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# A BRAND NEW WORLD?

**BIG BUSINESS:** Where will the corporate wave take Second Life?

**FASHION CHALLENGE - see page 14**

# FLEEING THE FN NIGHTMARE

- SHOOWNER FORCED TO LEAVE SIM
- CHAOS CONTINUES FOR RESIDENTS



**By CARRIE SODWIND**  
 A DESPERATE shop owner is being forced to quit the Axel sim after the Front National moved in next door.  
 Full story - Page Three

# INSIDE OPINION

SL is like other social networking sites in that we the residents remain the most important factor for what we see, buy and enjoy. Big companies will never be able to control this.



PHAM NEUTRA p.5

The big name companies have ensured our world is taken seriously from the outside. We all strive for recognition in both worlds - we want people in RL to take note of the creativity and vision and what we are trying to achieve in SL.



REGIS BRAATHENS p.8

## WRITE FOR THE AVASTAR

HAVE a story? Got an exclusive? Want to work for The AvaStar and earn big Linden bucks? Come visit us at The AvaStar Island 107.210.81, send an email to [newsdesk@the-avastar.com](mailto:newsdesk@the-avastar.com), or visit [www.the-avastar.com](http://www.the-avastar.com)

# YOUR Photos L\$500

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

Did you spot something unusual? Have you got exclusive snapshots of a SL celebrity? Were you at a great event or party? Have you seen something new that you want to share with others? Then send us your photos and you could earn yourself Linden Dollars. For each photo published in the newspaper the author will receive **L\$500**.

## PROTEST AGAINST WEF IN SL



AvaStar reader AlbertW Zauberflote was on hand in the Reuters auditorium to witness the demonstration against the World Economic Forum.

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# VICTIM OF FN BATTLE

By CARRIE SODWIND

**WHY DID YOU BRING THIS TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD?**  
**You are entitled to your opinion... BUT...**  
**You are NOT entitled to negatively depreciate our neighborhood.**  
**PLEASE MOVE OUT**

TAKE NOTICE: Antonia's sign



ANTONIA SET TO ABANDON SIM FOR A NEW HOME AFTER THE FN CONTROVERSY

A DESPERATE shop owner is being forced to quit the Axel sim after the Front National moved in next door.

Artileri owner Antonia Marat says the controversy over the French far right political party, which has seen mass demonstrations and clashes in the mainly residential sim over the past few weeks, has become too much for her. She took part in the protests, erecting a giant banner which read "Why did you bring this to our neighborhood?" but she does not believe the FN will leave.



PROTEST: Pic by reader Raul Crimson

"I've given up. I don't know what I can do, other than put up silly signs of toilets", a resigned Antonia said.

"I opened up a new main store in Axel and four days later the FN move into the same sim and the place gets ruined.

"The sim is full a lot, but I really feel for my neighbours who have to live with those guys around their houses.

"I intend to buy my own sim as soon as possible, because Axel has turned into a circus."

Antonia has also slammed Linden Lab for doing nothing to help the residents of Axel. She added: "I was hoping the Lindens could do something, but they won't."

When asked about the controversy, Catherine Linden said: "Our aim has never been to police all in-world activi-

ties, but rather, foster a self-governing community, where residents are empowered to act on things they feel strongly about."

Riccardo Chevalier, from the opposition Anti-FN group, says they will continue to fight the FN. "Our group has more and more people in it, and perhaps we can persuade Linden Lab to ban them.

"The FN has racist and homophobic ideas, and that is against the TOS."

FN spokesman Wolfram Hayek was defiant, saying the sim was one of the most popular in SL.

"We're doing our best to provide a discussion and entertainment place so those who cause trouble create a bad image for themselves and their ideas."

### RL TIMELINE

By LEIDER STEPANOV

THE incredible growth undergone by Second Life last year also prompted a spate of events and launches involving RL companies. The major talking points are outlined below:

**May** - Warner Bros create SL presence; BBC Radio1 hold a music weekend.

**June** - American Apparel launch a SL store; Universal Motown Records group enters SL.

**July** - Lego give residents sneak preview of RL products.

**September** - CNET opens space; Adidas starts selling virtual shoes.

**October** - Reuters launches SL bureau; Sony BMG opens sim; Pontiac launches Motorati island; Wired Magazine launches presence.

**November** - Dell opens four sim complex; GSD&M ad agency opens island.

**December** - IBM launches 12-sim complex; Cisco opens two sims; Big Brother arrives; virtual life.tv launched.

**January** - German energy giant EnBW joins up; Sears opens virtual shop.

**Future** - Vodafone, Channel 4 Radio, Phillips, ING and AOL are all preparing for their SL debuts.

# SL: THE NEXT GENERATION

By LEIDER STEPANOV

## HOW THE CORPORATE INFUX HAS CHANGED SECOND LIFE

EVERYWHERE you look you see familiar Real Life brands. Pontiac, IBM, Sony - RL has become apparent in SL like never before. Large companies have been falling over themselves to enter SL, and their presence has caused concern among many residents, particularly those who have been around for

a while. The true impact of this influx of corporations is not yet clear, although there has certainly been change since the likes of Warner Bros and American Apparel took the first tentative corporate steps into SL. Their entrance has gone hand in hand with a population ex-

plosion, and money plays a more important role in SL culture than ever before. Residents both new and old have benefited from the added investment in Second Life, although many lament the loss of the community spirit. What is certain, however, is that the trend is set to continue.

## THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

"I think it is a good thing theoretically but Lindens need to get their act together with regards to the current server situation."



Jericho:

"Their power and growth should be limited so they don't monopolise stuff. It is good to bring in more money for better servers, and if I can buy good quality RL things it could be great."

"I think RL companies could monopolise businesses and land. Who wants professionalism, I come here to escape it."



Churchi Burns:

"How much fun is a virtual world when it becomes just like the rotten boring REAL world? I don't mind links to websites, but I hate banner ads in my web browser."



Cynara DeSantis:

"They will probably want to earn a lot of money and that is not good for creativity. I suppose there will always be creators and consumers



Pauli Garbetta

but then there is the risk they will want to buy big pieces of SL."

"Sponsorship is always good, and brand names are cool. I'd buy a pair of Nike Air Max in SL just as in RL."



Daisy Overlord



Tonto Minelli

# BRANDED



By PHAM NEUTRA

## HOW BIG BUSINESS AFFECTS YOUR SECOND LIFE



In 2006 the outside world finally took note of Second Life. After a few articles in the mainstream press, media attention exploded - probably leading you into SL, too.

Big brands began to realise the potential value of SL and the arrival of household names such as American Apparel, Adidas, Reebok and Reuters were important for the recognition of SL as a serious platform for professional activities. The SL floodgates opened and a wave of car companies, TV networks, banks and other professional businesses from different sectors streamed in, with no signs of slowing down in 2007.

Yet not all SL residents warm to it. Some see it as a typical 'us or them' situation and want SL to stay a 'better world' with no big companies, no advertising and so on. Others are afraid that big companies will destroy the businesses of established residents.

Both fears are unfounded. First: SL is like other user-generated content social networking sites in that we the residents remain the most im-

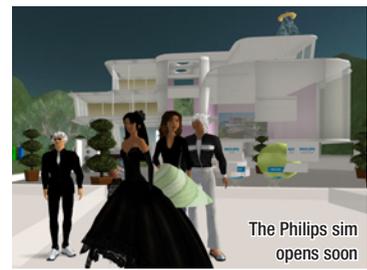


FIRST ATTEMPT: American Apparel

portant factor for what we see, buy and enjoy here. Big companies will never be able to control this. And with the world as large as it is today (more than 5,500 sims already and growing at a rate of nearly 20% each month) there are a lot of opportunities, 'to get away from it all'.

In the long run big brands will prove to be enriching the world that we are living in. At least the clever ones: Look at the first attempts from American Apparel, Adidas, Reebok and Toyota for example. Was the world flooded with their products? Certainly not. Most residents barely took note of them.

So what if they learn to do it better? To do this they will have to cooperate with residents - not compete with them! And this will lead to some very nice results, with new shopping, entertainment and employment opportunities for many residents. Look at some of the latest projects like Pontiac's Motorati or Showtime's The L Word. They both invite resident participation and provide some very real opportunities for creative SL entrepreneurs, and this in turn adds to the virtual world and is much more effective for the brand.



The Philips sim opens soon

### PONTIAC TALES

By LEIDER STEPANOV

MOTORATI Island is the SL home of American firm Pontiac. It was built by Campfire Media, whose creative director Razen Nefarious spoke to The AvaStar.

**TA:** What was the thinking behind the project?

**RN:** We knew we wanted to tell a story in Second Life and realised that just setting up a space wasn't the way to go. To be a success we had to become a part of the community.

**TA:** What were the aims of Pontiac in this project?

**RN:** Pontiac's aim was to create the theme of fusion marketing where they could find a space and work WITH rather than AT it.

**TA:** What has been the reaction of residents?

**RN:** Very supportive. We have had great attendance at all our events and I constantly see people enjoying the space.

**TA:** Has there been any negative reaction?

**RN:** At the beginning of the corporate deluge there was a backlash and it's understandable. I think we were very lucky in avoiding that by working with residents rather than just setting up a space blaring out "Pontiac, Pontiac, Pontiac".

**SWEDISH JOY**

By DEEEP WITTE

SWEDEN is set to open the first official embassy in Second Life.

The plans were announced this week by the head of the Swedish Institute, Olle Wästberg. Work has already begun on the project, which could include a digital version of the RL House of Sweden in the US.

It is not believed it will be possible to claim asylum in the Scandinavian country or apply for a passport at the virtual embassy.

**THE UNDEAD**

A HORDE of zombies descended onto Cybrary City on Info Island last week. Librarian Susan Payne was quick to call for help as the area rapidly became filled with hundreds of images of the zombie and moaning sounds filled the sim.

The attack was speedily dealt with and the zombie put to rest. This photo was taken by AvaStar reader Judi Newall who witnessed the this week's attack.

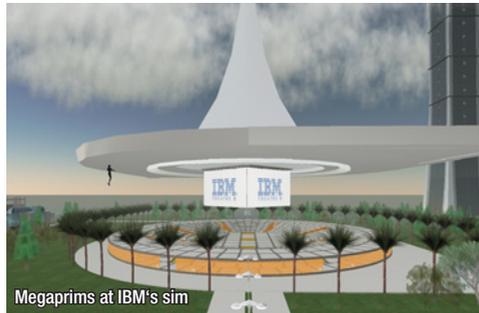


DAWN OF THE DEAD: Zombie attack

**A PRIM AS BIG AS A SIM**

By DEEEP WITTE

**BUILDERS COULD BE FACING THE END OF THE MEGAPRIM**



Megaprims at IBM's sim

BUILDERS will be forced to rely once again on manually lining up dozens of normal prims after the creation of new megaprims – which can be the size of entire sims – was banned by Linden Lab.

But are megaprims a builder's dream or a freak of nature?

They first appeared in the early days of pre-million residents. The whole of Second Life is based on basic primitive shapes called prims, and the building tools in the SL client only allowed for prims of 10x10x10, to the frustration of builders.

If they wanted to create a large surface, they had to line up dozens of prims – and one slip

of the mouse would send them right back to the beginning.

Enter the crafty devils of libsecondlife, who by reverse engineering the client, figured out how to bypass its limitations and create megaprims.

Many of the resulting megaprims have been put to good use, including those at the IBM and Saijo City sims. Stephane Zugzwang created a sim-wide Virtual Reality room which is only sold to sim owners and is limited to rezzing on their land to prevent abuse.

The current position of the Lindens appears to be to allow some megaprims where sim stability is good enough.

There have been reports, however, of megaprims simply disappearing from residents' inventories, a charge denied by Catherine Linden.

She said: "At this time we are not allowing any new megaprims to be created. They are remaining in inventories. However, if a megaprim is used in a destructive manner, it will not only be deleted from the inventory, the owner will be banned from Second Life."

So hold on to your megaprims, they may well be worth their virtual weight in gold – just don't get caught doing nasty things with them or else you may have to start looking for a third life.



GOLD DUST: Hang on to existing megaprims

**[t<sup>2</sup>] SECONDtunes**

connecting artists with their fans one song at a time

SECONDtunes is a project created by SL musician Bobby Fairweather that allows artists to sell their music in-world. The interface is extremely simple, and the user experience has been fantastic so far! Please IM in-world for information about selling music at your shows.



CHECK OUT THE VENDOR AT THESE PERFORMANCES

- Sun 28 - Kourosh Eusebio @ Muse Isle (8pm)
- Mon 29 - JueL Resistance @ AUDIO (5pm)
- Tue 30 - Bobby Fairweather @ The Lodge (7pm)
- Wed 31 - Ronnie Carr @ Luxor (6pm)
- Thu 1 - Julian Vesta @ FuturePerfect (3pm)
- Fri 2 - Louis Volare @ Nantucket Theater (10:30am)
- Sat 3 - JAMBA Losangeles @ Bibi's Beach Cafe (3pm)
- Sun 4 - jayne Scarborough @ FuturePerfect (Noon)

www.secondtunes.com



# REGIS BRAATHENS

## USING SL FOR RL AGENDAS

THE World Economic Forum interviews and discussions held in SL made me think again about using our world as a platform for political and corporate agendas.

There are some agendas which are promoted in world, such as the work of the Better World sim, that are welcomed. Here SL plays an important role in reaching out to make different groups aware of serious issues.

But with visiting governors, political representatives and now the presence of the WEF, we have to ask ourself whether we really want our world to be used in this way.

There is a thin line between organisations wanting to 'get in touch with the people' and wanting to be seen to get in touch with the people. However, the balance was nicely struck at the WEF discussions, as members of the SLLA were on hand to promote their own agenda of 'rights for



# THERE IS NO REASON TO SHUN BIG BUSINESS...YET

RESIDENTS WILL REMAIN THE DRIVING FORCE OF SL

The floodgates have opened and a tide of corporations is surging into Second Life. Around the world presswires are buzzing as one multinational after another confirms its participation.

"How much fun is a virtual world when it becomes just like the rotten boring REAL world?" said Daisy Overlord in our Voice of the People. It is one of many questions residents have been asking over the last few months, with some opposing vociferously the increased use of SL as a platform for groups or companies to promote their real life corporate or political agendas. So is the rapid commercialisation of SL a bad thing for the world? No, if we do not let it be. The world relies on its residents, not on the corporate multitude. We will continue to shape our world as we want to. The growing

professionalism of SL business has been driven wholly by ordinary residents, who have created a functioning and booming economy and excellent virtual services and goods. What the big name companies have ensured is that our world is taken seriously from the outside. And let's be honest, we all strive for recognition in both worlds - we want people in the real world to take note of the creativity and vision here and what we are trying to achieve. Yet if it were not for the serious interest of major companies in SL, the media would have treated us as players of a computer game, looking at the world as a large Big Brother house. With business moguls viewing our virtual world as the future of the internet and as a potential new market, the mainstream media

have started to take SL seriously too. Don't forget this positive media buzz has been responsible for hundreds of thousands of people checking out our world. Of course there is a flip side to the coin, as the well-documented problems due to huge traffic increases show. But our attitude has to be 'the more the merrier'. It would be selfish to try to exclude others who want to take part here. The same goes for big business. If they want to try and bring something positive to the world and join us on our virtual journey of discovery, then let them. Our only message of warning is, you will be ignored at your own peril.

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

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# your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

## VOIP STILL A PIPE DREAM

**Hey Regis, SECOND Life integration with VoIP? I'd say not close at all.**

Before you start seeing that, I would first expect to see some kind of plug-in system put in place to make third party integration products fit in more easily with a known interface and not depend on client code so much. Products such as SecondTalk, SLTalk, SecondPhone and SecondVoice are the

closest you will see for a while.

Linden Lab hasn't integrated voice into the SL client for one primary reason, voice masking. They have acknowledged in past town hall meetings that they've looked into it, but that the quality of current

masking is just not that great.

Many residents play the part of the opposite gender and with today's voice masking, privacy which people have become comfortable with would be removed.

VoIP is already in SL in that people Skype each other or use other applications such as Teamspeak. True integration however, is quite a way off.

**By Dedric Mauriac**

E-MAILS OF THE WEEK

500 LINDEN DOLLARS

**WRITE TO: YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM**

**Hi Regis, THANKS for all the info on jobs in last week's AvaStar - I'm sure it will come in handy for a lot of us newbies!**

But I want to speak out on behalf of all the newbies who aren't in it just for the money. Admittedly that I heard a lot about the supposed riches to be made in SL before I signed up, and that it was one of the factors which spurred me into

doing so.

And I am sure there are plenty of people who are only signing up because they think they will get rich.

But I don't want all the

older residents out there thinking bad things about everyone with 2007 in their 'born on' entry. Although I may still be finding my feet, I love it here, and I can't wait until I can learn how to create properly.

As SL will always be a hobby for me, I don't think I will ever be trying to make a living here either, so all I will need is to make a few L\$ to spend as a bit of pocket money.

THE BIG ISSUE

This week the motivations of the thousands of newbies entering Second Life has come under the microscope. Are they just in it for the money? Is there more to SL than L\$?

## SECOND LIFE IN FASHION

**Dear Regis,**

**I ENJOYED the AvaStar double-pager about the different amounts being earned in Second Life.**

It's true that there are lots of Noobs hitting SL and thinking they can take a ride on the world's 'gravity train'.

As a fashion designer, I just wanted to point out to all newbies that the reason I carry on designing is because I really enjoy it, and not because I make lots of Lindens. Earning here is about creativity, time, luck, friends, enthusiasm, understanding the world, but also something I haven't worked out yet - a certain je ne sais quoi!

That is precisely why it is exciting, and why I carry on. What is more, it gives me a place to belong and a purpose in-world, and so as much as anything else, it is my reason to carry on living here. I feel strongly that working here is a massive challenge and a way of giving something back to the community, NOT because it is an easy way to take something away from it!

**Name supplied**



YOUR QUESTIONS TO:  
ASKBIZ@THE-AVASTAR.COM

By  
Deeep Witte

## ask BIZ!

### BACK TO SCHOOL IN SECOND LIFE

What are the benefits of taking SL classes?

#### BIZ! says:

Classes are a very good way to learn skills in SL and will provide you with a much faster learning curve than learning on your own. For most classes, there is no charge and materials are free (a few may charge a small fee). You get the help of a live teacher and other classmates, and it can be a good way to make contacts in your SL profession.

Classes do not require registration or signing up. Just teleport into the classroom at the right time. Educational groups give free group memberships so you can get the class announcements and direct teleports from the instructors.

To find a class simply use the search function in SL.

### MAKE THE MOST OF CLASSIFIEDS

How do I make the most of classified ads?

#### BIZ! says:

The aim with a classified ad is to get it as high up as possible in the search rank so the

# MAKING YOUR SL FORTUNE



AQUATIC: Camping by the waterfalls

**Thanks for the info about jobs and money in The AvaStar last week. Do you have any more tips?**

#### BIZ! says:

The easiest way to make money is to let it fall into your lap. You can look for money trees using the search function and then pluck the fruit or camp. It doesn't pay a lot, but sometimes all you need is a few Lindens to buy that

great nearly-freebie at Yadni's Junkyard. Some of the poses are really amazing, like helping Julia Hathor dig up her gardens or sitting by a waterfall at Butterfly Island. It can be any activity requiring you to stay online - but beware, after 30 minutes SL will log you off, unless you have a fancy (and expensive) hack to keep you awake.

For a higher income

you will need to find a job, which you can find under classifieds in the search function.

Read job offers carefully because some require experience. so don't waste your or somebody else's time if you are not suited for the job!

You can also earn money by filling in surveys, for example at Square One Research (Haemosu 240, 21, 70).

**WRITE TO: ASKBIZ@THE-AVASTAR.COM**

most potential customers see it.

Make your ad as attractive as possible - ensure the wording is correct and easy to understand, and it has a good photo.

Most important of all is

the description of the product or place you are advertising. Use as many descriptive keywords as possible to increase search hits.

One tip is to place your ad in various categories to maximise hits.

The minimum price is L\$50 per week, but the more you pay, the higher your ad ranks. Tip: find out first what other people are paying and where your ad will show up in the listing to set your price.

# STAR-STUDED BUSINESS TALK

PROMINENT BUSINESS FIGURES DISCUSS FUTURE OF SECOND LIFE

By REGIS BRAATHENS

A STAR-studded list of guests kicked off the World Economic Forum discussion about social media in Second Life this week. Residents gathered in the Reuters auditorium to listen to Adam Reuters interview some of the biggest names in social media and blogging, business and politics. The audio discussions were streamed live into SL whilst each participant was present on stage with their avatar. The agenda was mixed between real life and Second Life.

Richard Edelman, CEO of the world's biggest independent public relations firm, was keen to talk about the role of business and public relations in SL, where "reality and virtual are becoming merged". When talking about how PR companies can play an important role here in advising clients how launch products in the virtual world, Edelman seemed to spill the beans on a possible forthcoming project. The PR mogul suggested that more products of "social interest" to SL may well be on the way, such as "Trojans selling condoms trying to persuade women to use these if they have sex."

Stelios Haji-Ioannou, the founder of easyjet also gave hints about expanding the easy



WITH LOVE FROM DAVOS  
Live interviews in SL

PICS: ALBERT W. ZAUBERFLOTE

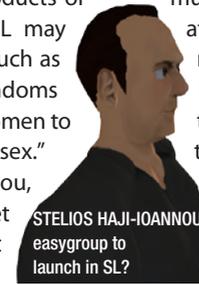
brand into the virtual world. Talking about virtual tourism, Stelios said: "The more you can show them in advance what they're likely to experience, the more likely you are to sell the holiday. So why not create the virtual Greek islands?"

Among other prominent guest avatars was Peter Gabriel, the former Genesis musician turned activist, who claimed "the lack of facial expressions is a flaw in SL".

Arianna Huffington, the political journalist and founder of the popular Huffington Post, also spoke at the event.

She was clearly excited about being in SL, explaining that when she made her Avatar, she thought too much midriff was "not appropriate" so she "made it a bit more respectable."

Fears of severe grieving against the WEF were unfounded, although Luemmel Lemmon of the WEF protest group DaDamos and the SLLA did briefly disrupt proceedings.



STELIOS HAJI-IOANNOU  
easygroup to launch in SL?

### AOL TO MAKE A SMALL POINT

AOL is set to launch a small presence in SL. The company is keeping its plans for 'AOL Pointe' under wraps, although it has been rumoured there will be an extreme sports park and an amphitheatre. "AOL is dipping its toes in the nascent virtual-worlds environment for research reasons, but we clearly don't consider this a significant project for the company," said AOL spokesperson Jaymelina Esmele.

### ALOFT CLOSED FOR REDESIGN

THE aloft hotel was this week covered with a large cardboard box as it underwent extensive refurbishment.

Starwood, Electric Sheep Company and Electric Artists, the companies behind the project, felt that SL residents were 'confused' about what the project was about.

The hotel aims to open up again soon.



ALOFT:  
Covered in virtual cardboard

CELEBRITIES & GOSSIP

ART STARS SET FOR SYMPOSIUM

THE shining lights of the Second Life art scene will gather for the largest symposium ever held in SL next month.

Celebrities will be among the hundreds of artists, educators, designers and researchers at the NM-Connect event from February 11-13.

Any art which can be translated and created within SL will be considered for installation at the event at the New Media Consortium's sim.

Visit [www.nmc.org/campus/NMConnect](http://www.nmc.org/campus/NMConnect) for an entry form, and return it by January 31 at the latest.

BIG APPLE STARS!

By NEBRIL SPARK

THE Mystery Isle is now open - as featured in the Avastar last week.

An official launch party for the sim, based on 1950s New York and found at Unicorn Woods dAlliez

(64, 60, 22), was held in the Radio City lounge featuring a live performance from FanofNick Drake.

Chilling at the party were sim owner and creator Silky Underall

and the lovely



OWNER: Silky Underall



IN TUNE: FanofNick Drake

Underall and beautiful Barcelona owner Chrissy Cordeaux as well as Bobby Fairweather from Secondtunes.com and the lovely

Catt Gable from T1Radio with her hubby Woodstock.



BARCELONA: Chrissy Cordeaux

STAR COUPLE: Catt Gable and Woodstock

SECONDTUNES: Bobby Fairweather

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS



AIMEE Weber

The delightful star builder, who has been enriching the SL landscape since January 30, 2004, is about to turn three years old!

Born just one day later on January 31, 2004, SLNN chief Doeko Cassidy is also celebrating three years in the world.

Happy Birthday to you both!



SPORTS



IN DISGUISE? Chancellor Schroeder

A SIGHTING of a little green alien going by the name of Chancellor Schroeder has caused a stir in the German community.

Sporting the traditional red of the Social Democratic Party, could it really be the former German Chancellor? "Many of us thought he wasn't from this planet" said one witness.

CELEBRITIES & GOSSIP

A PASSIONATE TALE

SL DEBUT OF PASSION, A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT SHARKS AND ONE MAN'S QUEST TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By LESTER NEFARIOUS



BIG SCREEN: Laguna Beach Club visitors watch the documentary



SHARKS: Q&A session with Felix Finsbury



FREEDIVING: Fascinated residents look on

FIFTY residents gathered at Laguna Beach Club at the weekend to watch the premiere of the sealife documentary 'Passion'.

The film was taken by SL resident Felix Finsbury and fea-

tured his father, the underwater photographer Wolfgang Leander, during his freediving exploration of the ocean and sharks. The filmmaker was on hand afterwards to talk to interested residents about the making of the film and some of the threats facing sharks in the real world. The film can be viewed for free at [www.oceanicdreams.com](http://www.oceanicdreams.com).

SECOND LIFE TURNS INTO A STICK-EM-UP PLAYGROUND FOR GAMERS

By NEBRIL SPARK



GOTCHA! Ryozu Yu shoots

last week it has, as Virtual NBC brought their in-world promotion game for the action movie 'Smokin Aces' to SL. Hundreds of residents have taken up arms in the quest to win a share of the L\$1,000,000 bounty on offer. Trigger-happy

Second Lifers have been roaming the roaming the grid trying to shoot-down fellow Smokin Aces players and win the daily prizes of L\$75,000. The overall winner will take home a whopping L\$350,000 lump sum when the game finishes on Jan 26.



MORTAL COMBAT: Trigger-happy residents



SMOKIN ACE: Jas Siegel

**THE AVASTAR FASHION CHALLENGE BARGAIN PARTY OUTFIT**

AVASTAR FASHIONISTA ISABELA BROCCO AND CELEBRITY DESIGNER CAILYN MILLER HAVE BEEN PUT TO THE TEST THIS WEEK. THEIR CHALLENGE - TO FIND A PARTY OUTFIT FOR LESS THAN L\$500.

**ISABEL BROCCO** has unearthed a sophisticated black lace dress, with delicately trimmed shoes and dark pearl jewels.

**Black Moon dress L\$190** made out of gorgeous lace from Vanilla Sola Design (Insula Inferi West 161, 42, 24).

**Black Rimmed Hat L\$0** free with the dress so you can choose exactly how to top the outfit off.

**Black Drop Pearl Earrings L\$125** to add that touch of pure class to your stylish new look from Simply Spoiled (Jizo 163, 224, 26).

**Black Lacy Shoes L\$0** that also change colours to match the rest of your clothes from Palomma and Wilco (Gallii 123, 85, 32).

**Black Sting Pearls L\$175** to create the perfect flourish to your bargain fashion outfit from Simply Spoiled (Jizo 163, 224, 26).

**CAILYN MILLER** found a playful party frock with hair and pale skin to match. Detail on the dress is a clever way of disguising a true bargain.

**GL Mini Kimono L\$150** comes in five different beautiful colours from Bare Rose (Bare Rose 92, 46, 30).

**Pulse Overload in Chilli L\$50** in a box with four other great shades of red from UF Only (Bare Rose 247, 157, 31).

**Knee Length Sock L\$0** which come free with the Mini Kimono from Bare Rose (Bare Rose 92, 46, 30).

**Chunky Star Colour Change Shoes L\$1** from Sarah Nerd Freebies (Philererne 176, 178, 55).

**FSkin White B6 L\$150** to offset the outfit. From Bare Rose (Bare Rose 92, 46, 30).

**Choker L\$0** free with the Kimono from Bare Rose (92, 46, 30).

**TOTAL L\$351**

**RAISE EYEBROWS**

PARTIES CAN BE CROWDED AND DARK. MAKE A BOLD STATEMENT WITH YOUR ACCESSORIES AND MAKE SURE YOUR AVATAR GETS SPOTTED.



L\$250

**VISIBILITY**  
Chameleon goggles come in various colours. Analog Dog, Pomponio (240, 210, 75)



L\$199

**COLOUR**  
Packs of nine, with a wide variety of colours at Hair By Taunt, Taunt (184, 78, 31)



L\$100

**FLIRTATIOUS**  
Colourful Eyelashes to frame your face Analog Dog, Pomponio (240, 210, 75)



L\$125

**SHINE THROUGH**  
Bold earrings from Jewellery @ Purple Rose, Babeli (127, 240, 25)



L\$90

**EYELASHES**  
for L\$100 each from Sin Skins, Por Seraphine (116, 185, 21)



L\$100

**BOOGIE BUDDY**  
Shyguy shoulder-buddies\ Bomb buddy\ Friendly Alien pet Grendel's Children, Chima (210, 21, 82)



L\$1



**THE AVASTAR Fashionista Isabel Brocco**

**HAIR NECESSITY**

**Hint:** When wearing prim hair use your camera look and zoom all the way around your hair and then zoom in close, it may help you to avoid hair that doesn't fit you perfectly.

**Tip:** Try on the demo to make sure it fits your head. If it looks a little off then try standing on the pose stand and go into edit and adjust. Work on it until you can't see any gaps. Sometimes it only takes a small adjustment, if you find you can't get it to fit, then face it - it's just not right for your head.



Demo hair: Try before you buy

**INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK WITH TALYN BARRETT DESIGNER FOR ANALISE:**

By CARRIE SODWIND  
**Silver Heart Locket** by Karsten Rutledge. Inside is a picture of Analise, my SL love. I gave her a matching one on our wedding day, so it has tons of sentimental value for me.

**Piere Basquirat** by Noam Sprocket. He's my neko sidekick and my goofy favourite. An angry cigarette smoking rat in a beret. What's not to love?

**Manicure and Pedicure Sets** from Robin Sojourner. Realistic nail polish, beautiful colours and a must have for my store ads or just day to day wear.

**Neko Ears and Tail** by Anisa Naumova. You will seldom find me without my neko bits. They go with everything and give me an excuse to purr or hiss depending on what's needed.



**TIGERLILY ON THE CUTTING EDGE**

Tigerlily Koi is famous for her cutting edge women's hairstyles at Calla. She spoke to RANDI BARRACUDA.

**RB:** What were the first hairstyles you sold?

**TK:** Magnolia, Holly and one that is now in our women's freebie box called First Hair.

**RB:** How much choice does Calla have?

**TK:** We have 69 women's styles out, and I think six for men. We have 60 colours we use regularly, and I get a little crazy around holidays. We had some Halloween colours and some holiday colours.

**RB:** What is your favourite design?

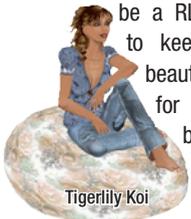
**TK:** Usually whichever one I finished last, but Gardenia is one I wear a lot.

**RB:** What is your motivation?

**TK:** Our customers. I love it when they get excited because we've got something new for them.

**RB:** What is your ambition in Second Life?

**TK:** Ultimately, for this to be a RL job, and to keep making beautiful hair for all the beautiful customers we get.



# PATH OF SAFETY

## INTERACTIVE GARDEN PART OF INVENTIVE NEW HOME FOR SUNBELT

By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

AN IMAGINATIVE new sim has been launched as the home of RL internet security company Sunbelt Software. Moon Adamant and her team from Beta Technologies are responsible for the sim (104, 161, 22) which includes a garden acting as a web page where the paths are a means of determining a security problem. "It is easier to walk in a garden than to follow a path through a maze of pages", said Moon. Following the symptoms of a problem should lead to the right solution.

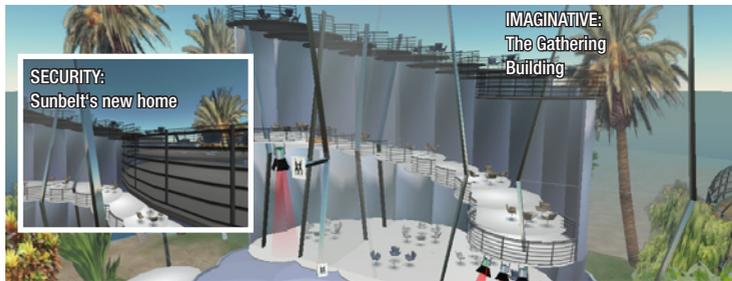
With freebies like the Sunbelt radar, security doors and various games,

visitors can keep an eye out for any trouble around.

A large building adapted from RL acts as the headquarters, while a more intriguing style is incorporated in the Gathering Building where dancing and chatting take place. It opens toward its audience like a shell and may be turned into a stage among other uses.

Stu Source, Sunbelt's founder, revealed his company's plans in SL.

"We are planning a series of lectures about IT security for free and a science fiction conference, with authors as guests who will also give lectures."



## LEARN THE FUTURE, LAND IN JAIL OR LEAVE GRAFFITI

By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

DETAILS are everything in the new Imogen sim (136, 41, 25) – from the specially made textures to the graffiti and scattered tyres.

The sim, by Haver Cole, contains both shops and houses and includes elegant villas as well as trendy back streets. Shoppers can indulge themselves on brands including Shai, Novix and Saeya – while the sights include a 7 Eleven store, a donut shop, a picturesque pond and a train line with a level crossing

and tunnels. True believers can also have their fortune told inside the Cin City movie theatre. Some visitors might even find themselves being arrested and having their mugshots taken by the Imogen police.



## DESIGNERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Jessica Qin

SL Birth Date:

2/16/2005

Famous for:

IBM Lead Architect, her attitude - "I don't crave fame. I'd rather have cash."

By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

**LL:** What aims do you have for your creations?

**JQ:** I am not that successful at it, but I try to build things that nobody else builds. There are like a zillion castles in SL so I don't build castles.

When someone says

"I like it" or better yet "I've never seen anything like that before", it's always a rush.

**LL:** What would you say is your personal favourite creation?

**JQ:** That's a tough one. I like my bike here, it has toggleable camera views. And I have a favourite fireworks gun, which works best at night.

**LL:** Which tools do you use when building?

**JQ:** I use and modify Ringmaker and Shapemaker a lot. I recently picked up Skidz Primz, but I haven't had a chance to work with it yet.

**LL:** What inspires you?

**JQ:** SL is like living in a science fiction novel for me, I love that. It provides inspiration for things

like my house, a starship design concept.

**LL:** Are there building styles you don't like?

**JQ:** I know people like to make models of RL stuff in here, and more power to them if that's their thing, but personally, I am more interested in making stuff that's better than RL. If you ask me, a lot more stuff needs to be phantom. Shop roofs and stairs are unnecessary unless they're decorative - it's not like you have to worry about rain in your shop.

**LL:** What would be your message to aspiring SL artists?

**JQ:** Practice, discover what others have made that might inspire you, and please, don't build any more castles.

**LL:** Has there been a highlight in your time as a builder in SL?

**JQ:** There was this one person who regularly visited my Jessica sim. I didn't really know him but one day I was downstairs doing something and I saw him and he was lying on his back on one of the hillsides, relaxing and looking up at the sky. It was beautiful. It made it all worthwhile.



# BAGS OF STYLE



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN



**Lo Lo Small Straw Handbag L\$50.**

This summer straw bag is perfect for the beach and for an extra L\$25. includes a cute puppy which follows you around. Where: Lo Lo (141, 225, 24) designed by Caroline Apollo.

**DF Meets Classic Chanel bag L\$300**

Every girl should have one classy handbag - this could be the one for you. Where: Deux Filles Designs, Desire (126, 116, 105) designed by Heidi Herbst.



**DOT HandBag L\$99**

Stylish elegant slim handbag in black and white. Where: EXAKT Flagship Store on Verloren (226, 34, 33)



**Gromit and Shaun fun back-**

**packs L\$250.** These wonderful bags include sounds as well as touch text. Where: 7 Deadly Prims, Penrose (117, 70, 28) designed by Raven Callisto.

**Pink Coach Tote bag L\$70**

Ingrid Ingersoll's tote with sunglasses hanging elegantly at the side. Where: Tableau (Tableau 227, 138, 23) designed by Ingrid Ingersoll.



# UNDER THE SEA

EXPLORE THE SECRETS CONCEALED BY THE OCEANS OF SL

By REGIS BRAATHENS



Emerald Bay



Oyster Bay

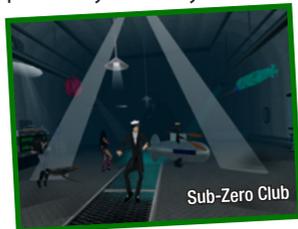
Camelot Island

UNDERWATER sims can be fun, relaxing and romantic.

A good starting point is the Oyster Bay Aquarium (Oyster 29, 171, 82), where you can watch the reef sharks, octopi and jellyfish swim around from the safety of a glass-encased lookout point. Morris Vig gives an interesting and informative tour of the underwater world and its inhabitants, with explanations of everything that you see. If you feel brave you can venture out and swim amongst the sealife yourself.

If you want to relax and get in touch with your innerself, then make your way down to The Labyrinth (209, 231, 8). Here you can unwind by making your way around the Support For Healing Labyrinth. Don't worry, there are no tricks and dead ends - the aim is simply to release tension

and open the mind as you wander alone in the depths of the sea. For other solitary places try the very ba-



Sub-Zero Club

sic Underwater Zen garden (Kula 3; 147, 178, 1) and amble around the cave-like passages in the sea.

Looking to escape somewhere for a sneaky cuddle and kiss? You will be sure to find a secluded spot amongst the ancient ruins of Emerald Bay (162, 222). Get steamy with the animation balls for cuddling and kissing and, for the daring, explore the dark dungeons. Alternatively you can head to Camelot Island to

explore the secret underwater lovers grotto. Head through the bright blue underwater waterfall to discover the hidden temples and lovers dens. To finish off the day there is nothing better than getting sweaty in an underwater club and then going out into the sea to cool down. Try the original Sub-Zero club (Oriental Express, 17, 237, 8) where ravers and sailors get down and strut their stuff to electronica and dark sounds.

If you'd rather dance among the fishes on the open seabed then try the popular club Atlantis (Whanganui 31, 73, 16).



The Labyrinth

# TAKE YOUR PICK

TAKE A QUICK PEEK AT THE HOT DESTINATIONS IN PROFILE PICKS. THIS WEEK: THE LINDENS



PHILIP LINDEN

There is only one pick in the profile of 'El Presidente': Susi's Machinima Gallery at Ochreous (43, 207, 132) showcases the work of a dozen talented machinima artists in around 30 funny and surreal short movies, with surrounds like a film set.



BUB LINDEN

A wide range of choice from 'Your Daddy': Svarga (107, 194, 29) is a beautiful and creative island. D'ni Almitra's w00t-ified Sauna at Hikuelo (226, 179, 35). The Deer at Maroon (54, 75, 43) - apparently he likes sitting on it.



STEVE LINDEN

Steve is a senior software developer, and his picks include: Gardens of Bliss (FuturePerfect 240, 59, 502), an exotic waterfall garden free for all to enjoy. Laguna Beach Club (Laguna 138, 50, 24) to see and be seen, ocean-side and under the stars.

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# BEST IN SHOPPING Sc Design Mall's

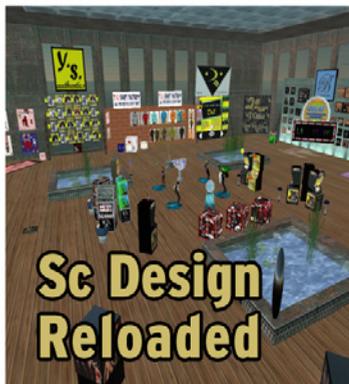


Caribbean Pearl

www.sc-design.net



Sc Design Plaza



Sc Design Reloaded

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

## DEAR RANDI



### EQUALITY IN SL

#### FURY AFTER GAY FRIENDS EJECTED FROM CLUB

**Dear Randi:** I have been frequenting one of the dance clubs in SL and had been having a fantastic time there. The music is great and the atmosphere was just right, nice and chilled but still lively. But then when I went last week, I invited a couple of gay friends to join me. They were scantily dressed, but they were not showing anything which they

shouldn't have been. Then suddenly a bouncer approached them and told them they had to leave! When I protested, I was bounced out as well. I thought Second Life was supposed to be free from discrimination, so why is this kind of thing still allowed to happen? — S.C.

pecially if he or she has built up a certain type of clientele. If it changes radically it can run off the regulars which could spell problems for the owner. I hope your friends weren't ejected because they're gay, but because they violated an unwritten dress code. Speak to the club owner, ask for an explanation and try to make peace.

**Randi says:** A club owner is sometimes in a difficult position, es-

#### RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK

Newlyweds Raif and Flora embrace...



I love you Flora, from the bottom of my heart.

Just don't sleep with any other girls, OK?



Why would she think I would do that?

#### SECOND LIFE: THE NAKED TRUTH

**Dear Randi:** I have created a beautiful avatar and really enjoy showing off her wonderful nude body to everyone. But sometimes people are nasty to me about it and threaten to file abuse reports. SL residents are all supposed to be over 18, so I don't understand what the big deal is. What can I do to stop people getting so offended about it? — T.T.

**Randi says:** Although you are fine with the nudity, others clearly may not be. There are numerous, well-appointed nude beaches in-world. It might be best to find one and hang out there.

#### A SLAVE TO HER NEW LIFESTYLE

**Dear Randi:** One of my first SL girlfriends isn't spending much time with me any more. Last week she told me she is now a Gorean slave and can communicate with me only through her master. We used to be so close. I'm pretty down about it, and I'm worried about her. What do you think is going on? — M.A.

**Randi says:** She has found a new lifestyle you don't yet understand. Give her some time, but realize that for now it is more important to her than your individual friendship. You should read up on the lifestyle before you judge it.



to be continued...

# WIN A L\$2000 DATE

YOU COULD LAND AN ALL EXPENSES PAID DATE WITH ONE OF THIS WEEK'S HOT SINGLES

By CARRIE SODWIND

CHECK out the boys and girls looking for love this week - and then contact us at newsdesk@the-avastar.com to be in with a chance of winning

a makeover and all expenses paid date with our star single worth L\$2,000. You can also email us if you want to be involved with The AvaStar's dating section.



STAR SINGLE

**How would you sum yourself up in one sentence?**

Spontaneous. I like to do things at the spur of the moment - less planning is better for me!

**What are your interests in Second Life?**

I enjoy hostessing at Phat Cat's, and I also

**What are your favourite places in SL?**

Places with lots of friendly people, but no escorts, I hate the atmosphere they gives off.

**What are you looking for in your dream date?**

Someone that cares for me the way I would care for her.

like exploring different scuba diving areas.

**What are your favourite places in SL?**  
Rua, welcome areas, and siggy's water-world.

**What are you looking for in your dream date?**

Someone strong, easy going, patient, confident. A go-getter.



JOHNATHON FREDRICKSON

**Sum yourself up in one sentence**  
Sincere, honest, caring, faithful and sweet.

**What are your interests in Second Life?**

I love meeting people but I am not interested in one-night-wonders. I want to get to know someone.



SIMONIE SWAIN

**How would you sum yourself up in one sentence?**

I am fun loving, flirtatious, happy-go-lucky and I love having intelligent conversations.

**What are your interests in Second Life?**

I have many, mainly dancing and exploring, and getting to know new people and cultures. I also work a little.

**What are your favourite places in SL?**  
Jazz clubs, gardens, secret quiet places.

**What are you looking for in your dream date?**

Someone that will give me some respect, and someone who will be honest.

**How would you sum yourself up in one sentence?**

Simply sweet and reliable.

**What are your interests in SL**

Having a good whirl on the dance floor and meeting people.

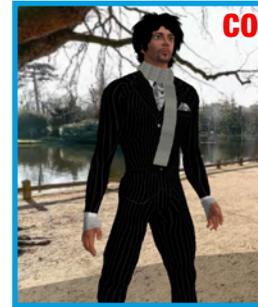
**What are your favourite places in Second Life?**

Phat Cat's Jazzy Blue Lounge and Anarchia.

**What are you looking for in your dream date?**

A decent guy who will enjoy talking to me. Someone well-built, and smart.

PRINCESSGRACE OLIVIER



COREY MITCHELL

**How would you sum yourself up in one sentence?**

I am a Christian who wants his light to shine in the darkness of the world.

**What are your interests in Second Life?**

My interests in SL are exploration, working for a magazine,

and building relationships with others.

**Favourite places in SL?**

My favourite place to hang out is Sublime Restaurant.

**What are you looking for in a partner?**

I am looking for a girl who has good morals and isn't afraid to share her feelings. Someone who is honest, trustworthy, and wants to be in a relationship for love, not just physical attraction.

**How would you sum yourself up in one sentence?**

I am a strong, talented, intelligent, independent, beautiful woman/avi inside and out.

**What are your interests in SL?**

To meet like minded people, have deep conversations, form strong bonds, share who I am with the SL world, have fun and dream the night away.

**Favourite places?**

I love lounging at my own home on my tropical island or at my home in the suburbs, but

when I want to listen to some great music and dance the night away it's Phat Cat's Jazz Lounge.

**What are you looking for in a partner?**

I'm looking for a casual SL relationship, nothing too serious, but enough to take me seriously. I want a man who can treat me with respect.

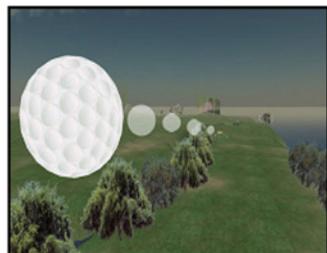
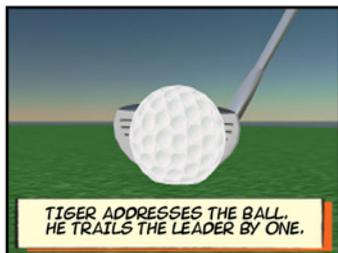
KANDI KITTINGER



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**THE AVASTAR**  
The AvaStar Island (106, 139, 91)

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# THE GUIDE WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK!

## THIS WEEK: GALLERIES

DOWN AND DIRTY:  
Filthy Fluno

PAINTING A PICTURE:

By GAETANA FAUST

## ART AND CULTURE

**AN ARRAY of talented artists display and sell their work across Second Life.**

It's not hard for art-lovers to become engrossed in what SL has to offer, and the Linden Gallery of Resident Art in Kirkby (222, 185, 23) is a perfect place to start exploring. It's a diverse cross-section of the resident-created art in SL.

The Angel Dorei Art Museum is an Asian-themed gallery with koi pond. It has rotating exhibits of the works of SL artists. The Albion Gallery features the organic

sculptures, paintings, and photographs of artist Albion DeVaux, and has a peaceful sculpture garden for the public to enjoy.

Filthy Fluno is one of the most famous and popular artists in SL. His Studio #4 in Artropolis (165, 137, 21) is a work of art in its own right. It resembles a junkyard littered with Filthy's colorful creations, and visitors can even go tubing through the gallery.

If you would like to buy some RL art for your SL home, try the Sismondi Gallery in Manitoba (80,

14, 62), which has Van Goghs, Rothkos, and works by lesser-known artists for sale. Another good bet is Rochefort's Reproductions at Fujin Retail Center(135, 14, 29), which has paintings by Renoir, Degas and other impressionist greats.

To learn more about SL's art galleries, you can pick up a notecard with a guide to the galleries of Second Life.

You can also join the Arts Council of Second Life group for all the latest news on cultural happenings in-world.

### MONA LISA

Second Louvre Museum



A stunning replica of the world famous real life Louvre in Paris, it is filled with sculpture, photography and paintings.

**Where:** Thompson (153, 97, 100)

### LEGENDS IN ART

Angel Dorei Museum



A picture of Ray Charles by artist Brian Hitchcock is one of many on display.

**Where:** Solaris (208, 134, 91)

### ORIGINAL ART

Albion Gallery



Organic sculptures, paintings and photographs from artist Albion DeVaux.

**Where:** Deneb (74, 70, 28).

1.26. - 2.1.

**'DON'T MISS!' –****ART AND DESIGN****UI Abstraction**

An exhibition at the Photography Studio in Grignano with work from 60 artists using UI settings to make abstract SL screenshots.

**When:** Now until February 8

**Where:** The Brownstone East, Grignano (113, 118)

**NIGHTLIFE****Launch Party with Balloon Rides**

Belgian RL company FastBridge are launching their new sim with games, rides and a fantastic aerial view.

**When:** February 1, 06:00 - 08:00

**Where:** FastBridge, Meilan Bay (237, 122)

**NIGHTLIFE****Grand Opening of Salsa en Cielo**

Drink, dance, chat, and of course dance sexy salsa all night long at the opening of this new Salsa club.

**When:** January 27, 19:00

**Where:** Ebersberg (155, 9)

**EDUCATION****Create a Better You**

Learn the best tips on how to makeover your avatar without spending loads of Lindens.

**When:** January 27, 09:00 - 10:00

**Where:** NCI Plaza, Kuula (54,175)

**MUSIC****Live Irish music**

Celtic band featuring traditional and contemporary Irish music.

**When:** January 26, 15:00

**Where:** The Blarney Stone, Dublin (81, 81)

**EVENT OF THE WEEK!****Golf Tournament**

A monthly golf tournament which is open to anyone who has played a round of golf at Holly Kai in the past.

**When:** January 27, 10:00

**Where:** Holly Kai Golf Club (Hollywood 189,161)

**EVENTS OF THE WEEK****ART & CULTURE****Story Night with Jaime Sismondi**

Jaime Sismondi is a renowned podcaster with the Get Jacked! internet radio show. Hear him tell his favourite tales as only he can.

**When:** January 28, 17:00 - 18:00

**Where:** SoHo Citylights, SoHo (128, 128)

**ART****Bare Rose Tokyo**

The shop hosts an opening party for the new exhibition Japan in Pink / Japan in Grey featuring photos of Japan by award winning photographer Song Li.

**When:** January 27, 20:00 - 22:00

**Where:** Bare Rose (146, 38)

**COMPETITION****Your Best Builds**

Calling all inventive builders - be in with the chance to win L\$5,000 by entering this competition. Entries can be anything made from prims.

**When:** January 31, 14:00 - 17:00

**Where:** English Rose (124,161)

**EVENT OF THE WEEK!****House Party Opening**

Cool property opening with erupting volcano, underwater park, waterfall, beach camp, and a beautiful art house. Live '60s music at 11:00.

**When:** January 28 09:00 - 00:00

**Where:** Pele, Forsaken (49, 208)

**DISCUSSION****Relationships Discussion Group**

Examine how our SL relationships impact on those in RL with a licensed psychologist. Share your stories and learn from the experience of others.

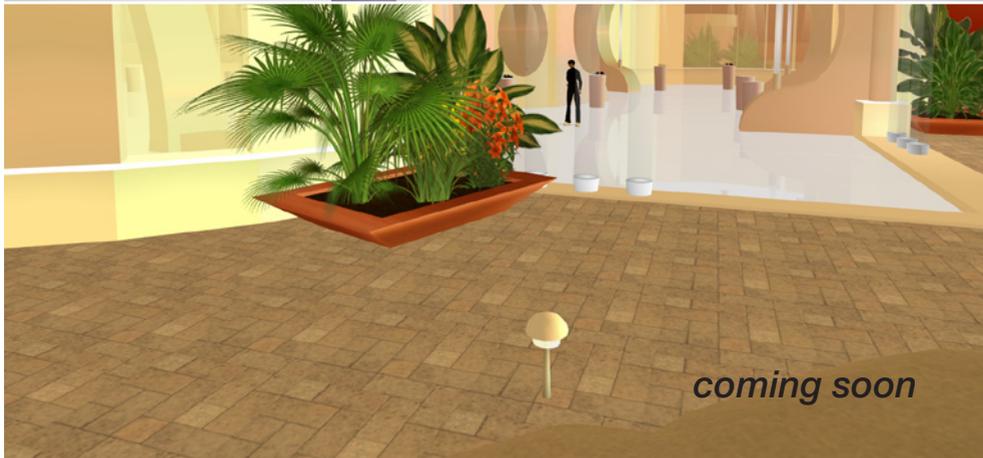
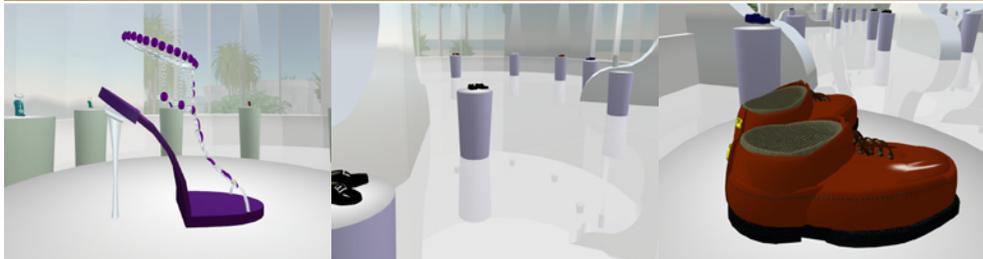
**When:** January 29, 08:30 - 09:30

**Where:** Kkotsam (169,179)

**WANT TO SEE YOUR EVENT HERE?**

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# feeling that lingers on HEAVENLY SOLES



coming soon

# WACKY WIRXLI'S NEWBIE NIGHTMARE

By CARRIE SODWIND

**WIRXLI FLIMFLAM** is a performance artist and curator. Her cool charisma and wacky avatar will be on display at the 2007 Live Biennial of Performance Art in Vancouver later this year.

**THE AVASTAR:** How was your first day in Second Life?

**WIRXLI FLIMFLAM:** It was like one of those bad dreams where you try to run around but are frozen in your tracks. My avatar could barely move because my old video card was not optimized for Second Life. I was stuck within three virtual feet of my first teleport onto Orientation Island. It was only seven months later that I gained proper access.

**TA:** What was your most embarrassing moment as a newbie?

**WF:** A friend was helping me to put on my pentagram necklace properly. It kept on hovering a few virtual

inches in front of me and was rotated on its side until I could re-align it to float near my neck. I am still terrible at object placement.

**TA:** Any advice for newbies?

**WF:** Tweak your avatar's style. First thing you should do. If you have RL friends inside, get them to help you to speed everything up. If not, think about having a custom avatar made for you.

**TA:** When did you feel at home in SL?

**WF:** When the core 8 members of my performance art group, Second Front, had been assembled. For me, it is the people rather than the space who make me comfortable.



DIARY OF  
A NEWBIE

## PRETTY GIRLS

IN my first week, I just wandered around a lot looking for people to meet. Then I managed to get stuck in a basement where I was attacked by a crazy floppy squid type monster.

Fortunately, I then discovered that piles of green dots on the map meant lots of people. So I started clicking on them. But most of them were dance clubs, strip clubs, and casinos, the sorts of places I don't care for. One day I ended up at Help Island and now I just stick around looking for new people to meet.

Mostly I come to look at pretty girls and chat. I love the artistic creativity of female avatars - very beautiful artwork, like the women in a comic book. I like chatting with the really pretty ones, seeing if they really have a mind to explore. Some of the girls ask if I'm hitting on them. I guess everybody has something they are really in to and for me it is pretty women. Sure, the towers, the buildings, the spaceships are all very nice, but they just don't beat looking at the pretty girls.

DO



## DO'S AND DON'TS: LIVE MUSIC

By GAETANA FAUST

DON'T

- + Feel free to dance along to the music, if the spirit moves you.
- + Turn down the sound effects slider in preferences, so you don't hear a lot of noise to interfere with the music.
- + Use a forward slash in front of your chat as a courtesy to those who haven't turned sound effects off.
- + Join a group to find out about upcoming gigs by your favorite SL artist.
- + Tip the hard-working musicians - if you're enjoying the music.
- IM live artists while they are playing. Their hands are full already.
- Use concert HUDs or chat spam that fills up the screen. It makes it harder to see what's going on.
- Wear a lot of bling, poofers, and other attachments at concerts. All the people and their primms add to the lag and can bring down the sim.
- Panic if you lose the music stream. Click the Play arrow on the music control to start again.

# THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

## QUEUE MARLOWE

DESIGNS ALL KINDS OF QUIRKY AND OFF THE WALL AVATARS AND AVATAR DECORATIONS AS WELL AS CREATING ALTERNATIVE CHILL OUT DESTINATIONS. SHE IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON HER OWN SIM.

By **CARRIE SODWIND**

### PROFILE

#### NAME:

Queue Marlowe

#### BIRTH DATE:

4/26/2005

#### PROFESSION:

Hair and Avatar  
Decoration Designer

#### ATTITUDE:

Energetic and  
Imaginative

**THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?**

**QUEUE MARLOWE:** My ability to create a 3D object from an image in my head. I have a wild imagination and love being able to convey almost anything.

**TA: What is your favourite place in SL?**

**QM:** My 'shrink'. It's a huge ball with rotating textures which

gradually changes colour. I spend a great deal of time in there, it's relaxing and envelops you in good energy. People say it's exactly what they need after a rough day.

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

**QM:** I would like to see individuals pushing the boundaries, going beyond their comfort zones.

**TA: What do you spend most time doing in SL?**

**QM:** Creating. My head explodes into a pure flow of ideas when I am in here.

**TA: What personal SL achievements are you most proud of?**

**QM:** My business, Analog Dog Clothing, which has grown like a vine. There's been so little planning but so much influence from the wonderful people I have met here. Also having my designs featured in the ISEA exhibition in San Jose.

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

**QM:** A skin I often wear that is like an underwater galaxy in human form.

**TA: Who would you vote for president of SL if there was one?**

**QM:** I would make a cocktail avatar, with lanalic's good sense, Dancoyote's imagination, Elektra's vibrance and bits of Asonga's and Anhinga's souls - ooooh yum and a lime on the side!

