

THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

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Predicting the future...



Astrology in SL

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YEE HA!!!

Wild party in the Old West

SEE PAGE 14

THE LUCKIEST MAN IN SL?

I WED MISS UNIVERSE!

Bongo ties the knot with sexy stunner Babyhoney

By Carrie Sodwind & Coyne Nagy

MISS SL Universe has shattered the dreams of hundreds of men by saying "I do". **FULL STORY: SEE PAGE 3**



Central Grid's Maltos Sosa SLers to leave the main grid?

RESIDENTS could desert the main SL grid in their droves as they head to independent alternatives to escape Lab regulations. **See page 5**

INSIDE OPINION

"Residents should encourage the use of SL by the disabled. All too often, other people do not give them a fair chance in real life, so lots of brilliant ideas go to waste."

YOUR MAIL
p.9

"When thousands of US\$ belonging to your investors, in this case the residents, are at stake, changes to the rules which are potentially devastating financially should in some cases be debated, and certainly properly explained."



REGIS BRAATHENS
p.10

THE AVASTAR

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NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

3

... successful months of business activity must be undertaken by a new company before it can join the Virtual Stock Exchange.

67.5

... per cent of SLers answered in an AvaStar poll that Linden Lab did the right thing in banning banking on the grid.

78.6

... per cent of residents think the Chinese authorities will not allow SLers enough freedom, according to an AvaStar poll.

STOP THEM, CONSTABLE!



WHO are these rascals trying to steal some precious SL art? Wait, it's just Peachy Sassoon and Xerxes Sismondi doing a theme dance. Pic by Isolde Flamand.

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By COYNE NAGY & CARRIE SODWIND

NOW SHE IS MRS SL UNIVERSE



ROMANTIC: Bride Babyhoney Bailey heads up the aisle where Bongo Oldbull awaits.

LUCKY BONGO WEDS GORGEOUS CONTEST WINNER BABYHONEY IN ROMANTIC CEREMONY

MISS Universe shattered the dreams of hundreds of men when she walked down the wedding aisle last week'.

Babyhoney Bailey, who won the prestigious Miss SL Universe last month, married partner Bongo Oldbull at a romantic ceremony in front of 50 guests.

The couple knew each other in RL before Bongo persuaded Babyhoney to join SL. The increased time spent together in-world enabled him to win her over, and the

relationship has now moved into RL as well.

RELIEF

Babyhoney admitted that she was anxious before the wedding, but she still managed to look stunning in a classic white dress with a modern black twist. The blushing bride expressed her relief everything went to plan but gave the credit to her doting husband: "It was my first and will be my only SL wedding. Bongo's really the only person I've spent any time with in SL and we'd been

toying with the idea of getting married for a long time. I was nervous I'd say something wrong, not do something right but it was fine once I was up there - he's my backbone."

STRONGER

Bongo revealed that the course of true love did not always run smoothly for the couple, and he blames himself for a brief break-up they suffered: "Losing her the first time around is about as embarrassing as it gets. I stood by her side as her

friend and even when there were tough times, I still loved her in my heart. I waited and it paid off, because we're back together and stronger than ever."

RESPECT

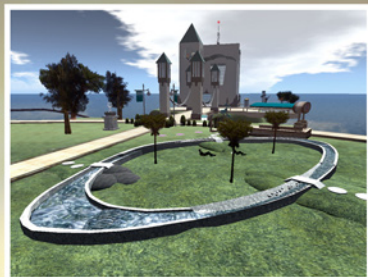
But he refused to reveal what everyone wants to know - what is it like to sleep with the most beautiful woman in SL? He added: "There's that old adage that a gentleman never kisses and tells. Let's go with that. I love her very much and I respect her even more."



Celebrating first life

Tribute island is a non-profit celebration of life - it contains an assortment of tributes to iconic movie stars, artists and sportspeople, and features a virtual memorial garden dedicated to the men and women of the UK who have given their lives for their country during recent conflicts in the middle-east.

- 1000's of L\$ in prizes!
- Live DJ's & music every Friday 1pm-4pm SLT
- 100's of freebies!
- Amazing sculpture park!
- Leave your own tributes!
- Great to explore!



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Tribute island is produced and maintained by Associated Northcliffe Digital (AND)

AVS TO HEAD FOR INDEPENDENT SL?

CENTRAL GRID COULD BE SERIOUS ALTERNATIVE TO LAB REGULATION

By COYNE NAGY

RESIDENTS could desert the SL grid in their droves for independent alternatives to escape Linden Lab regulation.

New projects using open source software based on Lab technology are becoming an increasingly attractive alternative for avatars fed up with rules such as the bans on banking and gambling. Among the options are Deep Grid and OpenlifeGrid, but it is Central Grid which has attracted the most attention. Despite still lagging behind the main grid in terms of graphics and speed, it is

home to a growing number of disaffected residents.

COMPETITION

Travis Ristow, CEO of the in-world bank BCX, has been forced to abandon operations on the main grid but has already invested a significant amount in Central Grid. He said: "Linden Lab could have been involved in projects to help each industry self-regulate. I guess the main thing would have been to listen to the entire community - not just the loudest individuals."

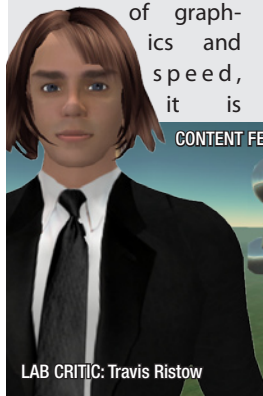
Maltos Sosa, of Central Grid Inc, was hopeful for the future but played down competition with LL: "We feel the Central Grid will have more members

than SL, since we will allow other grids to connect to us. That's not to say we are better than SL. But I don't see it as competition, it is also different from SL in many ways. We have two Linden staff members in the Central Grid group and in the grid testing."

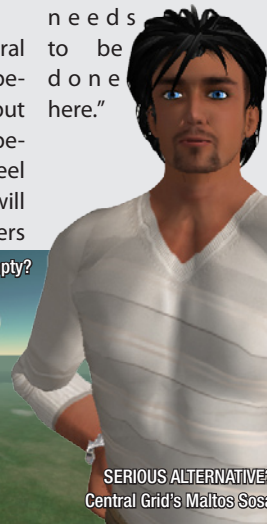
CONTENT

But not everyone is convinced. Central Grid newbie Ernyd Wozniak said: "I came to learn about something new in the metaverse but it seems a lot more needs to be done here."

CONTENT FEARS: Is Central Grid too empty?



LAB CRITIC: Travis Ristow



SERIOUS ALTERNATIVE? Central Grid's Maltos Sosa

SL SAFE IN CHINA

By COYNE NAGY

SECOND Life has nothing to fear from China, according to the founder of an in-world Chinese community.

Ken March founded China Islab in December 2006 to help Chinese users learn about and experience SL and the 3D internet. Last week, The AvaStar revealed that land baron Anshe Chung was furious with the Lab for failing to crack the Chinese market.

RESTRICTIONS

But March denied claims the authorities in China would pose problems for LL or residents: "I don't know why you worry about this. If that would happen, how could I, as well as so many other Chinese users, be in SL today?"

He also dismissed ethical concerns of doing business with the regime: "Sure China has a few more limits in a lot of ways compared with some other countries in the world. But there won't be as many restrictions about SL in China as is imagined."



SAFE: Ken March

THE AVASTAR

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NEWS BITES!

SEEING DOUBLE

TEENAGE tech genius Katherine Berry has created software which allows her to log into SL with two avatars from the same computer. The-16-year old had previously developed AjaxLife, a web-based portal for SL.

FIGHTING ABUSE

A FILM about RL child pornography was shown at Second Sweden on January 29. Children's campaign group ECPAT Sweden broadcast the film as part of its fight against sex tourism in Thailand, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Taiwan.

LOVE ON THE AIR

BRITISH broadcasters the BBC showed a documentary about love in SL on January 30. Two couples who met through SL were featured, with their problems and issues in deciding whether or not to meet in RL being highlighted.

AVS RIGHTS TALK

THE University of Southern California held an in-world talk on avatar rights and responsibilities on January 28. Jonathon Fanton, President of the MacArthur Foundation, hosted the debate which also featured Robin Linden.

TAROT AND ASTROLOGY ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY POPULAR IN SL

By *PIXIEBLONDE SWINDLEHURST*

PREDICTING the future is never an exact science – especially in SL, where events often catch residents unaware.

An increasing number of avatars are seeking spiritual help to discover what the future holds for them, with astrology and tarot readings the top choices.

COSMIC

There are plenty of avatars ready to reveal what the stars and the cards predict, and some see it as the ideal way to test the spiritual waters before deciding to take the plunge in RL.

The Mystic Academy at

the Spirit City sim was one of the first places in SL to teach tarot and astrology. It was founded by Dragon Shichivoji, and now has 1,450 members who take the classes on offer. There is even a rooftop showing the planets created especially for astrology. Dragon often uses tarot cards himself, and he said: "Often in times of need tarot is for me a very esoteric and ancient way of knowing the cosmic order and one's place in it."

DRAMA

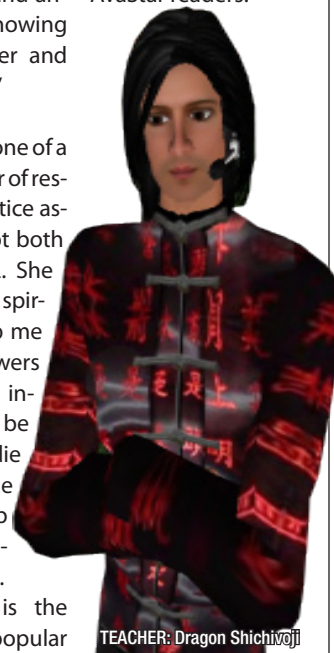
Birdie Ireland is one of a growing number of residents who practice astrology and tarot both in SL and in RL. She said she is very spiritual: "They help me to find the answers that are already inside waiting to be discovered." Birdie added that the cards can help avoid unnecessary drama in SL.

Aster Lardner is the creator of a popular

in-world tarot card and table reading system. He started out in 2005, and now sells about 20 tables each month, for both private use and professional SL tarot readers. Aster plans to update the system but is holding out until SL integrates more with the web, in order to include URLs for the card textures – there is a prediction for all you AvaStar readers!



PREDICTIONS: Birdie Ireland



TEACHER: Dragon Shichivoji

LAB TO FIND THE BEST BRAINS IN THE WORLD

TECH BOSS JOE LINDEN PROMISES TO SEARCH FOR BRIGHTEST MINDS TO TACKLE SL PROBLEMS

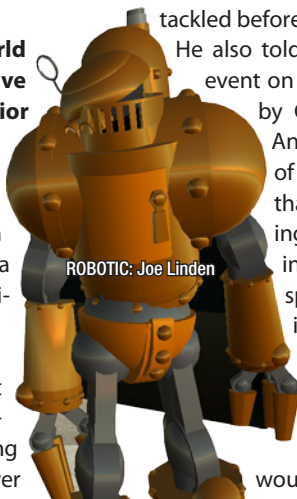
By BABU WRITER

LINDEN Lab will scour the world for new computer talent to solve SL's problems, according to a senior technology boss.

Joe Linden told a crowd of avatars at a Q&A session last week that the Lab was actively seeking people in countries like the UK and Australia to help them improve the SL experience.

MORPHING

He said: "We're looking for talent wherever it is, solving basic computer science problems, and scaling communications, stuff we've never



ROBOTIC: Joe Linden

tackled before."

He also told the assembled residents at the event on January 25, where he was joined by Catherine Linden, Havok 4 guru Andrew Linden and vice president of systems engineering Ian Linden, that the Lab was committed to helping avatars interact with each other in-world: "Walking around empty spaces, even if they are interesting, is not exciting [for the new user]. What is needed is stronger connections with other humans." Improved groups and collaborative tools like voice morphing would help achieve that, he added.

YAHOO MEETS SL

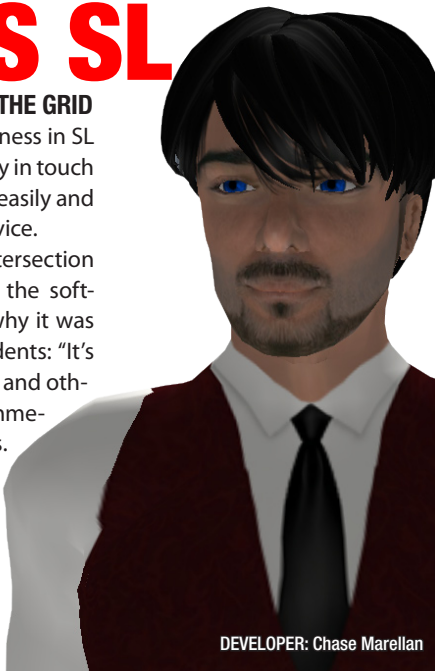
RESIDENTS CAN ACCESS IN-WORLD CHAT WHILE OFF THE GRID

By COYNE NAGY

RESIDENTS are now able to converse with each other even when not logged into SL thanks to new software.

The Chatbridge program allows in-world chat through both Yahoo and AOL Messenger, so residents who can't access SL are never out of reach of other avatars. It represents a further step towards linking the real and virtual worlds, coming soon after a Facebook application was launched which has a similar goal of connecting people in SL and RL.

Company owners say the potential impact on business in SL is huge as they can stay in touch with customers more easily and offer an improved service. Chase Marellan of Intersection Unlimited developed the software and explained why it was such a benefit to residents: "It's important because SL and other virtual worlds are 'immediate' environments. They're geared towards interaction between people. If you can't provide that then why not just have a web site and be done with it?"



DEVELOPER: Chase Marellan

your mail @ YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

DISABLED BOOST SL

TRUE AV BEAUTY IS HIDDEN WITHIN

Hey Regis,
I AM delighted with the news that primers can now be controlled through voice commands.

Although I am not disabled myself, I have a number of friends who are and this will be a huge boost for them. I do not in any way think Second Life should become the only resource available for the disabled but it is

undeniable that it provides something special. You only have to look at some people who struggle with real life situations for various mental or physical reasons yet can contribute massively to the development of our world here. Every other resident

should also welcome developments that encourage the use of SL by the disabled. All too often, other people do not give them a fair chance in real life and that means that lots of brilliant ideas and creativity often go to waste. Utilising that positive energy in-world could be of huge benefit to everyone involved with SL.

By B. S.

Dear Regis,

AM I the only resident who feels left out by not being obsessed with in-world beauty?

While I can definitely admire the wonderful avatars who battled for the Miss SL Universe title, I don't think they are the best and end all of 'beauty'. For me, many of the most truly beautiful people I meet in SL are hiding behind avatars which would scare small children!

By S.G.

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ADVERT



REGIS BRAATHENS

ANTI-WOOT DAY

WOOT WOOT WO0000T! Is it just me or does this word also drive you round the bend?

It's been spreading like a plague over the last year or so in SL, so much so that you can no longer escape it. Any party or event you go to, these woot-griefers fill the chat bar with their 'woots'. To my disgust I even found myself typing it recently at a party! But enough is enough. I'm starting an anti-woot campaign - and I appeal to all readers allergic to 'woots' for help!

LIND-O-METER

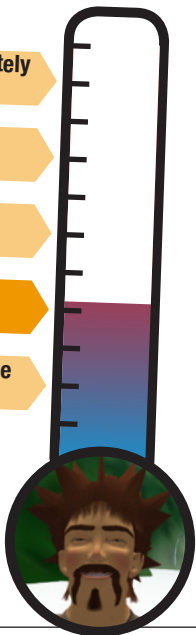
Lab-solutely awful!

Phil-ing blue!

Lagging behind!

IMproving

Sim-ply the best!



STILL THE MAN FOR THE JOB

DESPITE GROWING CRITICISM, PHILIP IS STILL THE ONE TO LEAD SL IT'S easy to present Philip Linden as the bad guy.

When Linden Lab screw up, the CEO inevitably takes the flak. And following a series of unexpected crack-downs, regulations and restrictions that have seemingly gone against the grain of SL, accusations that Philip is out of his depth are rife. But is our 'king' really taking SL down the wrong path?

REGRETS

It's hard to say without knowing what is going on inside the CEO's head, but my feeling is no. He is trying to steer SL towards the mainstream, and running SL as a business isn't always popular. But as he quite rightly pointed out in an interview with Adam Reuters last week, SL is not something that is completely self-sustainable outside of

Linden Lab. That is certainly something many forget.

CROOKS

Hewentontosay: "2007 has been a year of restriction. I regret it." But he shouldn't regret the restrictions - after all, 40 per cent of residents responding to a poll at www.the-avastar.com asking residents if LL was right to ban banking said, "yes, good riddance to the crooks". What he should regret is the way the decisions were taken.

TRANSPARENT

But Philip Linden responded angrily to an AvaStar suggestion that he has a problem with communication, arguing that not all decisions can be made democratically or with prior warning and that you would struggle to find a more transparent company than the Lab. Speaking to Reuters about possibly making

the company public Philip said: "I think that we're a kind of company that would embrace being transparent, being public."

FATE

But in many ways SL is already public, with over 600,000 active users already owning a share of SL. So when thousands of US\$ belonging to your investors, in this case the residents, are at stake, changes to the rules which are potentially devastating financially should in some cases be debated, and certainly properly explained. Stock exchange owners are still waiting to learn their fate. Running SL as a business is perfectly understandable, but just as SL relies on Linden Lab, so the Lab relies on happy SLers, its investors. That's something Philip would do well not to forget.

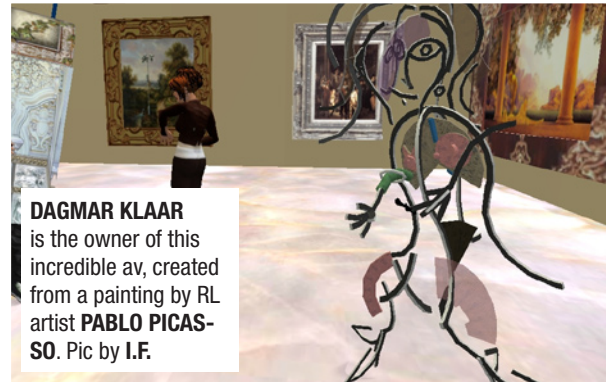
PLEASE SEND ME YOUR COMMENTS:
regis@the-avastar.com

RIGHT PATH:
Philip Linden

L\$500 PICS OF THE WEEK



JOY FELLINI shows off her renowned photography skills with this beautiful pic.



DAGMAR KLAAR is the owner of this incredible av, created from a painting by RL artist PABLO PICASSO. Pic by I.F.



MIMI JUNEAU unsurprisingly labelled the bald man in a pink dress featured in her pic as a "weirdo"!



Watch out for icebergs! MARIGOLD DEVIN took these pictures of her and her boyfriend, UNDERTAKER COLMAN, re-enacting a famous scene from the film 'Titanic' at the Volcano Cay sim.

META-NEWS!

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

HUNT FOR ENTROPIA PROFITS TOO HARSH?

MINDARK ACCUSED OF PRICING 'ORDINARY JOE' OUT OF GAME IN HUNTING CONTROVERSY

By PINKY

A VERSION update in the virtual world of Entropia Universe (EU) has caused an outcry, with some players unhappy about rising costs and the state of the virtual economy. EU resident Pinky reveals the truth behind the controversy.

THE EU economy is balancing on a knife edge at the moment, with investors risking thousands of US\$ as well as the possibility of the

'average Joe' being priced out of the game after a change to the cost of hunting.

HEATED

It's not the first time game provider MindArk has caused controversy by introducing potentially damaging changes to the cost structure of the game. The release of Version 9.0, which marked the introduction of a 0.02 PED (about half a L\$) fee for changing clothes and armour, caused a heated reaction from

the community with some players quitting the game altogether, before MindArk was forced to compromise.

DAMAGE

So when Version 9.2 was released this week, a number of residents were outraged to see carefully hidden cost hikes. Four species of animal used for hunting now have twice the health levels they had before. Now I appreciate a lot of SLers will wonder what the fuss is about... let me

THE AVASTAR Analysis

explain - hunting creatures in Entropia costs real money. You pay for ammo to put in your gun and you pay to repair the damage your gun and armour suffer when attacked. When you kill the creature, you 'loot' it and receive a monetary value back, sometimes less than you spent to kill it.

BACKLASH

By doubling their health, MindArk has doubled the cost of hunting them. It is unknown yet whether the loot value has increased in line with this.

If profitable hunting becomes a thing of the past, then hunting ground landowners, who receive a percentage of loots won on their land, will suffer massive losses. The release could provoke the biggest backlash yet from players.



HIGH PRICE: An Araneatrox creature from Entropia

FREEBIES CAUSE HEEBIE JEEBIES

SMALL FIRM OWNERS FEAR WORST OVER RIVALS' FREEBIE STRATEGY

By CARRIE SODWIND

THE aggressive use of freebies by SL's largest companies is putting their smaller rivals out of business, according one affected firm owner.

Cael McCloy, who owns the small Fantasy Hotel, said he was struggling to keep his company afloat, and fears he will lose his SL livelihood: "Small business such as mine are suffering drastically. They can't compete in the search engines and find it difficult to make any money in SL when the larger businesses are giving away the services that would otherwise be provided for a fee."

CLOSING DOWN

McCoy believes that the only way he can save his business is by creating a partnership with a bigger and more successful company owned by a friend of his - an option not open

to many virtual entrepreneurs. He added: "There are hundreds of businesses closing all the time, you just don't hear about it because they were never found in the search engines anyway."

ADVANTAGE

Linden Lab's economic figures for SL in 2007 show that residents spent less and made fewer transactions than in 2006, while there has been a marked increase in the proportion of purchases for L\$20 or less.

Some small business owners have suggested this trend shows users are taking serious advantage of freebies or extremely cheap goods. But the dominance of larger companies in SL is an inevitable trend, according to the CEO of Rezzable, RightAsRain Rimbaud: "SL is market-driven place, so protecting small business is not really part of the dynamic."



FEAR: Cael McCloy

BIZ BITES!

PHIL FIGHTS BACK

SL is not to blame for the marketing failure of RL companies, according to Philip Linden. Speaking in an interview, the Lab CEO said there were not enough people on the grid for many RL products to be marketed successfully.

EXPANSION PLAN

IT giant IBM is planning to expand its SL Business Center. The workforce will be increased and new staff added to deal with China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea. IBM had previously started work on its own virtual world.

MORE COSMETICS

KOREAN cosmetic giant Amorepacific opened a presence in-world on January 31. The sim contains information on the history of the company along with promotion for brands such as Laneige Hera and Sulwhasoo.

HARVARD PRAISE

THE Harvard Business Review highlighted SL as a breakthrough idea for 2008. It claimed the metaverse, and SL in particular, would be the dominant internet interface within five years.

a-stars



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



GOLD RUSH: Tristane Blackburn

YEE HAA: Spirit Bec

WILD WEST: Mae Goldflake

HIGH NOON: Phase Cydrome

HOWDY COWBOYS!

By BABU WRITER

A TASTE of the Old West was on offer for residents who braved the cold weather at the Deadwood 1876 Winter Festival.

The sim is set in 1876 during the gold rush in

the Black Hills of the Dakota Territory, and the festival on Saturday and Sunday included ice skating, role playing seminars, boxing, duelling and an old-fashioned kissing booth to benefit the orphanage.

AvaStar's Isabel moving up

MISS SPAIN: Isabel Brocco at the Miss SL Universe contest

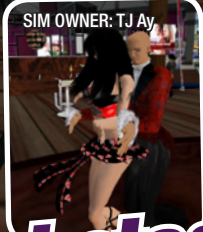


By LEIDER STEPANOV

THE Miss SL Universe contest continued to cause controversy this week when it was revealed the results had been announced wrongly – again. Having caused confusion by at first mistakenly announcing **Elisne Allen** as winner instead of **Babyhoney Bailey**, it was revealed this week that The AvaStar's own **Isabel Brocco** took third place and not fourth as she was told. Isabel said: "I felt very surprised yet at the same time I felt like jumping up and down."

SMOOTH SEXY SALSA!

EVENT MANAGER: Christin Knopfli



SIM OWNER: TJ Ay

By PHIL SPACKLER

NIFTY footwork was the order of the day as the Salsa en Cielo club celebrated its first birthday.

The club started out in a sky box way up in the clouds, hence the name – Cielo is the Spanish word for sky. It quickly built up a fanbase, and singer and guitarist **LoveSongs Writer** was on hand to treat partygoers to a collection of Spanish songs. Venue owner **TJ Ay** said: "One of the main things is that we are doing this as a hobby and not for profit."

Rockin' Reichstag

By ISABEL BROCCO



ECLECTIC: Harleykillernl Back

A FANTASTIC build of the famous RL Reichstag building at the Born sim was opened as a club and live music venue on Saturday.

The build, a replica of the German parliament, was launched with eclectic guitarist **Harleykillernl Back**, blues musician **Tone Uriza** and then **Jaggpro McCann**, singing rock tunes and playing his guitar. Owner **Miles Noriega** was joined by a large crowd of guests for the bash.

Simply the best of SL



IN TUNE: Kim Seifert

By PHIL SPACKLER

THE first semi-final of the Best of SL Live 2008 contest was decided at the Unknown Dreams sim this week. **Rola Hykova**, **Kim Seifert** and **Nikita Lumet** were the ladies who won through on the night, while in the men's section, **LoveSongs Writer**, **Guy Goodman** and **Srv4u Conacher** emerged from the crowd. In total, 900 votes were cast, and the winners will head to the final on February 9.



DEADLY DUO: Bill and Pam Havercamp

IT TAKES TWO, BABY

ACOUSTIC duo **Bill and Pam Havercamp** performed acoustic numbers to an appreciative crowd at Mobil Danmark Fynn on Sunday evening.

The married couple, who own a number of businesses in SL, entertained the crowd with a set featuring ballads and rock songs going back to the 1950s.



The Pirates' Bride

by Solange Korobase

The Bride is wearing

Enticement **L\$600**
from Black Moon
Insula Inferi West
(110, 11, 39)

The Pirates are wearing

Sexy Captain Max **L\$225**
from Reasonable Desires
Pants, boots, hat, various
shirts, eyepatch, belt with
pistol and sword, collars
are included
Reasonable Desires
(132, 200, 27)

Pirate Hat **L\$150**
Eyepatch **L\$20**
from Ironclad
Calleta
(40, 80, 35)



Callie Cline's STYLE HOTLINE



BEAUTY IS NOW SKIN DEEP

FIND YOURSELF A GREAT 'FANTASY' SKIN TO LIVEN UP YOUR LOOK

WHO wants to have a boring old 'normal' skin, when there are so many cool new looks out there?

With the 'Another Fundraiser' skin sale still going on, and more and more fantasy skins showing up on the grid every week, there couldn't be a better time to ditch your usual skin, and try on something colourful, funky and fun - or even something dark, scary, or weird!

FANTASY

There is so much choice out there, that you are sure to find the perfect one for you. To give you a bit of help, I took a photo this week

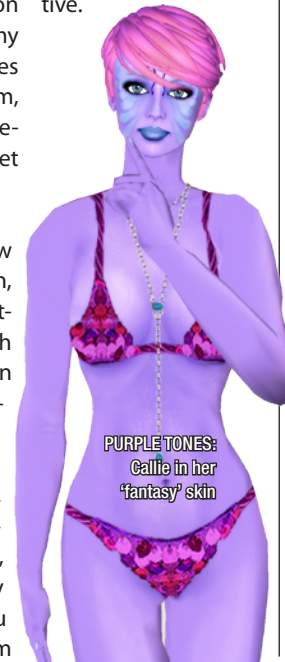
of a great skin I found, and you can see the great detail. There is a beautiful butterfly on the face, and with my pink hair and little eyes with hearts in them, you can see this is a really effective way to get a 'fantasy' look.

CREATIVE

I wore a bikini to show the detail in the skin, such as the little splatters of white which add to the texture on the body, and it's really like wearing a piece of art.

If it takes your fancy, check out the Another Fundraiser event, and look for fantasy skins to see what you can find. Most of them

are not expensive at all and you can really have a lot of fun being creative.



PURPLE TONES:
Callie in her
'fantasy' skin

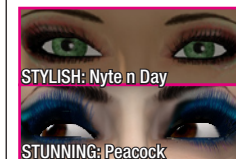
WHAT'S HOT!

BUTTERFLY LASHES

By CARRIE SODWIND

RADICAL eye make-up has spread from the SL catwalk shows into everyday lives.

The bold hypnotic effect is encouraging girls to bat their lashes like never before. Bianca F's new skin range has professionally made-up eyes that will impress dramatic women who like colourful flair. Peacock is a stunning variation of different blues and greens and you can buy eye-lashes to match. If this is too much for you, however, tone down with some glittery eye-shadow, such as Nyte n Day's fabulous red and green combination.



STYLISH: Nyte n Day

STUNNING: Peacock

HIT OR MISS

Successes and flops from this week's new fashion releases.

By CARRIE SODWIND



HIT: Frecklexplosion

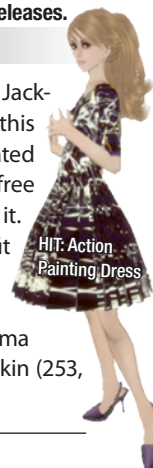
HIT: FOR a different skin, check out Frecklexplosion by Candy Flanagan - a pale feminine skin covered in realistic freckles. It is only available until February 3 at Masterpiece Island (219, 190, 43) for a bargain L\$50.



MISS: Koala bear

MISS: WITH Valentine's Day coming up, don't be tempted to settle for a koala bear to keep you warm. This newly-released bear is L\$125 at Alpha Centauri (217, 233, 27), for anyone who doesn't mind looking desperately single.

HIT: NEW York artist Jackson Pollock inspired this great 50s-style pleated dress, which has his free paint splashes all over it. It is the perfect outfit for gallery openings. Action Painting Dress is L\$120 from Bellissima Project Boutique, Pushkin (253, 194, 311).



HIT: Action Painting Dress

Got News?

With over 10,000,000 Registered User's and the freedom of creative expression, there HAS to be some news right?

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STAR CRIBS

BY TRICK MERTEL



DEBRA DAVIAU

Born: 3/2/2007
 Activities: Social butterfly
 Home Base: Infinite Journey
 Style: A RL replica of Petit Trianon from the Palace of Versailles in France.
 Debra says: "I had a stalker at one point so have fairly strict security. It has definitely been a labour of love, four months in the making."



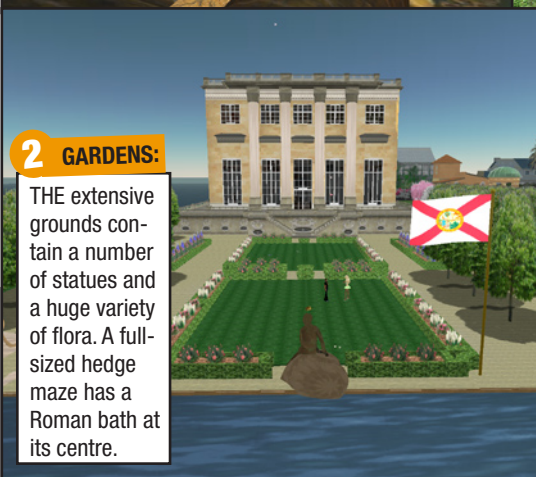
1 INTERIOR:

THERE are many well-furnished rooms with high and painted ceilings. A grand staircase services the second floor. The bedroom features a huge queen-sized high bed and walk-in closets.



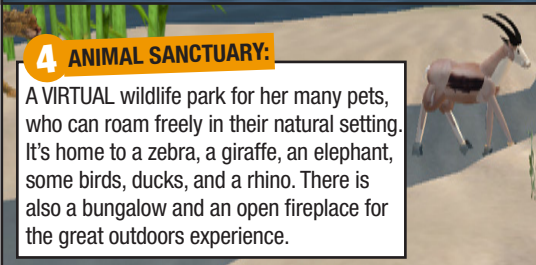
3 BALLROOM:

AN open air stage overlooks the water, and is the perfect place to entertain guests on a balmy evening. It features a beautiful chandelier and ceiling, and a white grand piano.



2 GARDENS:

THE extensive grounds contain a number of statues and a huge variety of flora. A full-sized hedge maze has a Roman bath at its centre.



4 ANIMAL SANCTUARY:

A VIRTUAL wildlife park for her many pets, who can roam freely in their natural setting. It's home to a zebra, a giraffe, an elephant, some birds, ducks, and a rhino. There is also a bungalow and an open fireplace for the great outdoors experience.



cc
callie cline



INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

By ISOLDE FLAMAND

ROWAN CARROLL OF SHE'S SO UNUSUAL SHOES

MY OLDEST TREASURE...

"...is my mini-skirt. Way back when I was a newbie, I saw a girl wearing the hottest skirt and I begged her to let me buy it, or tell me where she got it. Turns out I bugged Ambyance2 Anubis of Naughty Designs for an unreleased skirt! When it was released, I went to buy it."



I SCREAMED WHEN I FIRST SAW...

"...my real brown eyes by Polly Pavlova of Skin Deep. They are so much like my eyes in RL. They are perfectly set off by my lashes created by Lynnix Muse of Lynnix Lashes. I love to tint them funky colours with outrageous outfits, or just a dark brown when I wear blonde hair."



I LOVE TO WEAR...

"...my beautifully-done stockings with a great little mini-skirt. Neural Blankes of Neural's Stockings does the best side seams on net stockings, and the lace on them is just amazing."



WORKING HARD



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN



L\$249

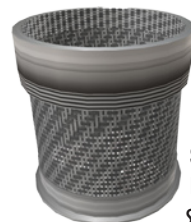
Work table

By PetGirl Bergman
Verloren (237, 35, 34)

AppL\$store MP

By Neil Nielson
Media City UK (126, 221, 21)

L\$250



L\$50

SCDA ITWO WasteBasket 1.4

By Scope Cleaver
SCDA (76, 169, 24)



MMX Table lamp

By Maximilian Milosz

Maximum Minimum (115, 114, 24)



L\$150

L\$75

Filing Cabinet

By Fade Languish
Where Wiliam (196, 221, 27)



MY TRAVEL TIPS

By KONSTANTIN WAECHTER

XON EMOTO is the owner of creative agency Buero X, which is behind the Hamburg Islands project.

THE AVASTAR: Which sims have you explored recently?

Xon Emoto: I am interested in the creative fields of educa-

tion, the media in SL and big-name RL companies. Culture in SL is also becoming more fascinating every day. A few examples are Le Zoo, Greenie's Home, Phil's Supermarket, Princeton University and Meterora.

TA: Where do you hang out and relax?

XE: If I want to relax I go to Svarga sometimes, sit in the middle of a huge meadow with blue flowers and

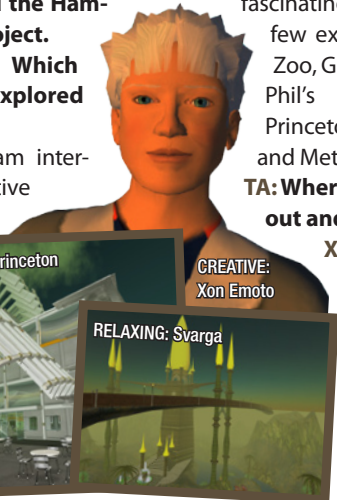
enjoy the music. Great events are the exhibition openings by Dan Cundey at the White Cube Galleries in Carlovitz and Stadtrand and the projects of Culturegion on Design Island.

TA: Where to you party?

XE: At the moment I prefer partying at our own events. I rarely go to parties at beach clubs or discos.

TA: What are your top tips for exploring SL?

XE: There are lots of freebies at the Free Dove, and at the Ivory Tower, you can attend fantastic tutorials. German residents will appreciate sims like Hamburg City, newBerlin and Frankfurt.



ADVERT

This Valentines Day...
 want to impress someone?
 show them how much you love them?

Treat your lover to a night in
 Aroha Tahi
 Second Life's most
 Luxurious Lovers Park

Reserve your park now
 to avoid disappointment!
 Click to teleport

Aroha Tahi

a private lovers retreat

NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: ROCK LEGENDS, DELIGHT FOR TREKKIES, A RELAXING WILDERNESS AND A GERMAN RELAUNCH.



A ROCKIN' JOURNEY

By COYNE NAGY

LEGENDARY rock band Journey are launching their in-world presence this week with a party on February 1.

Fans will have a chance to explore the Journey Rock Band sim, which contains areas devoted to previous albums, audio and visual presentations as well two venues for live events. The band will be present from

selection of their greatest hits. Star Trek fans have a new base in SL thanks to a creation by Cube3. In partnership with the StarFleet Command Second Life Quadrant Role Players group, a new multilevel build on Sovereign opened last week. You can find lots of information about the origins of the Star Trek TV

will be delighted with the new Emerald Dust sim by BC Estates.

DAZZLING

While many plots are available to rent, it is still a lovingly built area with plenty of nature and wildlife giving a great background for a pleasant stroll.



SOVEREIGN

7am SLT on the day but intend to spend many hours meeting and greeting while DJs play a



EMERALD DUST

show and details about 'Starbase C3', the science fiction role play world created by Cube3. Residents who want to find a place in the wilderness to relax



APFELLAND

Apfelland may be one of the best known German hang-outs but the main sim has been relaunched to celebrate its birthday on February 3. A dazzling new construction has replaced the camping chairs.



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

DEAR

HE LEFT ME - BUT NOW HE SAYS HE LOVES ME!



FIRST LOVE WAS JILTED BY HIS NEW GIRL, BUT SHOULD WE GET BACK TOGETHER?

Dear Randi: MY first SL boyfriend and I broke up a few months ago. It was mostly his idea, but I agreed that our relationship had run its course. Since then I have dated lots of different guys but haven't found any one special, while he has been in a steady relationship with another girl. We remained friends, and I was in on the whole story

when she cheated on him and left him. Last weekend he said he had learned a lesson, and that he missed me and wants to get back together. If I still love him, should I take him back? — G.P.

Randi says: If you love him and he says he loves you, then certainly I think you should consider taking him back. One

of the best things about life, whether it's first or second, is that people can grow and change. But you should ask him to state his intentions. You have the right to get him to grovel a bit to get his second chance. I hope it works out this time, and if he's as committed to making that happen as you are, it probably should.

TANGO SEX WAS GREAT BUT NOW HE BORES ME SHOULD I TURN DOWN INDECENT PROPOSAL?

Dear Randi: A HANDSOME and well-dressed guy asked me if I'd like to tango with him – how could I refuse! I was at a formal club a few weeks ago when he came up to me, and since then I have danced several times with him, and then accompanied him to his vast home for a couple of hours of amazing sex. Nearly every time I sign on he immediately invites me back to his place, where we make love again and again. The next time I said I'd like to have a real conversation, and after an hour I learned I really don't like the man. How can I get rid of him? — O.R.

Randi says: Just be honest with him, but do be gentle. Tell him the sex was good, but that you don't feel you have much in common and are looking for more. There's no reason it shouldn't be a friendly parting. He shouldn't have any trouble finding more one night stands, and it is unlikely he will turn into a stalker.

Dear Randi: I HAVE been in a friendly and steady relationship with this really sweet guy ever since I first came into SL. But despite some hints from me, he has never suggested that we marry here or meet in RL. We live in different time zones, and one night I met an exciting new guy. He's gorgeous and we have so much in common that I love chatting with him. Last week he dropped to one knee and presented me with a diamond ring! I told him I need a few days. Should I accept his proposal? — J.D.

Randi says: Quite possibly! Your first guy has had more than enough time to make the big move, hasn't he? The one thing you do owe him is a personal explanation. Although that relationship may not have proceeded according to your dreams, he hasn't done you wrong and deserves respect. Don't go announcing it to your other friends first, in case he finds out by accident.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

UPSET AT FIANCEE'S 'DIRTY ALT'

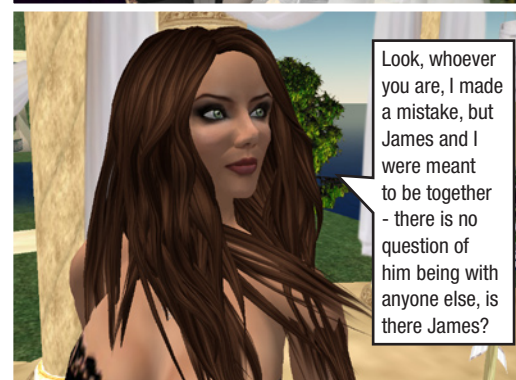
Dear Randi: FOR the past six months, I have been dating a lady in-world who seems perfect. She's gorgeous, smart, laughs at all my jokes and we have similar tastes. Last weekend I proposed marriage, and she said she would love to marry me but had a confession to make. She said she has a "dirty

alt", who has picked up dozens of men for sex just for the thrill of it. Now I'm wondering if she's really the kind of lady I thought she was. Should I give her another chance? — T.E.

Randi says: Why do you call it "another chance"? An awful lot of what happens in virtual worlds is role playing. So

the lady you love didn't cheat on you, and neither did her alt. And even if you don't like what is going on, she came to you with the 'confession'. You should tell her how amazing she is and hold onto her as long as you can. If you leave her because of this, she may be too good for you.

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

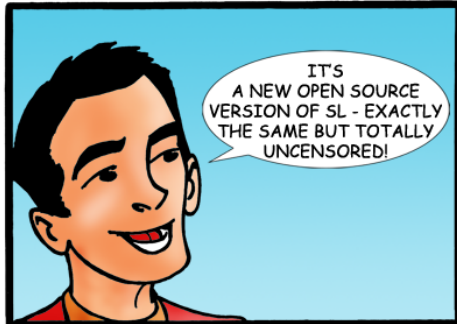
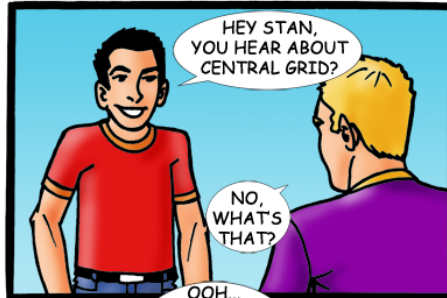


RANDI SAYS: It is easy to fall in love in SL, and marriage is not taken as seriously as in RL. But you have to ask yourself if your commitment to your new love is strong enough if you are seriously considering returning to your ex. Whatever you do, make your mind up quick and stick to it this time!

Slaggin'

ARTWORK:
Ermanno Spitteler

"(NOT SO) OPEN SOURCE" Part 1 of 2



Freebies

SL's best FREE stuff!

THIS WEEK: 'YET ANOTHER TEXTURE ORGANISER' BY PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

THERE are lots of great textures out there, and it can be really difficult to choose the right one.

It is possible to use the default system, but a texture organiser is the perfect tool if you want to compare two or more. There is a very nice one for L\$1 by Tx Oh, available at GNUbie (Indigo, 228, 53, 48). It is called YATO-BF 0.2 – short for 'Yet Another Texture Organizer - But Free'.

It comes in two versions, as an object or as an HUD – useful if you don't have enough primes to go round.

TECHNICAL

When you click on the tool, a menu pops up which allows you to chose from different categories of textures. They are samples, and you can create and use the ones you want, with the textures of your own. When you click on the button, a

bin, called 'keydumper', will appear on the ground. Open it, then drag and drop the textures you want from your inventory. A list with the necessary technical data will appear in chat history. Then simply create a card, give it the name of the category, copy and past the data and drop the card inside the texture organiser. Quick, easy and useful.



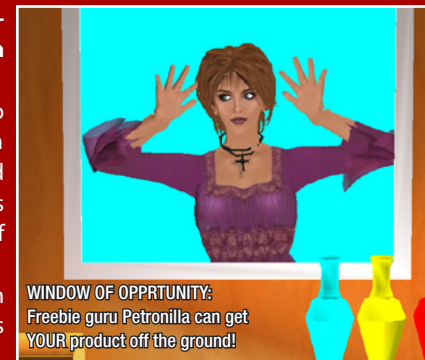
ADVERT

FEATURE YOUR FREEBIE!

DO YOU have a great freebie you want featured in The AvaStar?

Send us an email to newsdesk@the-avastar.com and you could be featured in Petronilla Paperdoll's Freebies column, as part of SL's best free stuff!

We are looking for high quality and original freebies – so get working now!



Surviving Second Life

ICE STAWBERRY CO-OWNS THE VIENNA AND SALZBURG ISLANDS.

By KONSTANTIN WAECHTER

THE AVASTAR: What problems did you have when you joined SL?

ICE STAWBERRY: The biggest problem was the search function. The best places had too little traffic to be found in search. At the beginning I landed in a huge welcome area surrounded by shabby and deserted city districts.

TA: How did you solve this problem?

IS: I just asked other residents where to go. I was very lucky, when I met this resident from the US. She took me under her wing and dressed me in designer wear from head to toe – just like that.

TA: What are your tips for newbies?

IS: First, I would go to Vienna Freebies to add some style to my avatar. That is fun and you see something happening at once. If you do

not know your way around, a friendly question will help you find your way.

SLERS willing to help are astonishingly common.



THE
AVASTAR

VALENTINES FREEBIES



Join The AvaStar Readers group to find out landmark locations of secret Valentine gifts at some of SL's best fashion stores, in the lead up to Valentine's Day.

**THE HUNT
RUNS FEB. 5-14
WITH LOVE
FROM THE
AVASTAR!**

FREEBIE GIFT STORES INCLUDE:

CALLIE CLINE, PURPLE ROSE, REZZABLE, SLAB!,
VICIV, BEAR-YCREATIVE, BIANCA F, SECRET ADMIRER,
TRUE BALANCE

THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND
ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: MIDDLE AGES



EXPERIENCE YE OLDE WORLD IN TRUE SECOND LIFE STYLE!

THE magical world of maidens and knights is becoming increasingly popular on the grid with plenty of medieval role play sims to explore.

A total of six sims make up the **Avilion Medieval** community, each with its own character. The sims are open to anyone but have a strict dress code, so pick up some of the free clothes available if you have nothing appropriate. In **Avilion** (3, 130, 42) you might stumble upon a group of fantastical creatures dancing in a clearing or playing music in a drum circle. There is an open-air market in the main town square, surrounded by cottages, where you can purchase local products. **Avilion Isle** (210, 150, 65) is a combat sim, so bring

and be prepared to do battle.

Go ice skating in the **Avilion Hinderlands** (187, 174, 22) or shop for fashions from the Middle Ages at **Avilion Mist** (158, 128, 59).

Eternity is a system of sims which host venues like the **Celtic Market** and the **Hedgehog Tavern** at Tir na Lor (186, 197, 26). There are several sims making up **Winterfell** (129, 208, 35), a Gothic village with shops to fit the theme. Cross the drawbridge over the murky moat at **Legenda Antica** (51, 32, 68), a great representation of a classic Italian medieval fortress. Walk through the warren of rooms into the grand dining hall with its fiery torches and marble fireplace, or climb one of the castle's many towers to admire the view of the village below from on high.

MEDIEVAL RHYTHMS AVILION GROVE



Romantics will love the soaring ballroom, where suits of armour salute you while you waltz.

Where: Avilion Grove
(20, 127, 22)

BANG IN THE BULLSEYE ETERNIA



Test your bow and arrow skills at the archery range, and head to the jousting arena for medieval combat.

Where: Eternia (99, 56, 28)

COBBLESTONE TALES NERMAJA VILLAGE



Walk the cobblestone streets, then head for the medieval castle.

Where: Captivate
(147, 207, 32)

2.1. - 2.7.

DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in SL Time



THEATRE

VIKINGS AT HELGELAND

The mixed-reality play is based on the Viking epic Nordische Heerfahrt. There are video armchairs to guide you through the performance.

When: Feb. 7, 11:00

Where: Helgeland (176, 130, 31)



ANNIVERSARY

APFELLAND

The German group of sims celebrates its first birthday with a big bash at its new central venue, with live music, DJs and an open air cinema.

When: Feb. 3, 16:00

Where: Apfelland (35, 128, 23)



ENTERTAINMENT

LITERARY FESTIVAL

Enjoy the festival, with authors as speakers, fireworks, treasure hunts, a mystery theatre and DJs.

When: Feb. 2, 08:00-18:00

Where: Info Island (110, 101, 33)



OPENING

DESIGNER SHOWCASE

Model agency ASpiRE! will host its first New Designers Showcase, to discover SL's best new fashion talent.

When: Feb. 2, 14:00

Where: Aspire Island (100, 113, 26)



PARTY

SD WEARS

Radio show Bear in the Morning will broadcast live from the store's first birthday bash.

When: Feb. 4, 03:00

Where: Dubya City (79, 160, 25)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

PASSAGE TO ZHONG FU

See a special viewing of the machinima movie, directed, produced and edited by Verdi Millionsofus. There will also be live music from Dizzy Banjo.

When: Feb. 3, 12:00

Where: Princeton WWS (160, 124, 28)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



LIVE MUSIC

PRECIOUSSE MOODY

The Canadian performer will play guitar and piano as well as show off her powerful voice. Remember to request your favourite song.

When: Feb. 7, 19:00

Where: Jades Jazz Island (60, 145, 24)



LIVE MUSIC

HORACIA ALLEN

Horacia Allen is normally part of the Shamanes, but for this gig is on his own. There will be a full range of piano music on offer.

When: Feb. 3, 07:00

Where: Glen Island Beach (27, 239, 21)



OPENING

OBJECTIVIST INSTITUTE

The institute opens its doors in SL with a musical extravaganza featuring performers such as Jaynine Scarborough and Benito Flores.

When: Feb. 1, from 12:30

Where: Fleets Cove Beach (247, 81, 22)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

EHL ICE HOCKEY

The first two games of the season will see the Snowtigers take on the Berliner Bären, and the Black Angels face the Ice Bears.

When: Feb. 2, 11:00 & 11:30

Where: Frankfurt Ostend (180, 188, 0)



Q&A

DANIEL TERDIMAN

The author of 'The Entrepreneur's Guide to Second Life: Making Money in the Metaverse' answers questions from the audience.

When: Feb. 1, 18:30

Where: Abracadabra (201, 90, 31)

WANT TO SEE YOUR EVENT HERE?

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

GERMANIA ATOLL

TREASURE ISLAND
DIE SCHATZINSEL

The tale goes, there is a most valuable hoard of gold to be found on a little island at Germania Atoll.

But beware: A hex is put on this treasure and it is safely locked with a four-digit code. Many pirates and soldiers of fortune have tried to make the **100.000 L\$** treasure their own - in vain!

Do YOU have the guts to try and crack the code? And the most important question: Do YOU have the guts to own **100.000 L\$**?

CLICK TO TP

Martha Espina
President of S.P.A.

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

By PAOLO BADE



FUSCIA IS A TALENTED JEWELLERY DESIGNER WHO TAKES HER INSPIRATION FROM THE NATURAL WORLD.

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: FUSCIA JEWELL
BIRTH DATE: 3/21/2007

PROFESSION: Jewellery designer
ATTITUDE: Natural

INTERVIEW

The AvaStar: What is your best feature?

Fuscia Jewell: My sense of humour and my ability to craft words.

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

FJ: My SL life revolves around my jewellery. I make it, merchandise it, test different markets, look after my shops and rentals. Recently I have worked with fine dress designers to create couture sets that combine gowns with my jewellery.

TA: What would you change in SL?

FJ: I would like the ability to join more groups. My list seems to be perpetually dominated by renter groups, and I don't have the scope to join groups that genuinely interest me.

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

FJ: My Landmark Tracker HUD. With this I'm able to monitor the traffic flow at all 30 shops from the privacy of my SL retreat.

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

FJ: I would create an alt in the image of Brad Pitt and vote for him. I suspect that others too would find it hard to resist... thus ensuring my inauguration!