

THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

Valentine's Day special!

Luscious lingerie, fabulous freebies, and more...

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ONE YEAR ON AND STILL GOING STRONG!

WAR ON COPYCATS LATEST

TEXTURE THEFT SPARKS STRIKE

By **BABU WRITER**

SKIN designers have gone on strike in protest at a recent spate of texture thefts.

FULL STORY: SEE PAGE 3

- Fury at Lab's lack of action
- Rumours of copybots rising

INSIDE OPINION

"I find my desire to work long hours making new items is diminishing rapidly when I know I will get little acknowledgment and even less reward."

YOUR MAIL p.11

"Over the last 12 months, the variety of avatar design has grown a lot, and we are not seeing as many avs with archetypal 'perfect' looks. Nowadays, original is king – and I think that sums up Second Life perfectly."



LEIDER STEPANOV p.12

THE AVASTAR

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



NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

- 33** ... per cent of residents spend more than 30 hours a week in-world, according to a recent Dutch survey.
- 50** ... car dealerships could take up space at Autoland, where the Automobile Dealer Relations Center will open on March 1.
- 10,000** ... in US\$ is the sale price of some works of virtual art, according to an Architectural Digest article on the Avatrait Gallery.

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN!



ROLA Hykova strutted her stuff on stage at the second semi-final of the Best of SL Live 2008 contest. The final takes place on February 9. Pic by Phil Spackler.

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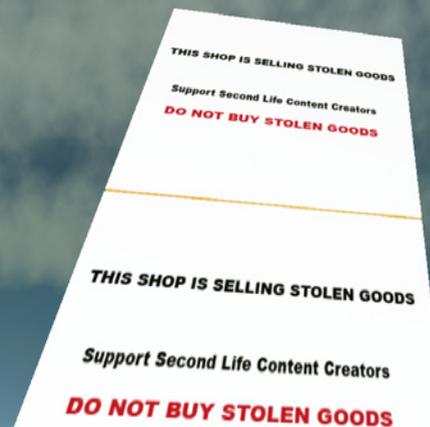
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RETURN OF COPYBOT?

By BABUWRITER

SUPPORT FOR SL CREATORS: Designers put pressure on texture thieves



DESIGNER FURY AT RISE IN SL FAKES – FEARS OVER A NEW COPYBOT MOUNT

SKIN designers have gone on strike in protest at a recent spate of texture thefts, with some claiming the dreaded copybot menace has returned to SL.

One well-known designer has even left the grid altogether in frustration at the lack of action to prevent the commercial copying of skins. Last weekend's announcement from Emilia Redgrave of RAC that she was giving up her store and friends in SL was followed by a riotous protest at two stores believed to be

selling copied skins at a lower price.

TARGETED

Fashionistas, including high-profile models and designers such as Callie Cline, invaded the stores to prevent shoppers entering. In response, Bonnie Arado, the owner of Mafya, one of the stores targeted, sent an abusive message to the MM Skins group before packing up and leaving. Both of her stores have now disappeared.

Minnu Palen, owner of MM Skins, has vowed to stop releasing products until Linden

Lab tackles the problem: "I don't think striking will change anything but at least I'm making the statement, and I'd rather do something than nothing. We are all tired of filing DMCA reports and not getting any results."

COPYBOT

But designer Dixie Barbosa fears copybots are to blame for the problems. She discovered suspicious skins in December, and said: "Piece by piece, they [were] exact copies from famous skin shops." Copybot, the debug-

ging tool used to duplicate items in SL regardless of ownership which was banned by Linden Lab in 2006, has been the subject of debate this week.

On the SLX Forum, a product called 'Second Inventory' enabling people to duplicate their inventory, went on sale briefly before being removed. On SLExchange, Quantum Jetcity revealed that he had recently reported a way to copy 'no copy' items to the Lab, but no action had been taken.

Got News?

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“YOU BI*CH!”

BUSINESSWOMAN TO TAKE ACTION TO STOP SL CATFIGHTING

By CARRIE SODWIND

LADIES in SL are too bitchy towards each other – and things need to change, according to one leading business woman.

Uma Troell, who owns the Perfumed Garden club, has slammed the attitudes of many female avs in the increasingly cut-throat SL business world. She claims bitchy behaviour is holding people back from succeeding, and has launched a new organisation – the Female Business Owners TradeUnion or FemBOT – to encourage better practice among women on the grid.

SL provides a unique business opportunity for women which they can't find in RL,

according to Troell, who built up her virtual company from scratch. Now she has warned that something must be done to stop the “vicious” behaviour: “SL lets the devil inside come out and play. It's particularly vicious, people's ethics and morals seem to go out the window since they can hide behind an avatar.”

ETHICAL

Issues such as the poaching of employees and clients, theft of materials and intellectual property as well as verbal assaults are all common problems, Troell revealed. That is why she created FemBOT with the aim of unifying women under the eye of high-profile fash-

ionistas and landowners. The union aims to give advice and put pressure on companies to comply with ethical practices.

SUPPORT

“Women are uniquely poised to lead the way in this movement,” Troell added. “My goal is to unify women and try and discourage the backstabbing.” The campaign has already gathered support from women who feel they have been affected, and photographer Elease Graves said she would definitely join: “There is so much that can be done with SL business that can better women's real lives. I would really like to see more women standing together and helping each other.”



FEMBOT SUPPORTER:
Photographer Elease Graves



TAKING ACTION:
FemBOT founder Uma Troell

NEWS BITES!

SVAROG SAYS BYE

THE creator of SL's only functioning ecosystem has announced she will leave the grid. Laukosargas Svarog, who created the Svarga sim, cited increasing regulation by Linden Lab and the intrusion of RL laws as the reasons for her departure.

TERRORISM IN SL?

THE Washington Post is the latest RL media outlet to link SL to global terrorism. A story appeared in the newspaper based on a government report describing virtual worlds as ideal breeding grounds for terrorists as monitoring suspects is almost impossible.

SL'S GOLDEN AGE

A GOLDRUSH could be set to hit SL as part of a new scheme by land owners to drive up traffic on their sims. They will bury nuggets on their land which residents can then chase around the grid in a scavenger hunt-type game.

HEALTHY SUPPORT

A COALITION of SL bodies promoting health was formed this week. Members of the Health Support Coalition will support each other and help new groups in SL.

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DEFYING THE ODDS

By MORRHYS GRAYSMARK

TILL DEATH DO US PART:
A happy couple tie the knot
at a beach wedding

THESE COUPLES PROVE MARRIAGE IN SL CAN LAST!

MARRYING on Valentine's Day proved to be a good omen for two romantic SL couples who will celebrate their wedding anniversaries on February 14.

The magic of the holiday seems to have rubbed off on Misty-Moon Ruxton and Reefer Bourgoin, who met in SL in January 2007. MistyMoon said she realised quickly she had met her life partner: "He was open, honest and caring. After about two weeks, I was totally sure he was the one."

Love has since blossomed in RL, where the couple first met up last June. Reefer attributed the continued success of their SL relationship partly to their becoming partners in RL: "We put time into the relationship. A lot of time."

With a RL marriage set to take place this year, Reefer is in a good position to offer advice on

keeping an in-world relationship going. He added: "Keep it simple – no lies, no games, no drama."

For Jade Jensen and Azraael Dhara, absence made the heart grow fonder. They met in SL several years ago, but it was only when Azraael returned after a long absence in the summer of 2006 did they hook up. Jade said: "We were just enjoying catching up. One thing led to another. "We talk every single day, and have successfully fought the time differences."

Although they haven't met in RL, it's definitely a possibility: "If there was ever someone I would consider moving into RL with, it's Az," Jensen added.

The couple's romantic Valentine's Day wedding saw their guests join them barefoot on a beautiful beach at sunset. Azraael chose a love song from his native Germany for their first dance at the reception, and he sang to his bride in English. It will provide great memories for Jade this Valentine's Day, and she added: "It was amazing, still makes me teary."



WE DO:
Jade Jensen and Azraael Dhara wed
on February 14, 2007

NEW LOOK FOR PHIL?

RESIDENTS CAMPAIGN TO CREATE NEW IMAGE FOR "EMBARRASSING" BOSS

By CARRIE SODWIND

THE emperor of SL needs new clothes – because his current avatar is an embarrassment to the grid, according to campaigners.

Lab CEO Philip Linden's av is well-known around SL, with his spiky hair, beard and 'hot lips' t-shirt. But it is an out-dated design which puts potential residents off, says the founder of the 'New Avatar for Philip Linden' group.

BENCHMARK

Tog Frog argues that as the ultimate ambassador for SL, Philip should have the fanciest in-world look possible. The matter came to a head for Frog when a RL colleague saw a picture of Philip's av in a newspaper, and told him: "This is your SL? The avatars there look like a 1990s video game. This is stone age!" Frog claims the look is an embarrassment to SL's image: "His av is often pictured in RL media,

print and web. Other metaverse and game platforms use their best avatar appearance for such media purposes. For the readers this is a benchmark.

Compared to other platforms, our ranking there is actually really low."

While many may have a chuckle at the efforts to give Philip a makeover, Frog is deadly serious about his efforts – and has already had a t-

tracted supporters such as Rezzable boss RightAsRain Rimbaud and ASpiRE! model Georgette Whitfield, who said: "I think he's quite a hottie in RL

so it's a shame this isn't reflected in his av. It doesn't look professional for the CEO to look like a noob."

There was no response from Philip himself to IMs from the AvaStar this week, but a spokesman seemed bemused by the campaign

when told of it, and said: "May I ask why people want a new style of Philip's avatar?"



MAKEOVER: Lab CEO rarely changes his style



SUGGESTION #1: Phil as a furry?



SUGGESTION #2: Phil as a robot?



SUGGESTION #3: Phil with muscles and tattoos?

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 Opina
President of S.L.P.A.

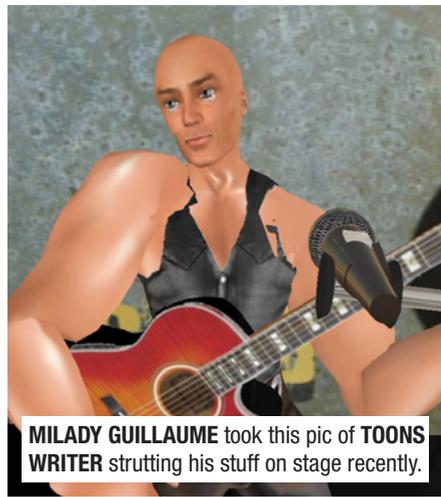
L\$500
PICS
OF THE WEEK
 yourphotos@the-avastar.com



Virtual TV programme LIFE 4-U celebrated its 50th show by inviting viewers to send in their own reports and films. Pic by F.K.



Ahoy mateys – a famous face sails into SL, as this snap of actor **JOHNNY DEPP** by **SKYCAT RANGER** shows.



MILADY GUILLAUME took this pic of **TOONS WRITER** strutting his stuff on stage recently.



Taking a good look at yourself has on a whole new meaning when you turn the camera around, as **DEREK HOTGER** discovered.

your mail @ YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

TIME TO REIGN IN BIG FIRMS

Hey Regis,
THANK you very much for highlighting the plight of small business owners last week.

Many people will say that in the free market we must all take our chances but no one can convince me it is good for SL that a few huge companies are squeezing out creative individuals. SL grew strong because it was a haven away from

the harsh reality of RL and there is no doubt the inventions and designs of individuals made a huge contribution to this boom.

But I find my desire to work long hours making new items is diminishing rapidly when I know I will get little acknowledgement and even less

reward. If people want everything in their lives to be controlled by a handful of giant firms all they have to do is step outside for a while. In-world should be different and Linden Lab should take steps to protect the average designer and retailer. I am not sure what form this action can take

but to me it is clear that doing nothing is not an option.

By S.V.

KEEP VALENTINE'S DAY OFF THE GRID

Dear Regis,

I AM frustrated at the Valentine's Day promotions appearing all over the grid.

It is bad enough we have to tolerate this tacky and commercialised occasion in RL but why does it have to spread here as well?

In SL people always have time for each other and gifts are plentiful and cheap so there is no excuse for needing a special day to say I love you.

By T.D.

L\$500
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 YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

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 • Quality Animos
 • Can be any length
 • Self rezzing pose balls adjust to length of rope



LEIDER STEPANOV

HEAD, BRICK WALL

IT seems we can add 'going missing' to the list of misfortunes which can befall an avatar.

Mavi Beck wrote in to tell us about a conversation her husband, Jarl Soderstrom, had with Garry Linden. It went like this:

Garry Linden: "I am having a hard time finding a frozen avatar by the name of [name removed!], have you seen him?"

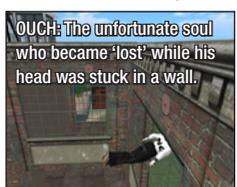
Jarl Soderstrom: "He was stuck inside of a wall in Takahara East for over 42 hours. The owners orbited his avatar."

GL: "Ah, k. Well thank you. Have a fantastic day."

JS: "I am sorry... I think he had been there for almost two days without moving. Sorry I couldn't be of more help."

GL: "It's fine we will find him, you were actually a great help."

Spending 42 hours with your head in a wall can't be that much fun. But what is more worrying is the fact that the Lindens couldn't find him again!



OUCH! The unfortunate soul who became 'lost' while his head was stuck in a wall.

SL IS SAYING GOODBYE TO THE BARBIE AND KEN LOOK

US POLL SHOWS MANY WOULD DESIGN AVATARS BASED ON RL LOOKS

THERE has been an enormous amount written about how we look in Second Life.

Both in the SL blogosphere and in the RL media, everyone seems fascinated with the choices residents make when it comes to designing their avatars.

DIFFERENT

With that in mind, the results of a poll carried out by the US Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee were very interesting. As reported by Reuters this week, 3,585 people were asked if they would make their avatar dramatically dif-

ferent from their RL selves. A massive 44.2 per cent responded that they would stay loyal to their physical look, while only 14.7 per cent would make significant changes.

CONFUSED

The proportion of those who would stick to the same basic appearance but enhance some chosen features stood at 18.1 per cent, while 22.9 per cent found it all too confusing and admitted that they weren't sure.

It makes for an interesting comparison – assuming those questioned were large-

ly not yet part of the metaverse, what would the results be like if you asked 3,585 SLers?

ORIGINAL

I think the category that would drop most would be those who enhanced RL features on their avatar. Over the last year, the variety of avatar design has grown a lot, and we not seeing as many avatars with archetypal 'perfect' looks. Nowadays, original is king – and I think that sums up SL perfectly.

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

INTERESTING WEDDING PRESENTS...

CONGRATULATIONS to Jade Jensen and Azrael Dhara, who will celebrate their first wedding anniversary on Valentine's Day (see page seven).

The story goes that at their marriage ceremony last year, the best man was Stroker Serpentine, owner of an adult toy shop which sells the SexGen bed among other things. And the maid of honour was Tink

Buttercup, owner of Risque Animations, which sells... well, you can guess. The couple were worried wedding guests might think they were pervs! Happy anniversary!



AHH BLESS: Jade and Azrael at their wedding

META-NEWS!

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

KIDS WILL LOVE CHORES!

By COYNE NAGY

KIDS could soon be bugging their parents to give them more chores around the house in order to earn money for a virtual world.

Minyanville Publishing and Kaboose.com have created Minyanland, which is currently in beta development, with the goal of educating youngsters about financial responsibility. Residents of the world in the target

age group of eight to 12 will be given 5,000 units of Minyanmoney plus a house valued at 50,000.

RESPONSIBILITY

They will learn about paying mortgages, saving and investing, as well as working – and not just in-world. In a move sure to be popular with mums and dads everywhere, parents can increase or decrease avatar income based on the completion of RL household

chores. Minyanville claims to be the first free financial community for kids, and founder and CEO Todd Harrison said: "The gap between what people know about finance and what they need to know has never been greater. Minyanland teaches kids at an early age the basic responsibility of earning money, spending and saving wisely, and the meaning of charity."

ENTROPIA CLIENT

A NEW viewing client has been released for Entropia which includes a German language option. The company hopes it will attract more people from Germany to sign up for the world

STANFORD EVENT

STANFORD University will host the Metaverse U conference on February 16-17. The event will see technology leaders, artists, academics and students discussing hot topics in virtual worlds.

ADVERT

Pepita 20, 160, 324

G&N Quality Design

From informal to formal, sexy or sassy, casual and funky to business and career, all items of clothing to suit. Specialising in Pants / Trousers sets and Pant suits

Design by Nikki Heron

Pepita 20, 160, 324



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)

BIZ BITES!

SL BAD FOR ADS

SL is not suitable for RL advertising, according to the CEO of leading virtual ad firm IGA Worldwide. Justin Townsend says the lack of a standard ad format between virtual worlds means there is not a big enough audience for each campaign.

JOB CYN THE BAG

CYN Linden has become the Lab's new vice president of customer relations, responsible for billing, risk management and in-world support.

FREE MARKET L\$

JT FINANCIAL chief Arbitrage Wise has called for L\$ to operate in the free market. He believes that removing the link between SL's currency and the US\$ would help prevent the grid suffering should the American economy go into recession.

POINTS NOT CASH

IN-WORLD credit card company FirstMeta has launched measures to beat the banking ban. Rather than receiving interest, customers will be given bonus points which can then be swapped for goods and services.

SALES SOAR AS LOVERS BUY UP

SHOP OWNERS DELIGHT AT VALENTINE'S DAY SALES BOOST

By COYNE NAGY

CUPID'S arrows are bringing high profits to SL as well as romance as shoppers load up with Valentine's Day gifts for their loved ones.

In-world entrepreneurs have been quick to exploit the huge market for goods related to Valentine's Day in the run up to February 14. Married couples, residents in stable relationships and even those courting their perfect partner have all been taking advantage of the chance to say 'I love you' to the sound of ringing cash registers. The boom has seen profits soar for businesses all over the grid.

RISING SALES

Jewellers and florists will naturally be among the most obvious beneficiaries but a whole host of industries have seen rising sales. JCNY Col-

lection, which sells wedding rings and lingerie, is one of the companies currently enjoying a busy time of year. Owner JD Hansen said: "Valentine's Day is a special time of year for us. Most of the creations at JCNY are couples-based and built. The focus is on love, so we are working on various special releases for Valentines Day."

Angelsia Babeli of Moonwisher Jewellery agreed. She said: "I really would expect a difference a few days beforehand, say from February 10. I had a big increase last year so fingers crossed it will be the same again."

Shopper Alia Whitfield has been buying gifts for her partner of six months, and she said: "Valentine's Day might not be for everyone but for me it is the perfect chance to show my boyfriend how much I think about him. Gifts should be useful but frivolous, and nothing that can die! My advice to all the men out there - especially mine - is if it sparkles, it can't be that bad!"



SPECIAL RELEASES: JD Hansen is making the most of Feb 14

a-stars



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



MACHINIMA STARS:
(From left) Actors Leylani Innis, Maria Penell and creator Noelani Mahana

ALEX BLACK PREMIERE HIT!



ACTION HEROES:
The Alex Black cast

By **CARRIE SODWIND**, Pics by **LOOKER LUMET**
AN impressive new action machinima series called 'The Nine Deaths of Alex Black' was launched in-world at a special premiere on Sunday. The cast of the film were all present at the Vibe Chinese Theatre at the Shaea sim to walk up the red carpet.

Created by **Noelani Mahana**, the film tells the story Alex Black, a powerful heroine with supernatural abilities. Mahana said: "I decided I wanted to try and do something a bit more ambitious, so I rolled around a story idea that I'd been thinking of in the past for a novella."

Catwalk test run



MODEL:
SerinaJane Loon

FIVE wannabe catwalk stars took to the stage on Sunday as part of their 'initiation' to become an Aspire! Model. SerinaJane Loon, Georgette Whitfield, a-stars' Isabel Brocco, Cherie Parker and Mui Mukerji organised the show themselves as the final task they had to complete before joining the model agency.



TOP NOTCH:
Musician Kain Scala

SL piano prodigies

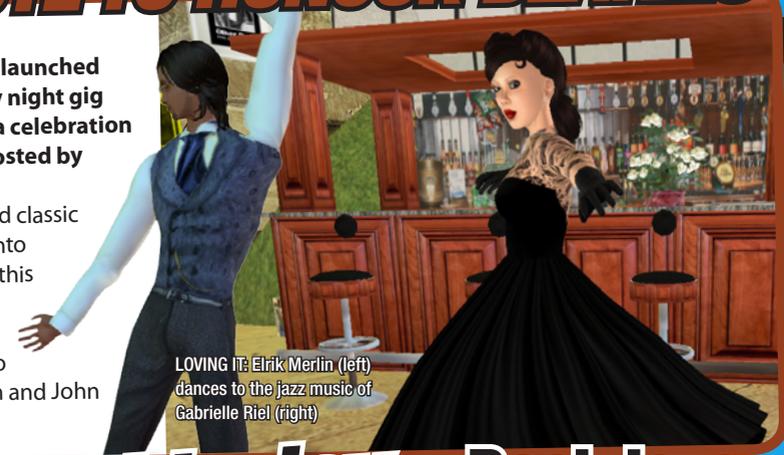
A NEW centre for the arts opened on Saturday at Fleets Cove Beach with performances from a top-notch musical line-up. The launch party of the Objectivist Institute featured SL stars such as singer **Jaynine Scarborough** and pianist **Benito Flores**, who recently performed at the prestigious RL Alla Scala Theatre in Milan. Next up was **TomoFumi Mayako**, an 18-year-old prodigy and one to look out for!

TRIBUTE TO HONOUR BEATLES

By **KITTY OTOOLE**

TRIBUTE Island launched a regular Friday night gig last week with a celebration of jazz music hosted by **Gabrielle Riel**.

Revellers enjoyed classic jazz tunes well into the night, while this Friday will see a Beatles evening paying tribute to George Harrison and John Lennon.



LOVING IT: Erik Merlin (left) dances to the jazz music of Gabrielle Riel (right)

Apfelland b-day

THE Apfelland group celebrated its first anniversary with a massive birthday bash. Now totaling 25 sims, Apfelland is home to one of the biggest German communities in SL. So it was no surprise that the main sim was packed out with hundreds coming to dance to DJ **ChiChi Dagostino's** tunes.

By **PHILSPACKLER**



ON THE DECKS:
ChiChi Dagostino spins the records

Book lovers celebrate



CELEB GUEST:
Author Marilyn Johnson aka Marilena Basevi

By **KITTY OTOOLE**
BOOK lovers flocked to the library at Info Island this week for the 2008 Second Life Literary Festival. A host of authors entertained the crowd with readings, including Marilyn Johnson appearing as avatar **Marilena Basevi** who discussed her latest work 'The Dead Beat'. Sci-Fi writers **Sharon Lee** and **Steve Miller** were also present to talk about 'The Liadon Universe' with fans.

ZHONG FU FILM SUCCESS

MOVING:
The film was screened at Princeton's sim



By **BABU WRITER**

A **POWERFUL** machinima film was given its premiere in-world on February 3 at the Princeton WWS sim. 'Passage to Zhong Fu' was created for SL's 48 Hour Film Project, and featured Poid Mahovlich among the actors.

SAUCY, SEXY, SULTRY!

By JOY FELLINI

HE LOVES ME, HE LOVES ME NOT, HE LOVES ME...

Model Joy Fellini wears Nightlife lingerie set by Solange

Fashions clothes, St Wall (221,147,99)

L\$350

Chatelaine shoulder brooch and chain by Muse fine Jewelry

Home to muse, Muse (171,180,23)

L\$450

L\$800



Model Joy Fellini wears lingerie Rikes Desire 2

By Angel Dessous

Blue Sky Shopping Center, Blue Sky (113,21,24)

L\$290

Pearldrop Belly chain

by Twisted Rose @ Gurshi, Simply Spoiled (240,159,59)

L\$150

L\$440



Model Joy Fellini wears lingerie Hollywood Glamour Corset

by Boutique Lovely lingerie, De Swinside (155,193,29)

L\$350

Shoes SM "spiral" coco/diamont stiletto

by Nonna Hedges, formal, gowns, bridal, Détails (198,100,42)

L\$300



L\$650



Model Frenchy Ella wears lingerie Jade by Insolence

Insolence-Lingerie-Shoes, Venom (153, 214, 28)

L\$290



Purple Rose
JEWELRY & FASHION

caLLie cLine's
STYLE HOTLINE



AND THE 'EYES' HAVE IT!

SIMPLY CHANGING YOUR EYES CAN REVOLUTIONISE YOUR WHOLE LOOK

I WANT to show you this week how one simple adjustment can bring a big change to your face and overall look.

In these pictures, I have started with a retro hairdo and a basic skin with red lips. In the first photo, I have normal prim lashes on, while the next one shows

lashes which are a bit more 'theatrical' and they make my face look more dramatic. They could even be used in a fantasy costume.

AFFORDABLE

After that, I chose different glasses, so you can see how they can completely change the mood and look of your face. If you imagine just

this one change with the same outfit, you can see how one small addition to the eyes can alter the whole feel of your face, and hence your look. There are lots of different lashes, glasses, eyes and piercings you can add to your eye area for a very dramatic look. Some people say they can't afford new skins costing L\$500-4,000 a pop just to change how their eyes look, and this is a suggestion I give a lot of my customers. Glasses cost from nothing upwards, but all of those in the photos are under L\$200, while lashes are L\$50-100.



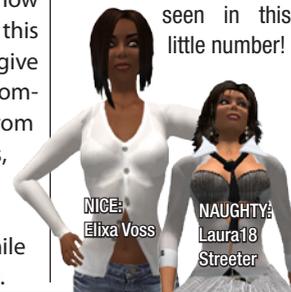
LOOKING GOOD: Callie with her different eyes, lashes and glasses.

WHAT'S HOT!
WHITE AND TIGHT

BY CARRIE SODWIND

TIGHT white shirts are the latest in skin-revealing business wear.

Landowner and model Elixia Voss was spotted busily doing some building in a thin linen shirt, revealing a white lace bra underneath and exposing her tanned belly. But the blouse was not as drastically undone as the shirt of ILS owner, Laura18 Streeter. The new fashion sim boss looked like she'd just appeared from round the back of the school bike shed when she was seen in this little number!



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

HIT: IF you want an alternative to traditional romance for Valentine's Day, hurry along to BF, Addictive (166, 162, 22) for an artistic limited edition t-shirt print for L\$60 each –



but there's only 200 of them, so you will have to be quick.



MISS: NOW may be a bad time to give away free skins, after recent accusations of content theft hang the air on the fashion circuit. Even if it is an act of generosity, it may be wiser not to support freebie skin give-away offers like heart-cheeked 'Love' at Kanji skin in Ku (145, 212, 30).

HIT: YOU can't go wrong with this delicate four-piece lingerie classic called Valentine. The thin tulle is matched with a pair of shiny silk stockings, new at Insolence, Venom (182, 190, 28) for L\$290.



cc
callie cline



LOVE IS IN THE AIR



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN



L\$400

Valentine's Day Lovers Tray
By Cassandra Jackson
Voti (224, 48, 23)

L\$255

Box of Chocolate Candy
By Karamel Madison
Kitchen Korner (201, 76, 42)



L\$149

Valentine Hat
By Myshail Sobocinski
LM Paradise (103, 4, 24)



L\$50

Valentine Hearts
In gold and ruby
By Cailyn Miller
Gisborne (114, 234, 27)



Red Heart Tree
Modifiable
By Maly Maltz
Kiltower (158, 113, 251)

L\$200



L\$299

Crucial Creations Valentine's Fountain
By Crucial Armitage
crucial creations
(42, 99, 41)

L\$25



Stuffed Animal - Valentino Mouse
By Cocoanut Koala
Roseire (112, 163, 90)

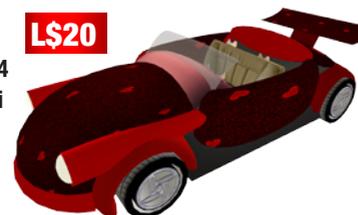


Valentine Balloon
By Jinger Curie
The Kane
(159, 235, 126)

L\$20

L\$20

Porsche #4 Valentine mini
With motor sound
By Klintel Kiesler
Leif (54, 25, 111)



L\$150

Valentine Piano
With sound
By Sweet Valentine
Buyeo (135, 180, 24)



THE
AVASTARVALENTINE'S
DAY 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.

**HUNT RUNS
UNTIL FEB. 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

NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: JAPANESE GAMES, THE LOST CITY OF ATLANTIS, A CLASSY CLUB AND THE BASQUE SIMS.

PINBALL WIZARD



FRUITY: Anshinchodama

By COYNE NAGY

THE Japanese invasion of SL continues unabated with another company from the Land of the Rising Sun launching a presence in-world this week.

Anshinchodama opened a sim in the shape of a pachinko - a cross between a fruit machine and pinball - and which naturally focuses on its main business area. The highlight is un-

you land in the bonus pockets. Jun Estate has really pushed the boat out with this Sister Sliter-designed recreation of the lost city of Atlantis. The Atlantis City sims are based around its office at Sternenstaub, and they will open with a grand party featuring live bands on February 9 and 10. The detail in the work is

should check out the new Timeless Club and Forest on PecLach. Designer Anastasia Hawks' stunning creation includes a classy club along with a carefully crafted forest which promises both mystery and romance. The Basque Government creat-

EUSKAL HERRIA



ed an agency specifically to promote the region through new media so it is no surprise they have arrived in SL. And despite being unfinished, its set of sims at Euskal Herria and KZgunea look promising.

TIMELESS



superb and fully equipped parcels are available for residential rent.

Anyone looking to get into the mood for Valentine's Day

ATLANTIS CITY



doubtedly the chance to play the role of a ball in a pachinko game with prizes to be won if

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

DEAR



MY WIFE IS SO JEALOUS — BUT I'M NOT A CHEAT!



DANCE CLUB OWNER AND LADIES' MAN IS FED UP WITH WIFE'S JEALOUSY

Dear Randi: I THINK my wife is becoming more and more jealous for no good reason. When we married just over a year ago, it wasn't a problem. But we run a formal dance club together, and dancing with the customers is a part of both of our jobs. I have worked hard to make my avatar look really good, and the ladies seem to

love it. About once a night a lady will ask me back to her place for drinks and conversation. I always politely decline, but my wife thinks I must be going a bit out of my way to turn the ladies on. It's frustrating because I never do anything wrong. How can I convince her I'm a faithful husband? — J.W.

Randi says: Just keep doing

what you've been doing. Dance with the female customers, but don't go home with them. Dancing is a risky business, with all the romance flying about, but you seem to be able to handle it properly. Perhaps you should tell your wife again why you love her, and make sure to buy her something very special for Valentine's Day!

SEX TOY FREAK MAKES GIRLFRIEND AN ADDICT

Dear Randi: I FIRST joined SL after my long-term boyfriend dumped me in RL. The first day I was here, I was propositioned by a guy who introduced me to sex and sex toys. He said he wasn't interested in a relationship, but just liked to pick up women for quickie sex. I have met several other guys like him, and some of them have provided incredible experiences in the bedroom. Now I'm picking up a different newbie every night, and can't wait to sign on to see what the evening holds. Am I a sex addict? — O.H.

Randi says: It's possible. Or you could simply be a computer addict. There are plenty of residents doing things in SL that they would hardly think about doing in RL. A balanced RL is usually a positive thing, but it sounds as if your activities in world aren't hurting anyone else. And besides, in SL there are no diseases, no unwanted pregnancies and often no regrets.

FORMER ESCORT FEELS NEED TO COME CLEAN

Dear Randi: I LEARNED very quickly there was one easy way for a girl like me to make a lot of money in-world. Having no marketable computer skills, I signed on with a strip club and had a lucrative business as an escort. I was able to make enough money to become part-owner of a ladies' clothing store, which has become a huge success, and quit the sex business. I'm also very happily married. But my husband doesn't know about my past, and it's bothering me that I haven't been honest. Should I tell him? — L.K.

Randi says: If it's really, really bothering you, perhaps you should get it out of your system. But unless there's someone out there who will rat on you, it might be a good idea to just leave it alone. Just because there is something on your conscience doesn't necessarily mean you need to change his outlook. It sounds as if you have a good guy. Appreciate him.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

BOSS IS BLACKMAILING ME FOR SEX BUT I WANT TO KEEP MY JOB

Dear Randi: WHEN I first came into SL a few months ago, I started looking for a job and was soon working as a greeter in a men's clothing store. It was enjoyable work, and I ended up having lots of discussions with the woman who owned the shop. After a while, she began to trust my instincts about the business. One evening she told me she would promote me to assistant manager and give

me 25 per cent of the profits, but on one condition — I had to have sex with her. I went for it, and I have to admit it was decent, but now she wants sex all the time. She says if I don't do what she says, she will fire me. Is that sexual harassment? — B.Y.

Randi says: Of course it is! Although it often seems that more women are victim of this kind of sexual harassment

than men, there are plenty of guys who become caught in the same trap. Since there isn't much you can really do about it in-world compared to in RL, you'll just have to decide how badly you want the job. My sense is, however, that you could use your skills to develop your own business or at least begin one with a decent partner, rather than giving in to the blackmail.

ADVERT

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

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

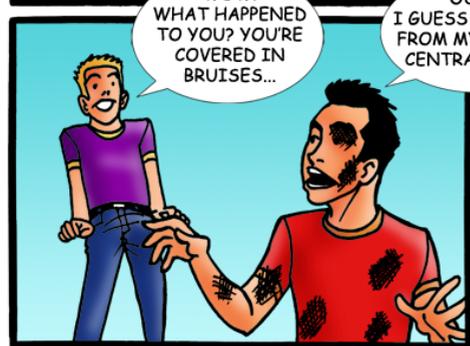
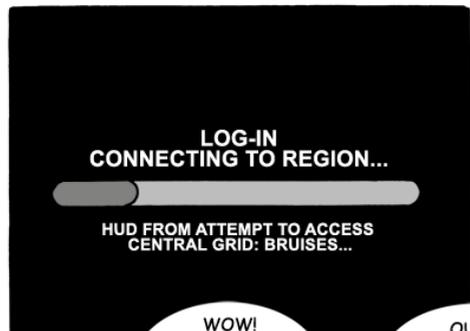
Aroha Taha
a private lovers retreat

Reserve your park now
to avoid disappointment!
Click to teleport

Slaggin'

ARTWORK:
Ermanno Spitteler

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



© Andrea Manfredini 2008



Freebies

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

SL's best FREE stuff!

THIS WEEK: VALENTINE'S DAY GADGETS

THERE is no better way to mark Valentine's Day than by filling the air around you with love.

You can find several good particle effects for free, for example the Bubble Blower by Luthien Unsung (Winyah, 63, 183, 103). When you wear it, your avatar starts blowing pretty semi-transparent bubbles, some of them shaped like hearts.

If you want a bigger effect, grab the Cupid Poof and Telepoof by Sjonnie Villota, at Poof Mania (Artemis Isles, 54, 82, 22). You can display a big bunch of pink, purple and black Cupidos just by

saying, "poof", or create the same effect during teleports.

Finally, you can rez a big red rotating heart by Ane Oh in Russia (98, 65, 43) which emits particles, to show the world you are in love. And to make it absolutely clear, use the flexi Valentine's Flags by Alicia Stella (ASD Studios 131, 153, 28). There are six, each with a nice texture, and you can choose the one you prefer through a menu.



LOVE IS IN THE AIR:
Ane Oh's rotating heart freebie

ADVERT

Bouncy Castles

by Good2 Go

Original Castle L\$ 2500

Purple Castle L\$ 2500

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

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

LOW LAG

Also available Purple Castle Tiny Version L\$ 2500 Only 43 prims Max Size 10m x 10m

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

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

SLX Buyer Review:

★★★★★ This is a lot of fun, buy it!
Atsuko Otsuka on 2007-10-18

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

Ponderama 25,145,38 (PG)



By Kitty O'toole

How to...

Everything a newbie needs to know!

PROPOSE TO YOUR PARTNER

VALENTINE'S Day is just plenty of proposal animations **around the corner, and if** for a variety of prices. **you think you've found** For the traditionalist, **your perfect partner** there is an engage- **perhaps it is time** ment ring with a **to take your relation-** built-in animation. **ship further.** Purple Rose **Becoming some-** (Purple **one's partner in** Rose **SL is cheap and easy,** 116, **at just L\$10 per proposal** 70, **request. But you can** 38) **make it extra spec-** **ial by giving your** **beloved a pro-** **posal to be** **proud of.** **There are**

JULIET, WILL YOU...
Yes, yes I will!

ADVERT

REDVINES

Opening February 15th, 11am
FIRST 30 GET FREE 4lb JAR REDVINES

2006 DRAWING CONTEST MUSEUM

LIVE Concert
Opening Feb. 15 11am

Feb. 15 - Apr. 15, 2008
2008 Drawing Contest Information Available

THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: VALENTINE'S DAY

A SMOOTH DATE
LOVERS' LANE



Enjoy a night out 1950s-style and sneak off to a hideaway by the sea with your sweetheart.
Where: Five Sisters (36, 222, 21)

DANCIN' AND ROMANCIN'
PARADISE FALLS



Tango in a clearing near the falls or walk along the water with your loved one.
Where: Wales Harbour (110, 97, 21)

FUN IN THE SUN
PADRE ISLAND



Admire the fabulous sunset after sunbathing on the blankets provided.
Where: Paradise Padre (172, 132, 22)



A spot of romance

By GAETANA FAUST

ENJOY TIME WITH YOUR LOVED ONE TO CELEBRATE THE BIG DAY

FIND love or enjoy some precious moments alone with your sweetheart at one of the grid's many romantic spots.

A cosy beach house with a rooftop dance floor is yours to enjoy at **Elim Island** in Pearl D'Alliez (94, 206, 22). You can also take a plunge in the hot tub or cuddle up by the camp fire. Get away from it all at **Philia's Woods** in Cisseps (110, 178, 96). Force the sun to midnight to fully appreciate the shady, secluded spot, where you can kiss and enjoy the solitude. If your idea of romance involves snow instead of sand, try the **Winter Wonderland Honeymoon Island** in Sleepover (215, 111, 22). There is a huge log cabin where the fire will stave off the chilly

weather, and a heart-shaped tub is bound to keep the things hot. Nothing could be more romantic than a ride on a gondola through the canals of **Venice Island** (149, 115, 30). Stroll through the Piazza San Marco and head for the water to take a scenic ride snuggled up with your significant other. The voyage is free and relaxing, as you wind through the waterways of the beautiful Italian city. The huge, three-sim **SS Galaxy** cruise ship is home to romantic restaurants, gardens, pools, galleries and a massive ballroom. To put stars in the eyes of the one you fancy, round off your Valentine's Day with a kiss and a glass of champagne at the top of the Eiffel Tower in **New Paris** (54, 115, 24).

2.8. - 2.15.

DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in SL Time



OPENING

BINO&COOL GALLERY

Swedish artists Bino Bailey and Cool Menges open their new gallery at Sweden Island, and their oil paintings on display are all for sale.

When: Feb. 13, 12:00

Where: Sweden Island (122, 135, 23)



FASHION

BAIASTICE

Designer Sissy Pessoa brings her Italian-infused designs to the forefront of SL fashion with her spring 2008 collection.

When: Feb. 9, 15:00

Where: Kmad Enterprise (233, 126, 24)



OPENING

FEATHER MY NEST

The aviary opens to all bird lovers with a huge selection of feathered friends on show.

When: Feb. 9, 09:00

Where: Spiazzo (87, 93, 39)



LIVE MUSIC

THE PROFESSOR

Mystic Hill Swing hosts a gig by guitarist and singer The Professor, famed for his booming voice.

When: Feb. 9, 09:00

Where: Blacktail Ridge (213, 141, 160)



FASHION

ART FESTIVAL NEWBERLIN

Mystery surrounds what the performance festival holds in store, but it promises to be great!

When: Feb. 15, 10:00-12:00

Where: newBERLIN (142, 174, 31)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

LOVE ME KNOT

The Seraphine Modelling Agency will present a fashion show to celebrate Valentine's Day on the peaceful and tropical Chicahuac islands.

When: Feb. 9, 13:00

Where: Chicahuac (49, 94, 21)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



EDUCATION

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

The Making Strides campaign will host a workshop to promote awareness about the early detection of breast cancer. Survivors of the disease will also talk about their experiences.

When: Feb. 10, 11:00

Where: American Cancer Society (129, 7, 23)



ART & CULTURE

MOVEMENT

An exciting new artistic vision and design voice arrives in-world with the opening of Movement and Art Design. The random freebies on offer will no doubt encourage the crowds.

When: Feb. 11, 07:00-19:00

Where: Haunted Visions (112, 102, 23)



ENTERTAINMENT

WORST FASHION SHOW EVER

Organised by top model Frolic Mills, the show, which has adopted the motto 'Say no to texture and content theft', is all about raising awareness of copyright theft in SL.

When: Feb. 8, 15:00

Where: The Best of SL Magazine HQ (29, 167, 533)

ADVERT

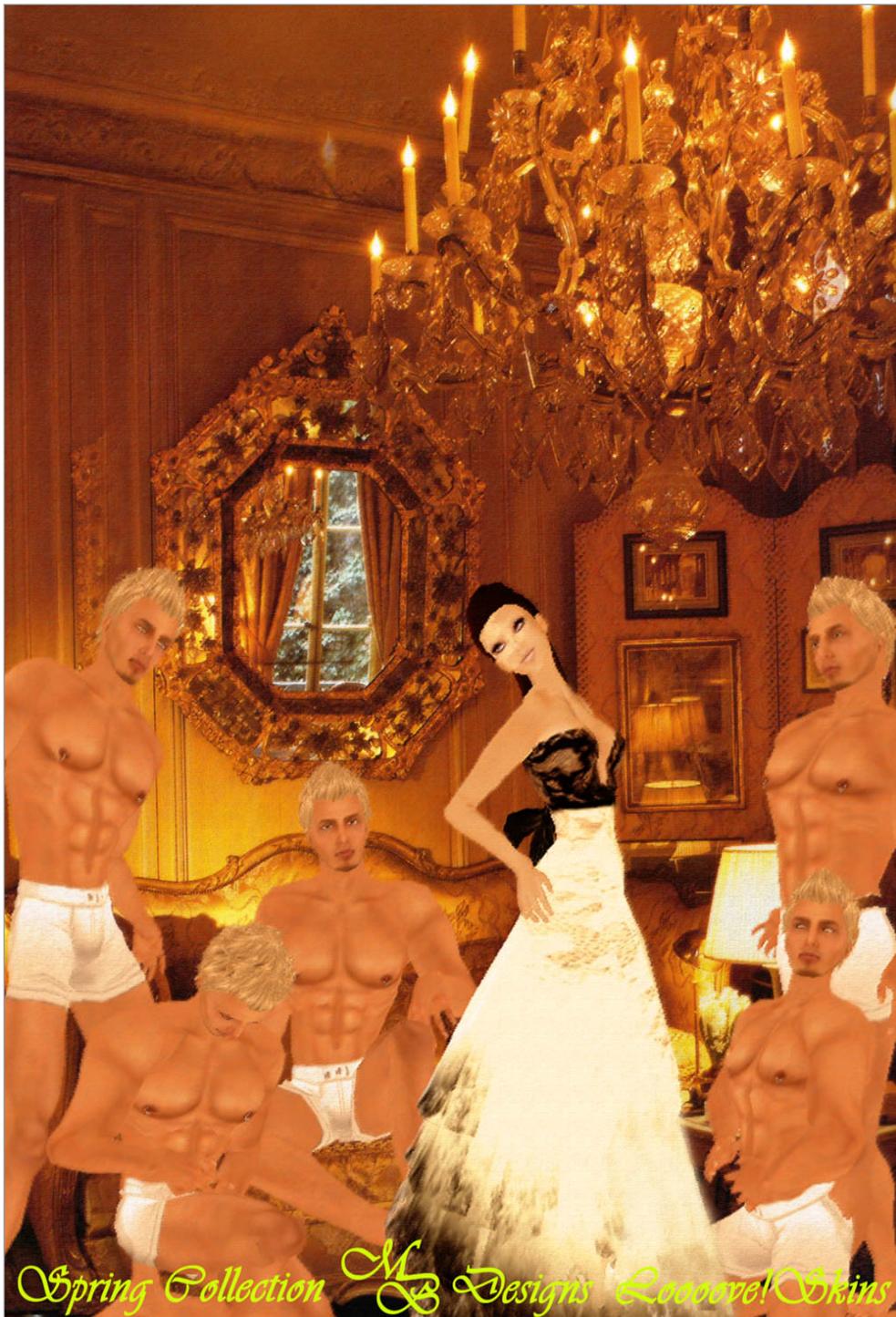
Valentine's Day ... at **Club Leah**

DJ Dharma
6pm - 8pm (SLT)

Tone Uriza
the Big Daddy of Blues
8pm-9pm (SLT)

Also on the **Isles of Corleone** we have excellent Shopping opportunities, and if dancing and romantic strolls are how you want spend Valentines then **Truth Beach** is not to be missed!

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Isles%20of%20Corleone/178/132/22>



Spring Collection MB Designs Lovover! Skins

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

By PAOLO BADE

JEAN LINDEN

JEAN IS THE FIRST LINDEN TO APPEAR AS THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK, AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FURTHERING THE CAUSE OF SL IN GERMANY.

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: JEAN LINDEN
BIRTH DATE: 8/7/2006

PROFESSION: Linden
ATTITUDE: Formal but friendly

INTERVIEW

The AvaStar: What is your role here in SL?

Jean Linden: I am the German Market Development Manager for Linden Lab.

TA: What is your best feature?

JL: In Second Life - my formal wear!

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

JL: Meetings, meetings and more meetings. Occasionally I sneak off to buy a formal outfit though or attend an event.

TA: If you had control, what would you change in SL?

JL: If I could, I would develop the ultimate in-world real time translator.

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

JL: The Hug Action. It is the next best thing to a real one.

TA: Every SLer has a funny sex story - what's yours?

JL: There's sex in Second Life? ;)

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

JL: That's hard to say. I would have to see how the rest of the Parliament/ House of Representatives and Senate/Ministries worked before I could answer that.