITHERSPOON), MISS GERMANY (PAYTON HERON), MISS GREECE (BABYHONEY BAILEY), MISS HONG KONG (MUI MUKERJI), MISS ISRAEL (ELISNE ALLEN), MISS NORWAY (HARMONICA AABYE), MISS SPAIN (ISABEL BROCCO), MISS TRINIDAD & TOBAGO (PAT YOUNG), MISS UNITED KINGDOM (CHLOE LOOBY), MISS USA (SUMMER DEADLIGHT)

By GAETANA FAUST

**SL'S most stunning avatars wowed the crowds at the Puntarenas sim as they prepare to fight it out for the Miss SL Universe title.**

An expert panel of judges were given their first glimpse of the 12 contestants, each representing countries from around the world, from Norway to Costa Rica. They were clad in matching elegant white dresses and strappy gold sandals provided by designer **Melanie Zhao**. Organiser **Frolic Mills** told the assembled crowd at the event on January 5 that the winner would be chosen not only for her looks, but also for her contribution to SL life. **Miss Can-**

**ada Cherie Parker and Miss Costa Rica Pup Witherspoon** both said they would use the title to promote environmental causes, while other contestants promised to raise awareness for their favourite charities if they won. The AvaStar's talented a-stars girl **Isabel Brocco, Miss Spain**, is also among the favourites to lift the crown.

### WINNERS

Prizes, including L\$250,000 in cash, are up for grabs. Judge **Callie Cline** challenged the competitors to make the pageant a

positive experience regardless of who wins, and said: "Only one girl will get the crown, but I believe you can all be winners."

The AvaStar wishes all the girls the very best of luck for the upcoming finale on January 19.

ORGANISER: Frolic Mills



ON THE PANEL: The judges look on as the contestants are introduced

# SL FLYING HIGH

By CARRIE SODWIND, Pics by ANYA IXCHEL

**SOARING** ZeroG SkyDancers amazed the crowd at artist Dancoyote Antonelli's 'Second Spring' performance on Monday.

The L\$3,000 entry fee did not deter followers of Antonelli, whose colourful and expressive 'Hyperformalism' has earned him a name among the SL art crowd. High profile visitors

included culture buff **Pathfinder Linden** and painter **Filthy Fluno**. Sponsored by NMC, the sim was filled with 45 art fans for the show, the third performance by the dancers.

### CAPACITY

Antonelli said: "It could not have gone better. I am glad we did not crash. We push the class five sim capacity in every way."



CELEB GUESTS: Pathfinder Linden and Filthy Fluno



HIGH CULTURE: The colourful show wowed the SL art crowd



AMAZING: The SkyDancers strut their stuff



SULTRY: A mermaid SkyDancer entices the audience in

### FANS FILM PLEA

**DIE-HARD** Duran Duran fans have created a machinima mash-up of their hit song 'Falling Down' to lure the group into SL. "We hope SL is still in the back of the minds of Duran Duran" said Jomado Laval. The video is on YouTube.

### SEEING STARMEN

**PARTYGOERS** thought they were hallucinating at Nebulosus Severine's 'Doors of Perception' launch this week, when multiple David Bowie avatars appeared. It turns out the top artist was giving away free Bowie skins that night!

### SIMPLY THE BEST

**KIM Seifert** won the first preliminary round of the Best of Second Life contest to find the most appreciated performer on the grid on January 5. The final takes place on February 9, with L\$50,000 up for grabs. *By Phil Spackler*

# Boudoir Brilliance

by: Solange Korobase

Body silk Vanilla Skin L \$500  
from Jaded Visions  
Desires Island (182/72/23)

°HERS°  
Coco in Black Robe L \$100  
from Shhhh Outlet  
Hotei (143/21/31)

Romance Hair L \$350  
from Cake  
FNKY Cake (143/21/31)

Diamond Rain Set L \$350  
from Purple Rose Jewellery  
Purple Rose (164/84/28)

°HIS°  
Kagetsu Silk  
Kimono L \$200  
from Samurai Soul  
Sugamo (192/192/22)

Sexy and affluent bedroom look for the wealthy: fur-lined morning robe, silk kimono and sparkling diamonds.



## callie cline's STYLE HOTLINE



# THE MAN IN BLACK

FELLAS, THERE'S MORE TO A LOOK THAN JEANS AND A T-SHIRT!



NEW LOOK: Eponymous Trenchmouth

hat is fab with the salt and pepper hair and I absolutely love his goggle sunglasses. The plain grey shirt is a perfect canvas to show off his great leather biker jacket and his fuzzy scarf tops off the look perfectly.

### ROCK STAR

Little details go a long way, guys! Simple black jeans keep the focus on the man not the clothing, and his own Oslo shoes are my favourite men's shoes in SL at the moment. I love the stitching, black suede and the low cut. The craftsmanship on the boots is amazing and I think he looks like a rock star! Just imagine this look without the hat, scarf and sunglasses. It would be pretty boring. So guys, remember, add those little things to add a bit of interest and mystery to your avatar. We girls like that!

I ASKED a friend of mine who had an avatar makeover recently to pose for this week's article.

It's not often you see a man in SL who has really put together a look that's his own and not just a pair of jeans and a t-shirt, or an off the rack suit. I love what Eponymous has done with his accessories. The

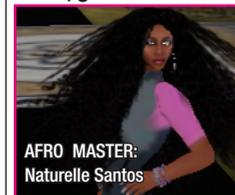
## WHAT'S HOT!

### AFRO NO NO

By CARRIE SODWIND

Pics by ISABEL BROCCO

CHILL out with your afros, girls.



AFRO MASTER: Naturelle Santos

Big bold hair is in, but avoid wearing a lioness 'fro with a top hat – it looks unnatural and awkward. At an event on Friday in Second Shores, brave Brigitte Kungler looked like a magician whose top hat rabbit had accidentally turned into a cockerel.

### SIMPLE

Setting it straight on the catwalk of Club Elemental on Sunday, ASpiRE! models Ally Geer and afro-queen Naturelle Santos, showed how it should be done. With her new dark-skin look, Ally demonstrated that if you keep the outfit simple, out-of-control frizz can really work.



A HAIRY MOMENT: Brigitte Kungler, left; Ally Geer, right.



cc  
caLLie cLine

© caLLie cLine. all rights reserved.

# INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK By ISLODE FLAMAND

## ANNETTE VOIGHT OF DECOY

### MY FAVOURITE EYES...

"...are these grey ones made by Miriel Enfield. They look so inviting, and yet are such a light colour. My grey eyes are complemented perfectly by my Vogue eyelashes by Starley Therein from Celestial Studios. Since they come in two sizes and are copyable I was able to get this great fit with just a tiny bit of editing."



### I LOVE...

"...my casual sneakers by Elikapeka Tiramisu of ETD. They're so cute and casual and match almost any kind of clothing. They are very detailed and yet so girly - I want these in my RL!"



### I ADORE...

"...these ragged fairy wings by Jen Shikami of Seven's Selections. Airy and light, with a super fluttering effect, they have quickly become my favourite wings. The best part is that they are 'tintable', so they can match any outfit."



# HEALTHY EATING



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

### Kitchen Decor Items

Including frying pan, salt and pepper, fruit basket, corn, ice and kettle.  
By Casandra Jackson  
Voti (196, 43, 23)



**L\$175**

### Bottle of Petrus Pomerol wine

By Virtual Revolution  
Al Tang (92, 163, 65)

**L\$150**



### Strawberry Pie

By bottlekid Malibu  
Cars (54, 98, 25)

**L\$50**



**L\$175**

### Sushi Dispenser Set

By Zia Metty  
SUZAKU (92, 124, 27)



[www.lionheartsl.com](http://www.lionheartsl.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](#)

# MY TRAVEL TIPS

By TRICK MERTEL

**BUSINESSWOMAN** Cadence Juran is the CEO of Crescendo Corporation, a public relations powerhouse in SL.

**THE AVASTAR: Which good sims have you explored recently?**

**CADENCE JURAN:** I visited the innovative and sleekly-designed Second

World sim. I've also just got back from Temptation. Also Ischia, which is fabulous - the EFA Fashion Week was held there.

**TA: Where do you hang out and relax?**

**CJ:** I head home and relax on my observation deck with a great book and listen to the smooth streams of MaxMarch Radio.

**TA: Where do you party?**

**CJ:** There's only one place - Dogglounge on Plush Delta. It pulls a great crowd and the house music is off the charts. I've met some of my closest friends there.

**TA: What sims do you find the most creative?**

**CJ:** There really are too many to name, but for a beautifully rich scene I go to Fio Fum, where there are some immaculate gardens.

**TA: What are your top tips for exploring SL?**

**CJ:** Never forget to look up, I've seen some amazing skyboxes that I would have never known were there.



## NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: THE NEW SIM DEDICATED TO THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF ISRAEL

SHALOM: A seaside view at Tel Aviv



HISTORIC: The Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Sepulchre and the Dome of the Rock are present but more modern creations such as the Tel Aviv opera house and the Bahai Gardens in Haifa will also attract visitors.

### EXPLORE

The sim's creators hope it will become a focal point for Israelis and Jews from all over the real world to meet, learn about heritage and explore the country.

By COYNE NAGY

**THE best Israel has to offer has been brought to SL by two skillful residents.**

Hagibor Shepherd and Beth Odets are responsible for the Israel sim, which will launch with parties at 10am and 7pm

SLT on January 13. It is the first island on the grid to be dedicated to Israel, and a number of landmarks have been painstakingly recreated from across the country.

Religious sites such as the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy



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

# DEAR

## WHY DOESN'T SHE WANT TO BE TOGETHER 24/7?



I THINK ABOUT HER ALL THE TIME, BUT NOW SHE IS BEING COLD AND DISTANT

**Dear Randi:** A FEW weeks ago I met a woman who is beautiful, sexy, smart and sweet and has me thinking about her 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We were spending about eight hours a day together until after Christmas, when suddenly she became quite elusive. She says she's interested in me and hates that we can't be together more,

but RL job and personal situations are taking up most of her time. I'm hurt that she doesn't spend more time with me, and worried that she's going to end the relationship. How can I convince her to see me more? — S.W.

**Randi says:** All you can do is be a good guy and be supportive for her. I find that this kind

of situation usually involves a woman complaining about her busy man, but these days the shoe is sometimes on the other foot. Tell her you love her, but it is important that you don't nag her about where she is all the time. If you've exchanged email addresses, keep in contact by sending her romantic messages she can read in her own time.

## BORED BY TALK ABOUT FAILED RL ENGAGEMENT

**Dear Randi:** ONE of my best girlfriends used to be a lot of fun. We worked together at a club, and we would always joke and laugh in IMs. But recently she had a RL breakup with a guy she was engaged to, and all of a sudden her company wasn't so enjoyable. All she seems to want to talk about is her ex and how bad life is for her now. I sympathise with her, but I don't want to hear about how tough her life is every day. What can I do to get her to stop talking about it? — A.L.

**Randi says:** Let her talk it all out in one go. Tell her you're her friend and that you feel for her, but that her constant talking about it is depressing you as well as her. Perhaps suggest she get counselling from someone who is paid to listen. Then if she keeps on talking about it, you may have to avoid her. It's sad when break-ups destroy more than one relationship, but it happens all too often.

## HONEY TRAP SHOWS MY WIFE DOESN'T TRUST ME

**Dear Randi:** I HAVE been a faithful husband in SL for over a year now. For some reason women seem to be attracted to me, and my wife can be a bit jealous. I enjoy going to the beach, and like meeting people there for conversation. For three straight days, the same woman had sat next to me for a chat. Suddenly one day she removed her top and a guy started taking pictures. It seems they work for a new detective agency and their job was to trap me into cheating. But nothing happened. How can I convince my wife? — M.R.

**Randi says:** That might be impossible. She obviously trusts the detective agency more than she does you, and the fact she hired them in the first place shows your marriage wasn't very strong. It pains me to advise anyone to get a divorce, but this may be an exception. If you can't get the relationship repaired quickly, it may be time to end it and look for others.

# RANDI

The Virtual World's  
No 1 Agony Aunt

## EX-WIFE WANTS TO SPLIT US UP

**Dear Randi:** I'VE been married to an amazing girl in SL for three months now. Our relationship was perfect until she met my ex-wife. I encouraged the relationship at the beginning, because we're all interested in building and could share knowledge. But suddenly my wife became sus-

picious of me after my ex told her (truthfully) that I cheated in my first marriage. I learned my lesson from the affair, and have no intention of cheating again. But I don't like the suspicion, or the backstabbing. What should I do? — C.T.

**Randi says:** Be truthful with your wife, and be truthful

about your past cheating. Tell her what you have told me, and that you don't understand why your ex is bringing up the subject again. Your current wife knows you were married before, so she must realise something ended it. Details of past relationships are best left in the past.

## RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, WEEK ONE:

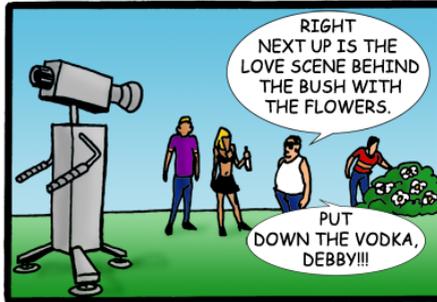


to be continued...

# HOT Slaggin'

## "Behind the bush" Part 1 of 2

ARTWORK:  
Ermanno Spitteler  
Cecil Hirvi



© Andrea Manfredini 2008

# Freebies

SL's best FREE stuff!

## THIS WEEK: THE PILLOW FIGHTER

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

BRING up memories of some enjoyable moments as a kid with the Pillow Fighter freebie.

It can be found at Ranunculus (234, 74, 34), and was created by Lauren Fox, who made the particles, and Jigsaw Partridge, who improved an existing anonymous script. The pretty pink pillow releases feathers when you swing it. Wear the object, then hold down the left mouse button.

### GENTEEL FIGHT

Clicking the cursor keys of the keyboard enables you to carry out five effective moves – backflip, sword strike, punch, one-two punch and round-house kick – and the pillow will emit six different kinds of chicken feathers, with sound. They will drop gracefully around your opponent without damaging anyone – a genteel kind of a fight, with no risk of an

abuse report! Wear pyjamas and slippers, such as the free panda or lion ones at Le Zoo (141, 171, 22). Then organise a pyjama party, distribute the pillows and you're ready to start!



## DO + DOS AND DON'TS OF THE CLIENT MENU - DON'T

By GAETANA FAUST

- + Use the client menu features at the top to change your viewer settings.
- + Clear Group Cache for optimal performance on your PC.
- + Change snapshot settings and sun settings in the client menu.
- + Select the Consoles to investigate issues or problems.
- + Check out what you can change in the Debug Settings drop down, including turning off the annoying typing hand movement.
- = Deselect Disable Camera constraints if you like to cam around.
- = Fret at the dreaded 'Missing Image' texture or other texture woes. Select Client/Character/Rebake Textures to fix your look.
- = Forget to clear the Group Cache regularly for optimal performance.
- = Neglect to write down changes you are making to the Debug Settings in case it doesn't work.
- = Select Limit Select Distance.

## Surviving Second Life

### KIM SEIFERT IS A POPULAR COUNTRY SINGER IN SL.

By COYNE NAGY

THE AVASTAR: How were your first days in SL?

**KIM SEIFERT:** I walked into everything, was an ugly noob, and had no idea how to change my purple shirt.

**TA:** What major problems did you have?

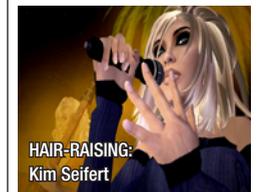
**KS:** Baldness. When I finally learned about prim hair and bought my first hairdo, everything I tried on took off my hair. I kinda miss those boxes on my head.

**TA:** How did you solve it?

**KS:** I finally learned how to attach things to different spots. But the real turning point came when Linden Lab changed the default attachment spot from the head to the right hand. I haven't been bald since - unless you count those times when teleporting puts attachments in interesting places!

**TA:** What advice would you give to newbies to help overcome such problems?

**KS:** Roll with it.



HAIR-RAISING: Kim Seifert

GRAND SIM OPENING  
MONDAY 14th JANUARY  
NIKKI ISLANDS

OPENING PARTY

Peltzer Hirano  
performer, singer, pianist 12 PM  
Serdan Mendes  
one of the best DJ's in SL 1 PM-3 PM

N

NIKKI RESIDENTIAL

Nice Present For All Our Visitors  
Lottery : 2 villas for 1 month free staying  
Rent 4 weeks get 1 free

# THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## THIS WEEK: URBAN BUILDS

GRAFFITI AND B'BALL  
LOS ALTOS



CAR CRASH:  
Therapy

### EXPLORE THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF SL'S HARSHTEST STREETS

**KEEP it real by pounding the urban streets of Second Life.**

The gritty reality of the **8mile** sim brings you face to face with the experience of life in run-down Detroit. Buy the latest in hip hop fashion, visit the **Edge** dance club or hang out in a sparse playground. If you've wondered what it's really like to wander around a crack den, you can find out at **District 8** (16, 168, 34).

Watch out for car fires as you walk around the neighbourhood at **Therapy** in Lu Dongbin (97, 187, 29). There is no need for a club, as you can simply party in the streets - part of the city style. The sim of Esoterica is home to **Atrocity bus lines** (186, 95, 27), a run-down terminal next to a desolate playground. The highlight is the hot industrial club called **Umbra**

**Penumbra** (79, 158, 24), where an old fighter plane fills a good portion of the dance floor.

Check out the artistic graffiti around the basketball courts at the **Los Altos** sim. Constant hip hop provides a great atmosphere as you take a look around. Right next door is the **Slump** sim, for those interested in urban combat role-playing. Take a stroll over the steel catwalk high above the dingy streets of **Biopunk**. The roads are lined with edgy stores for the savvy shopper, and you can grab a seat on a cinder-block bench or hang out on top of a dumpster. For a bit of high urban style, drop by the **Hoodstock Cafe** in Land of Hope (128, 224, 0). It's a classy lounge dedicated to celebrating the high points of urban sports and entertainment.



Take in the edgy atmosphere helped along by the the constant hip hop music.

Where: Los Altos  
(128, 128, 0)

### DETROIT DREAMS 8MILE



Forget Eminem, check out the gritty living in the underbelly of Detroit for yourself.

Where: 8mile  
(128, 128, 0)

### CRACK DENS BY NIGHT DISTRICT 8



Take a walk through the abandoned warehouses and dirty streets.

Where: District 8  
(16, 168, 34)

1.11. - 1.17.

## DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in SL Time



## NEIL STRAUSS

Listen to the author give an exclusive live reading from his book, 'The Rules of the Game', followed by a Q&A session and a party.

**When:** Jan. 13, 12:00

**Where:** Blue Horizon (217, 217, 0)



## BOOK TO FILM

Join in the discussion about what makes a book suitable to be turned into a film. Are there ethical obligations to stay true to the original story?

**When:** Jan. 13, 11:00

**Where:** Africa (193, 137, 27)



## HEATH ELVEHJEM

The renowned RL pianist will start a series of in-world jazz piano concerts at The Distillery.

**When:** Jan. 17, 17:00

**Where:** Rich Idiot (188, 203, 28)



## SOCCER IN SL

The in-world German national team will play a friendly against their French counterparts, with the SL world cup just weeks away.

**When:** Jan. 16, 12:00

**Where:** Maxfear (179, 86, 22)



## MUISM

The models at MuisM will show off both classic and trendy new designs on the catwalk.

**When:** Jan 12, 16:00

**Where:** Far Sight (49, 242, 50)



## EVENT OF THE WEEK!

## AVASTAR OF 2007 AWARD CEREMONY

The Avastar of the Year 2007 contest, as voted for by you, reaches its climax with a big bash. Find out which one of the ten nominees wins the title. Vote now at [www.the-avastar.com](http://www.the-avastar.com)!

**When:** Jan. 16, 09:00

**Where:** The Avastar (107, 219, 80)

## EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



## OPENING PARTY

The Nikki Residential Company is launching three new sims which can be rented out, and to mark the occasion, the firm will be holding a fabulous opening party, including a DJ who will have you dancing long into the night.

**When:** Jan. 14, 12:00

**Where:** Tatakoto (106, 134, 22)



## PRETTY IN PRIMS

The Crescent Moon Museum will host a retrospective exhibition of the work of Random Calliope, famous for jewellery which is 100 per cent prim work. The opening will be followed by a formal ball.

**When:** Jan. 13, 15:00

**Where:** FairChange Village (187, 142, 21)



## VILLAGE FETE

The Celtic Ash Tree Festival takes place in RL in Wales this weekend and the Cymru sim is celebrating the event with a massive in-world party which will include live music and a top DJ, so head down to enjoy the festivities.

**When:** Jan. 12, 08:00

**Where:** Cymru (132, 141, 27)

ADVERT

## Bouncy Castles

by Good2 Go

Original Castle L\$ 2500

Purple Castle L\$ 2500

85 prims Min Size 2m x 2m  
Max Size: 20m x 20m71 prims Min Size 2m x 2m  
Max Size: 20m x 20mAlso available  
Purple Castle Tiny Version L\$ 2500  
Only 43 prims Max Size 10m x 10mLOW  
LAGUnique Bounce Logic System  
Handles Lots of Bouncers  
Newbie and Tiny Friendly  
Works at Different SizesCan 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."

Good2 Go

Ponderama 25,145,38 (PG)

Purple Rose  
JEWELRY & FASHION

2008

Mr. January  
Eche Riverview

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

# THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

By PAOLO BADE  
Pics By CARRIE SODWIND



## PUP WITHERSPOON

RECENTLY CROWNED MISS COSTA RICA SL, THE GORGEOUS BUILDER AND CONTENT CREATOR WILL COMPETE FOR THE TITLE OF MISS SL UNIVERSE NEXT WEEK.

### AVA - ID CARD

NAME: PUP WITHERSPOON

BIRTH DATE: 3/19/2006

PROFESSION: Creator and builder

ATTITUDE: Smart

### INTERVIEW

**The AvaStar:** What is your best feature?

**Pup Witherspoon:** Probably my brain! I know that may seem like a strange answer for someone involved in the Miss SL Universe contest, but in the end, that's what empowers me in SL.

**TA:** How do you spend your time in SL?

**PW:** Generally, I'm working, either on a sim development, or on one of my luxury residential rentals. My relaxation in SL is enjoying the music scene.

**TA:** What would you change in SL?

**PW:** Stabilising the application software, probably rewriting the entire application in a more robust, scalable language, enhancing the support system, finding better methods for initially exposing new avatars to the SL experience.

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

**PW:** That depends on what the position would entail. If it's a ceremonial position, you'd want one kind of person, but, if it's a working position, a liaison between individuals in SL and the Lab, then you'd want a totally different type of person.