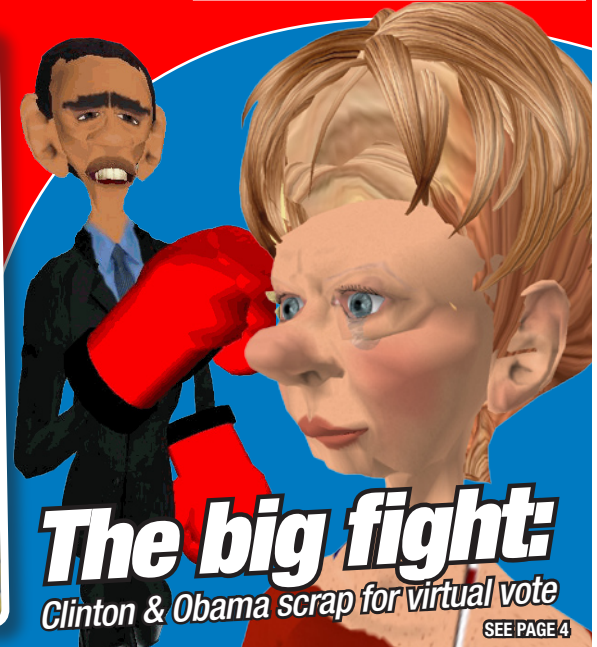


# THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

<b>NEWS</b>	<b>p.2-10</b>
SL musicians hoping for breakthrough year	
<b>THE GUIDE</b>	<b>p.25</b>
Check out the best machinima on the grid	
<b>A-STARS</b>	<b>p.12-13</b>
Fashion stars join forces against content theft	
<b>AVASTAR OF THE WEEK</b>	<b>p.28</b>
Modavia CEO Dea Mills	



**LAB BANS AD FARM SCAM**

# AD YOU LIKE THAT!



By Coyne Nagy  
 AD FARMS have been sensationally banned from SL in a ruling by Jack Linden this week, following a campaign by The AvaStar.

**Victims' joy at farmers' demise**

FULL STORY: SEE PAGE 3

INSIDE  
OPINION

"Avatars kept appearing out of nowhere, in groups of three. I tried to talk to them, but they weren't talking. Strangely enough, this place has a traffic ranking of over 19,000!"

YOUR MAIL  
p.7

"It seems Mia Linden either doesn't like olives or she doesn't like The AvaStar, as no sooner as I had made a beeline for her kissing booth, she went offline. But that wasn't going to stop my quest to smooth relations between us."



REGIS  
BRAATHENS  
p.6

## THE AVASTAR

THE AVASTAR is published by Bild.T-Online AG & Co. KG. Check out the website at: [www.bild.de](http://www.bild.de)

NUMBERS  
OF THE WEEK

21

... per cent of all user sessions in January ended in a crash, according to the latest metrics released this week.

75

... US\$ is the cost of renting a sim for a month in OpenLife, which was launched this week in limited form.

13,170

... in L\$ is how much it costs for a single in-world lesson in the art of seduction from RL company Casanova's Match.

## MAMA MIA, WHAT A KISS!



MIA Linden gives lucky resident Chrisse Zabelin a wet one on the cheek at the 'Kiss a Linden' Valentine's Day event on Isle of View (geddit?).

THE AVASTAR STAFF  
CEO

Lorenz Philbin

## BUSINESS MANAGER

Ikarus Santos, Azriel Enoch

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Regis Braathens

## ASSISTANT EDITOR

Leider Stepanov

## WRITERS &amp; CONTRIBUTORS

Randi Barracuda, Tina (PetGirl) Bergman, Isabel Brocco, Callie Cline,

Gaetana Faust, Kitty Otoole, Coyne Nagy, Carrie Sodwind, Paolo Bade, Babu Writer, Ginger Cazalet, Petronilla Paperdoll, Ermanno Spitteler, Joy Fellini, Veronica2Vixen Devoix, Phil Spackler, Morrhy's Graysmark, Isolde Flamand, Solange Korobase, Konstantin Waechter

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Raoul Cimino, Gordon Yue

## ADVERTISING &amp; DISTRIBUTION

[advertising@the-avastar.com](mailto:advertising@the-avastar.com)  
[www.the-avastar.com](http://www.the-avastar.com)

## BANNED!

## AD FARMERS ARE FINALLY STOPPED IN THEIR TRACKS

By COYNE NAGY

AD FARMS have been sensationally banned from SL in a ruling by Jack Linden this week.

The farms, which have been the bane of SL, are sims chopped into tiny pieces which are then filled with obtrusive and ugly adverts. Nearby landowners are forced to tolerate the eyesores or buy the land from the ad farmer at a hugely inflated price.

But the practice – which The AvaStar campaigned against last year – has now followed gambling and banking into the virtual wilderness.

In announcing the move, Jack Linden

insisted that advertising itself was not illegal, but that did not justify ad farming: "Where the intent is purely to compel another resident to pay an unreasonable price to restore their view – then this will be covered under harassment in our Community Standards. Such cases should be abuse reported so that the governance team can take the appropriate action."

## OVERDUE

Landowners were quick to unite against the farmers. Sarah Nerd, who has campaigned against ad farms, said: "I can only

see good coming from this type of ban. It will improve the reputation of mainland, and make a lot of people happier by improving their SL experience."

Ad farm victim MarkByron Falta was more cautious: "It's an overdue first step in the right direction but unless they plan to increase their staff, I can't imagine them having the time to properly sort through the sheer volume of abuse reports that will be raining down on them in the coming weeks and months."

But ad farmer Umnik Hak reacted with fury to the ban: "There are 12 million registrations, there will always be people who want to fight against something just to enjoy the protest. I have bought land, sold land and built only on my land. Now without a warning I will lose US\$50,000."

END TO THE EYESORES:  
Ugly ad farms are now illegal



CAUGHT OUT:  
Ad farmer Umnik Hak

## ANOTHER GOES

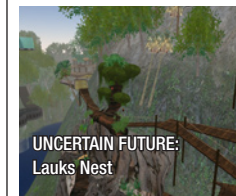
By CARRIE SODWIND

A DEVASTATED sim owner is following in the footsteps of a well-known content creator by storming out of SL.

The AvaStar revealed last week that Laukosargas Svarog, designer of the virtual ecosystem Svarga and idyllic Lauks Nest sims, had said she would no longer work in SL.

Although her creations will continue to exist in SL, her departure has had an affect on some of her friends. Lukas Mensing, the current owner of Lauks Nest, had not seen Svarog online since October, but it was the article in The AvaStar last week which confirmed she was going. He said: "As Laukosargas is doing, I'm leaving SL too. I'm so sorry it's turning this way."

Svarog is one of several designers who left the world recently due to copyright risks. In a blog post before she left, she wrote: "I've given up now. Too much threat of RL litigation and no protection either from Linden Lab or anywhere else."



UNCERTAIN FUTURE:  
Lauks Nest



**PULLING PUNCHES**

By CARRIE SODWIND

A CONTROVERSIAL caricature sim which lampoons RL political figures has upset in-world supporters of Hillary Clinton.

The CARICAVATARS sim, which includes a punch bag of Clinton's face created by resident Christophe Hugo, has picked up a lot of traffic due to the recent US election fever. Some Clinton supporters have denounced the sim as outrageous, and one, Giggles02 Riggles, said: "I didn't like the sour taste it left in my mouth."

Above a recreation of Washington's famous White House, a Clinton banner is being flown, but with the slogan altered to 'Hillarious 2008' in place of her first name. Hugo uses SL as a studio for RL publications and will be covering the US Elections for French RL newspaper LePost. He said: "If some don't like what they see, they are welcome to teleport elsewhere. There's plenty of virtual space for the tight-a\*\*\*\*ed."



NOT A HILLARY FAN: Hugo's provocative sim

**CLINTON VS. OBAMA**

CAMPAIGNERS GO HEAD TO HEAD IN THE BATTLE FOR VIRTUAL VOTES

By CARRIE SODWIND

SUPPORTERS of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are working feverishly to secure potentially vital virtual votes as their RL election battle nears its climax.

Supporters of Clinton, who is lagging behind in the fight to become the Democratic candidate for the US presidential election, hope her SL support base will demonstrate she is in touch with young, internet-savvy voters. The 500-strong Clinton campaign group is organised by an official committee, including prominent SL figures such as Anshe Chung's business manager, Master Quatro. Regular rallies are held at her unofficial campaign site in Paton, which

have boosted the traffic ranking to more than 1,000.

**RIVALRY**

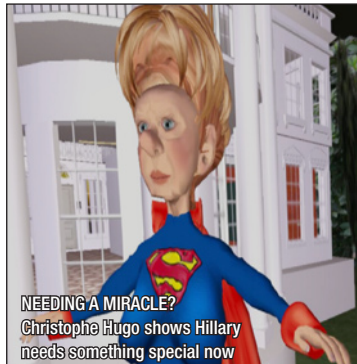
Campaigners at the comparatively modest Obama For President HQ in Property Finders are now desperately trying to edge ahead of their rivals. While their in-world support is roughly equal to that of Clinton's, JamesT Benoir is determined to step up campaigning, and recently applied to the official RL Obama campaign for permission to organise bigger events in-world. He said: "People are more willing to hear and see what you have to say in virtual worlds, you have their attention more easily."

**SHOCKED**

Yet not all campaigners are playing it fair, claims

Benoir. He said he was shocked to see Clinton supporters "spying" on Obama group chat: "Someone said "boo Hillary" and one of the official reps from the Hillary campaign told us in few words that they would never boo Obama."

In response, 'Hillary Clinton 2008 -- US' group owner, Padlurowncanoe Dibou, sent a challenge this week to the owner of Obama's group for a formal debate. Liam Schuyler, event organiser for the unofficial in-world Clinton campaign, said: "It's exciting to be a part of a campaign like this. It goes to show that Hillary's base is broad and does include young, technology-savvy folks."



NEEDING A MIRACLE? Christophe Hugo shows Hillary needs something special now



LOOKING SMART: Hugo depicts an upbeat Barack Obama

**THE NEXT RL IDOL IS...**

SL MUSICIANS HOPE FOR REAL BREAKTHROUGH

By PHIL SPACKLER

LIVE music is becoming increasingly popular in SL, and 2008 could be the year for virtual performers to make the breakthrough into RL.

More and more musicians who learnt their trade playing to avatars in-world are now looking to make the leap into RL, and there is plenty of new, up-and-coming talent for residents to enjoy over the next year.

As soon as it was possible to stream music into SL, hundreds of budding musicians started to play for anyone who was willing to listen, especially as

organising a concert is relatively easy.

There has been a great influx of professional musicians into SL, but there are also plenty who have made the opposite journey.

**MONEY**

Valerye Wycliffe is one of the new faces on the SL music scene, and she said: "I like the fact that you can interact with the crowd you're entertaining, and that makes it so much more personal. SL gives the shyer artists confidence to maybe go perform more in RL."

There are plenty of ways to make money through music in SL,

with many musicians selling songs and compositions directly in-world or through download websites such as iTunes.

**VIRTUOSO**

With up to L\$10,000 in tips and L\$15,000 in fees, live gigs are also a good way to earn a virtual living.

So who should fans look out for this year? Violin virtuoso XanderNichting Writer and guitarists Fable Sinatra and Harleykillernl Back are names to remember, while singer/songwriter Djai Skellerup, who is set to release a CD later this year, is also one to watch out for.

**SL MUSICIANS TO WATCH OUT FOR IN 2008:**



Guitarist Sinatra

Guitarist Harleykillernl Back

Violinist XanderNichting Writer

**NEWS BITES!**

**CLAIMS BLASTED**

FORMER Lab CTO Corey Ondrejka has rubbished claims SL is a haven for terrorists. Responding to a recent Washington Post article, he dismissed fears money could be laundered in-world.

**NEW CHARITY SIM**

PONTIAC'S popular Motorati sims have been donated to the United Spinal Association. The charity will continue the car theme at the renamed Motorability island, and hope 40,000 of its RL members will visit SL.

**ROBIN REUNITED**

FRIENDS could be reunited in SL through a system suggested by Robin Linden. At her office hours she asked for feedback on SL using an email match system which would let you find RL friends in-world without knowing their avatar identity.

**COWS MIGHT FLY**

A TALENTED resident has created an in-world tornado using a flickering giant prim. Tryptofaa Sands' natural disaster comes with rain and lightning bolts as well as a distressed cow spinning in the air.



# REGIS BRAATHENS

## LIND-O-METER

IT'S been a great week for the Lab. Not simply because of their amusing kiss-a-thon, but because they finally made ad farming illegal. This thoroughly ill-spirited business has blighted SL's landscape and ruined SLers' enjoyment up till now. This paper has constantly campaigned for the ban, and therefore we are delighted by the news.



Lab-solutely

Phil-ing

Lagging

IMproving

Sim-ply the best!



# LOVE LOVE ME DO...

THEY MAY NOT LIKE OLIVES – BUT THEY SURE KNOW HOW TO KISS!

A LINDEN kissing an 'AvaStar' is not a sight you'll see every day in Second Life.

This paper has given the governors of SL a fair bit of stick over the last 61 issues as we investigated and scrutinised their rules and actions. But that doesn't mean we don't love them too! And so I thought it was time I offered an olive branch, by taking a part in the annual 'Kiss a Linden' Valentine's Day event.

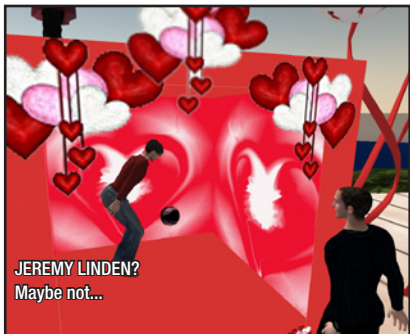
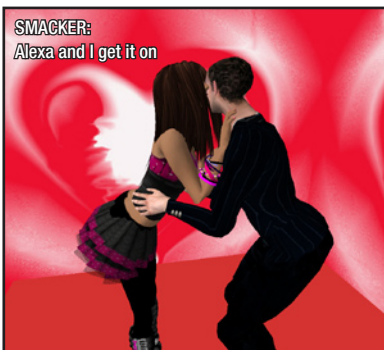
But it seems Mia Linden either doesn't like olives or she doesn't like The AvaStar, because as soon as I made a beeline for her kissing booth, she quickly disappeared and went offline. But that was

not going to deter me in my quest to smooth over relations between our two houses.

### HUSH HUSH

And so I strode over to Alexa Linden and asked her if she would be kind enough to oblige. To my surprise, the delectable and charming Lab office manager was only too happy to give me a peck, despite my warning her that I unfortunately could not take responsibility if Philip fired her over this.

on my cheek, I got carried away and mumbled that Lindens really aren't that bad after all. Alexa suddenly looked worried: "Shhhh! Don't tell people that. We



have a rep to keep!" Kudos to all those who took part in what was a fanatastic event and credit to Mia Linden for the great idea!

## CASARIPOFFA!

I'VE seen some rip-offs in my time here, but this one really takes the biscuit! Casanova, a matchmaking service, is offering "in-world seduction workshops" for a whopping US\$50 per hour! You'd need your head, not heart, looked into for paying that!

# your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

## ZOMBIES AREN'T FAIR

Hey Regis, I REGULARLY read The AvaStar and your articles and reports, and I think that you do excellent work.

I also try to do something in SL, and making money is only a secondary concern. SL should be fun... and it's not when I see things like zombie bots. While looking for new art locations I came across a sim where I was circled

by lots of green dots, yet I could only see two avatars. I'd been here before and avatars kept appearing out of nowhere, in groups of three and then floating across the sim. I tried to talk to them, but they weren't talking. Strangely enough,

this place under 'galleries' you'll see it has a traffic ranking of over 19,000!

I don't want to say anything bad about anyone, but that kind of thing should be checked out. There is so much good art here in SL, that if this and other sims are cheating, that's just not right.

By **Molina Rhode, of Molina's Galleries**

## HOW YOU TELL IF YOU'RE ADDICTED

Dear Regis,

HOW can you figure out that your life is already extremely addicted to SL? Well, if you have a sticker on your computer monitor with 'PST+9 = CET' on it, as a resident of Central Europe :-).

By **Rolf Nykvist**

**Note from the Editor:** Here at The AvaStar HQ, we have three clocks hanging on the wall – SL, EST and our RL time. There's no hope for us, then! Regis

**L\$500 E-MAILS**  
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**YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM**

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L\$500  
**PICS**  
OF THE WEEK  
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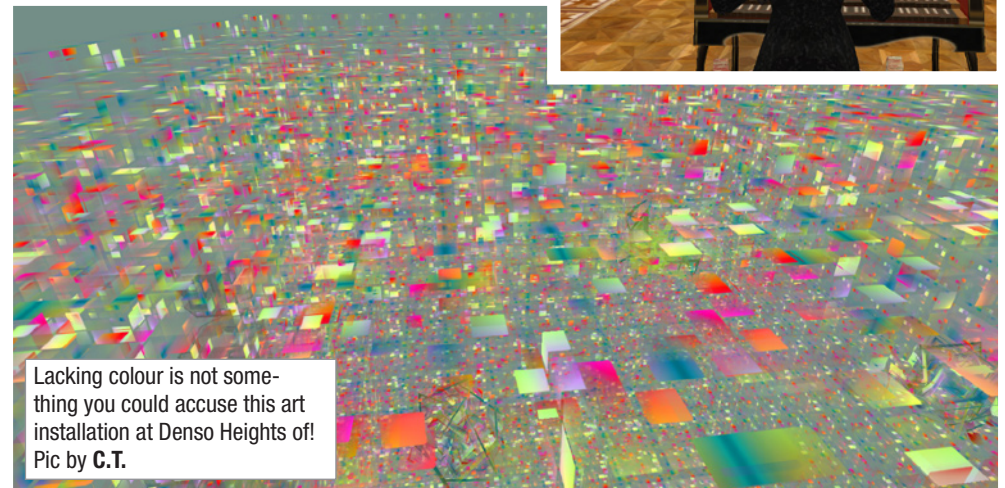
Enjoying a quiet moment after the Valentine Fashion Show on February 9 were, from left to right, models **MISSY WISHBRINGER** and **NYLL BERGBAHN**, organiser **SERAPHINE KHORANA** and designer **SEIDE TRIPP**. Pic by **XRIS DALLAGIO**.



**MARIGOLD DEVIN** says she loves 'zombie watching' – and she was in luck when she found this creepy pair stuck together way up in the sky.



**ALBION SPITTELER** donned some classy clothes to play the harpsichord at the spectacular Hall of Mirrors at Versailles.



Lacking colour is not something you could accuse this art installation at Denso Heights of! Pic by **C.T.**

# META-NEWS!

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

**THE HOLY TWINITY**  
METAVERSUM is stepping up the publicity campaign before its much-awaited virtual world, Twinity, is officially launched.

The world is currently in private beta testing, but with public expectation growing, Pacific West Communications has been given the task of marketing the new platform inside Singapore. A Facebook group and more traditional media channels will also be put to use by Metaversum to generate exposure for Twinity.

**READ YOUR MIND**  
THOUGHT control could be the new interface for using virtual worlds, according to technology company Emotiv.

The firm has already showcased a wireless 'brain control interface' which connects with games and virtual worlds using a headset that can detect thoughts, emotions and facial expressions. The company will unveil its new technology on Feb 19, with a host of groups for the disabled sure to be looking on.

## KANEVA A 3D CANVAS

**By BABU WRITER**  
THE founder of Kaneva said his virtual world is a canvas, which the community should paint on.

Chris Klaus was speaking at the weekly Metanomics show, which took place this week at the Emory University Conference, 'Virtual worlds and new realities in commerce, politics and society'. He described his creation as a modern day, "realistic" world, and said: "Kaneva is basically an entertainment world. To get [users] to adopt the technology, we use entertainment as a hook."

He also said he hoped that Kaneva - which

is the Latin word for canvas - will evolve into different things, because he wants it to be a "place for the community to paint on".

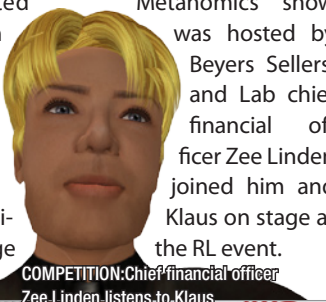
**PORN-FREE**  
Kaneva, which has been compared to a 3D version of a social network like Facebook, is home to realistic avatars of the same RL gender as their owners - so no furries allowed. Klaus added that the RL, copyright-protected

Metanomics show was hosted by Beyers Sellers, and Lab chief financial officer Zee Linden joined him and Klaus on stage at the RL event.

the virtual world, providing, among other activities, an entertainment platform where avatars can socialise in real time with real celebrities in a porn-free environment."

Residents in SL watched a live video feed of the event from RL courtesy of SLCN.tv, and within that there were pictures of avatars in Kaneva, thus linking up three separate worlds. The

Metanomics show was hosted by Beyers Sellers, and Lab chief financial officer Zee Linden joined him and Klaus on stage at the RL event.



COMPETITION: Chief financial officer Zee Linden listens to Klaus



CROSS-WORLDS CONFERENCE: Kaneva's Chris Klaus on stage

# NO NEED TO PANIC AS FIRMS LEAVE SL

COMPANIES HAVE NOTHING BUT PRAISE FOR THEIR EXPERIMENT

By COYNE NAGY

DEUTSCHE Post and ING have become the latest big name RL firms to flee the grid - but say they may be back.

The news they will leave SL comes after AOL and Pontiac announced similar plans to give up their in-world presences, in what is becoming a worrying trend for Linden Lab. Dutch banking giant ING Retail Netherlands will exit SL on March 1, while there has been no timescale set for Deutsche Post. The decision by bosses at the German mail company has come as a surprise to many, as they have in the past described their involvement in-world as "exciting and successful". But Deutsche Post had nothing but praise for SL in a company statement: "The experience has been very positive. We

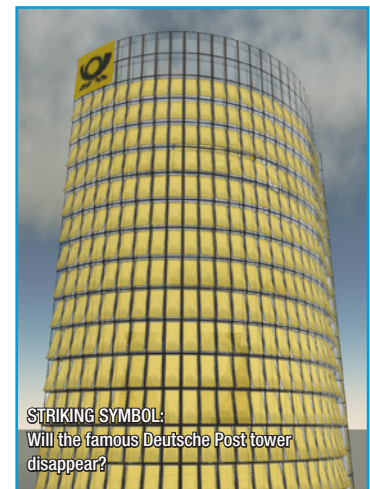
have reached all our goals. We will continue to monitor virtual worlds."

### KNOWLEDGE

The loss of ING could be an even bigger blow to SL as its Our Virtual Holland sims have become a thriving community. But Gavin Market, business innovation manager of ING, insisted the firm would continue to take part in the metaverse: "ING Asia Pacific will keep the presence in SL with their 'Cha Lounge' on our own ING island. In this way the knowledge about virtual worlds inside ING is not lost and we are ready to make a quick restart in the future."

But sources at ABN Amro scotched rumours surrounding its possible departure. Pop Upshaw, head of 3D experience with the bank, said: "We are here for the learning experience, to learn the rules of interaction in a virtual environment and from that point of view it is a big success. There are no plans to leave SL."

RUBBISH: ABN Amro's Pop Upshaw quashes rumours



STRIKING SYMBOL: Will the famous Deutsche Post tower disappear?



REMOVAL VANS READY: ING prepares to move out

### BIZ BITES!

#### THE FRAUD SQUAD

A LEADING British law firm has launched in SL promising to "combat fraud on an international basis". It is unknown whether PCB Litigation will attempt to practice law while in SL, or whether their entry is just for publicity.

#### BANK CARRIES ON

THE SL Investor's Bank is continuing with a payment programme following the ban on banking. Customers have been awarded shares in the company which they can either sell immediately or keep them as an investment.

#### CARIGE LAUNCHES

THE RL Italian Gruppo Banca Carige bank is constructing a presence in-world. The Carige sim is still under construction but offices are being built to compliment the leisure area and replica of a Genoa lighthouse which are already in place.

#### IT'S SHOWTIME!

MORE RL television shows could soon have an in-world presence to boost RL audiences. Showtime, the company behind 'The L Word', is considering SL link ups for series such as 'Weeds' and 'Dexter'.



# a-stars



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

## MAD FOR FASHION!



BEAUTY: Giela Delpaso

MYSTERIOUS: Willamena Fitzgerald

MASKED MODEL: Addison Krupinski

By **KITTY OTOOLE** CELEBRITIES from across the grid gathered for the release of a new collection by up-and-coming designer Sissy Pessoa. The event on Saturday at the Kmadd Enterprise sim was hosted by the Mad Modelling Agency,

and featured creations by Pessoa, the force behind the Baiastice label. After being treated to a spectacle of gowns and costumes, the audience danced the night away to the tunes of DJ Kromus Korobase.



TOP PLACE: Kim Seifert

## The best in SL

By **PHIL SPACKLER**

A BATTLE of the sexes took place on February 9 at the climax to the Best of SL Live contest. The male winner of the semi-final, Guy Goodman, went face to face with the female finalist, Kim Seifert, in a musical play-off. After 24 hours of public voting, Seifert emerged the winner and went home with the L\$50,000 prize.

## WORST SHOW EVER

By **ISABEL BROCCO**

A SLAB of stone, an ice cream and a ruthed perm and duck slippers were some of the outfits donned by SL's biggest fashion stars.

The designers and models were taking part in the 'Worst Fashion Show Ever' at the Best of SL Magazine HQ sim on Friday, to highlight the damage done by texture and content theft. Model Frolic Mills donned a slab of stone costume, while fashionista and AvaStar columnist Callie Cline swapped her usual stunning style for a terrible perm and slipper combination. Mills said: "This is what can happen if Linden Lab doesn't protect our designers."



DELICIOUSLY BAD FASHION: Abacus Mimistrobelli

TAKEN FOR A RIDE: Duckfresh Watanabe

## A fairytale story



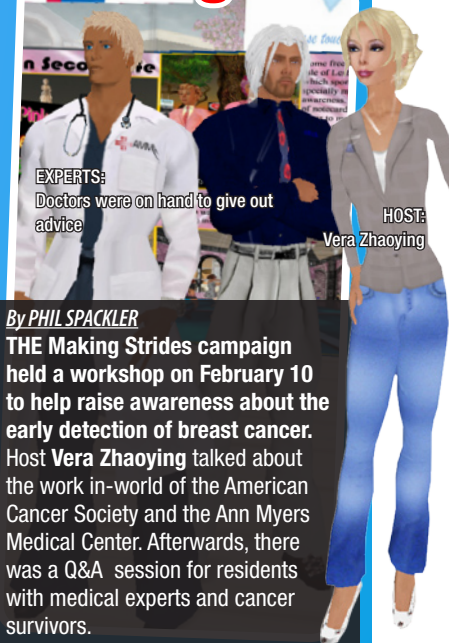
MODEL: Dirjha Summers

By **BABU WRITER**

A FASHION parade with touches of neko, grunge, cyber punk and urban Goth hit the catwalk at Chicahuac on February 9.

Seraphine Khorana's models showed off the designs to a backdrop of adult fairytale narration by the Turning Tides group. The fashions were provided by Lili Yang, Minde Mills and Ichibod Etchegaray, Camilla Yosuke and Raven Pennyfeather.

## Making Strides



EXPERTS: Doctors were on hand to give out advice

HOST: Vera Zhaoying

By **PHIL SPACKLER**

THE Making Strides campaign held a workshop on February 10 to help raise awareness about the early detection of breast cancer. Host Vera Zhaoying talked about the work in-world of the American Cancer Society and the Ann Myers Medical Center. Afterwards, there was a Q&A session for residents with medical experts and cancer survivors.





devoted to fashion

Bianca F



SOON  
SPRING MODE MAKEUP COLLECTION

Bianca F  
digital beauty



# BARGAIN HUNTERS

FINDING THAT PERFECT ELEGANT LOOK FOR YOUR NEXT DATE DOESN'T HAVE TO COST A FORTUNE. IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO GO, SHOPPING IN SL NEEDN'T BE ALL ABOUT SPENDING YOURSELF DRY.

By PAOLO BADE and KITTYOTOOLE



**LS\$1!!!**

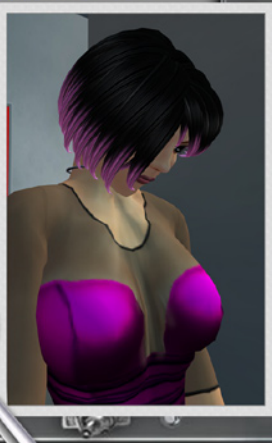
Hair 'Lovely' by ETD, L\$1  
 ETD Isle (150, 187, 32) FREE  
 Jewellery 'Bounded Elegance' by MIRIEL'S CLOSET, Eldamar FREE  
 (199, 116, 25) FREE  
 Dress 'Galaxy Gown', by Blaze Vendor located on SS Galaxy, Sagittarian Sea

**LS\$1!!!**

Hair 'Lovely' by ETD L\$1  
 Earrings, Cat Belt and Boots by Izumiya, MoonCat Ringo (146, 249, 34) FREE  
 Sweater dress, by Soulfire Heathrow (229, 154, 22) FREE  
 'Heath' Bag, by Crap Old Town (232, 82, 21) FREE

**LS\$2!!!**

Hair 'Casual' by ETD L\$1  
 ETD Isle (150, 187, 32) FREE  
 Shoes 'Elise Mary Jane Heels', by TESLA, Tesla (41, 80, 54) L\$1  
 Underwear 'Be Mine- Romance Red', by 'Insenue', Born (99, 49, 32)



callie cline's

# STYLE HOTLINE

## THE MOST MOD-ERN STYLES IN SL!



YOU CAN COMPLETELY CHANGE YOUR LOOK IN SL JUST BY MODIFYING THE SAME OUTFIT

**WHEN you buy clothes in RL, you can do whatever you like to them – rip them, cut them up, add flowery patches.**

I think the same should be true in SL, which is why I believe virtual clothing should be sold with 'modify' enabled most of the time. I want to show you this week what you can achieve by altering an outfit

– by taking a gown and turning it into a 'disco party pants suit'. In the first photo, you can see the gown how



it is sold, with all the pieces attached.

**BUDGET**  
 The second pic shows the 'system skirt' has been taken off and the prim skirts made smaller and attached to the upper leg. Since the pants match the top, it works. The prim attachment buttons are coloured black and white for a different look.

When you compare the two pictures, you can see how you can find two very different looks in the same outfit. So if you're on a limited shopping budget, try modifying clothes you already own.



## WHAT'S HOT READERS SPECIAL!

# FASHION SAVVY AVASTAR BABES

By CARRIE SODWIND

**OOHLALA!** Our readers proved they were the hottest on the grid as they collected fabulous free Valentine's Day gifts courtesy of The AvaStar this week.

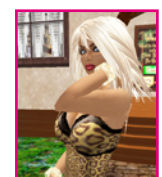
The girls, all members of The AvaStar Readers group, snapped up the great freebies from fashion stores around the grid in the lead up to February 14.

**Free Love Droopydraws Dryke**

Droopydraws shows that Valentine's Day does not have to be about traditional romance. She

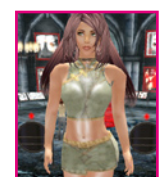
celebrated by bearing virtually all, and omitting hearts to passers by.

**Hot Sexy Pandora Bailey**



Who would have thought that the official escort trainer for RL porn star Jenna Jameson's club is a freebie hunter in her spare time?

**Action Ardnaxela Schnyder**



The Lara Croft of AvaStar Readers was snapped in action as she strode on from her freebie hunting mission.

**Bewitching Chellonia Regent**



An elegant period costume take on Spider Woman. The spooky crushed velvet dress is finished off with an incredible net skirt which is as fine as a web.

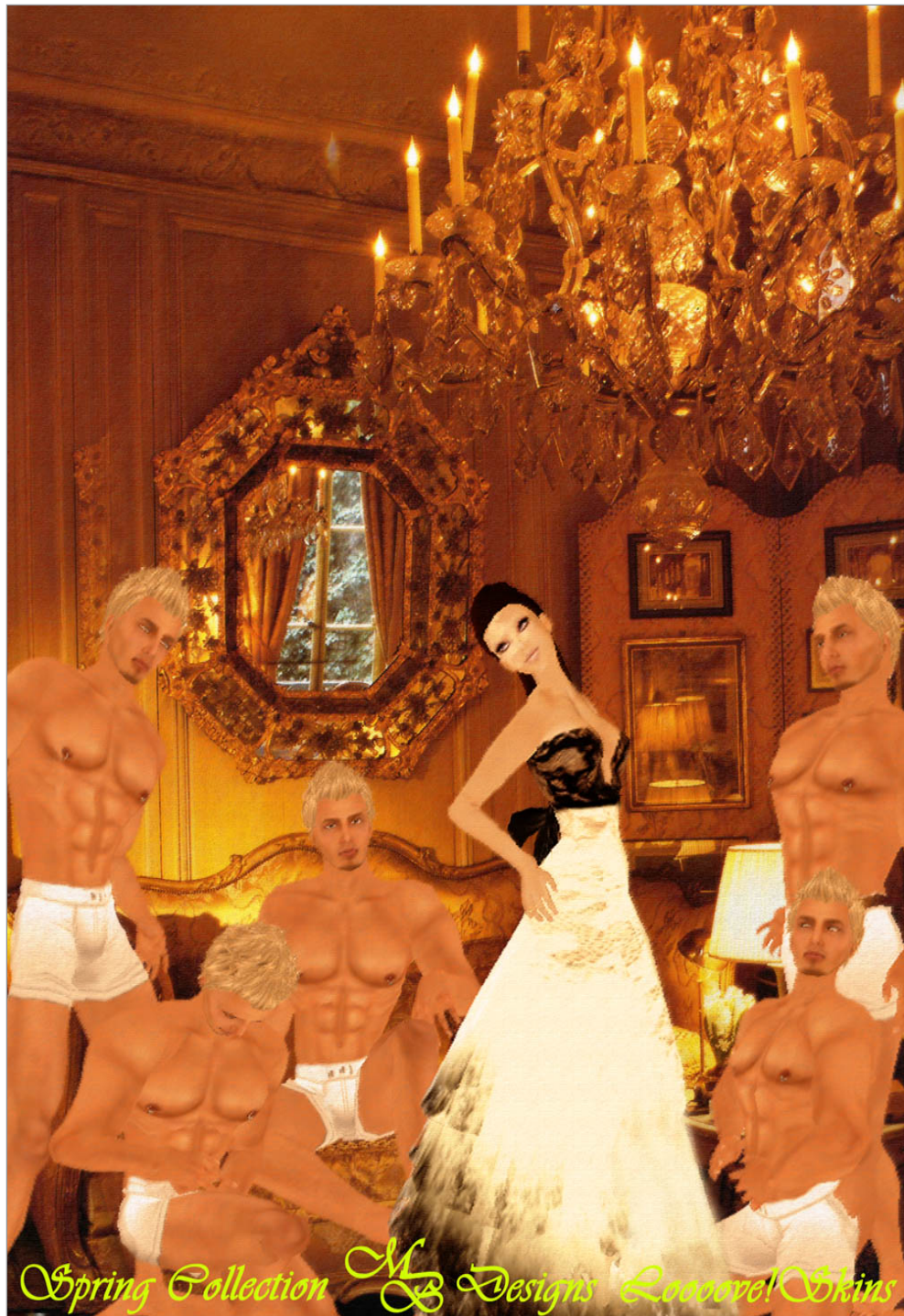
**Leggy Teej Bailey**



Spring elegance in shades of grey, with woollen shorts and a pair of zebra print tights by Sheer.

**• Join The AvaStar Readers group for more great freebie offers.**



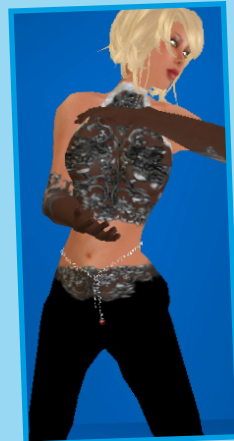


# INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK By ISOLDE FLAMAND

## KATHY AMSTERDAM OF ELEGANT DESIGNS!

### I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT...

"...my Pandora HUD created by London Spengler. It's the ultimate tool. With it, I can emote,



do tai chi, jump, play dead and more. But the best part is the 'hug' because once you give me hug permission, I will always have permission to hug you."



### I JUST LOVE...

"...my spunky, short hair called Naomi in Blonde by Elikapeka Tiramisu at ETD. It's so natural-looking and really fits my face. I switched to blonde about four months ago, and it's true - blondes do have more fun!"

### I RECEIVE LOTS OF COMPLIMENTS...

"...about my stilettos which I got for free from Sylfie Minogue. I wear these classic black shoes all the time, and have had them since my first week in SL over a year ago."



# SHOES FOR HIM



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

### Y.S. Morehouses

By Yoshinori Shirakawa  
PrimAdonna  
(98, 17, 26)



L\$325

### Ranger boots

By Ludo Ajax  
Donau Tal (129, 240, 42)

L\$199



L\$285

### Male Standard Boot

By Perfect Tomorrow  
Collins (100, 168, 27)

D2TK Mens Old Glory Cowboy Boot  
By Tatoo Korvin  
D2TK (195, 181, 68)



L\$450

### Painter Shoes

By Fallingwater Cellardoor  
Shiny Falls (128, 128, 0)



L\$1



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

DEAR



## 'RICH AND HANDSOME' EX IS AFTER MY WIFE!

STAR  
LETTER  
L\$500  
send me a mail

**SHE SAYS I'M BEING PARANOID, BUT I'M WORRIED SHE MIGHT GO BACK TO HIM**

*Dear Randi:* WHEN I met the lovely lady who is now my wife, she told me on our first date she had already been married and divorced in in-world. She told me that her ex-husband was rich and handsome, but there was absolutely no chance they would ever get back together. Everything was fine until a couple of weeks

ago, when suddenly he began showing up at our favourite restaurant. She says he has been IMing her telling her how he misses her and wants her back. She says I shouldn't worry, but I can't help it. Am I just being paranoid? — N.A.

*Randi says:* You shouldn't worry unless she gives you cause herself. She is the one

who told you about the existence of the ex-husband and she is the one who told you about the IMs. She sounds like a very honest lady, and you can consider yourself lucky. An outsider with good looks and money can never take the place of a good husband. Make sure you always fit that description, and things should be fine.

## DOES LESBIAN FLING IN SL MEAN I'M GAY?

*Dear Randi:* I AM a straight married woman in RL who has never had any sort of lesbian experience. But a couple of weeks ago I signed into SL after I had had a few drinks at a party. One of my best friends, who is a lipstick lesbian, was at the club I visited. She said she's had a crush on me for months and wondered what I was like in bed. We went back to her apartment, where one thing led to another and I ended up on her sex bed. The experience was amazing! But does that mean I am actually gay? — G.T.

*Randi says:* The answer is almost certainly no unless you can honestly see yourself taking the lesbian experience into RL. And you did what you did when you were impaired because of drink. Wait a month and see if your SL lover is really more attractive to you than your husband is. If that does turn out to be the case, you will need to think again.

## RL HUBBY ENGAGED TO A MAN IN-WORLD

*Dear Randi:* MY RL husband and I joined SL together out of curiosity. To my surprise, he chose a female avatar who, for the sake of anonymity, I'll call 'Cindy'. We quickly developed a network of close girlfriends, none of whom knows his RL gender. He has spent plenty of money on Cindy, who is apparently quite popular with the men. Last week he dropped the bombshell that a guy has proposed marriage to Cindy and that she accepted. Should I be worried that there are things he isn't telling me? — E.R.

*Randi says:* Maybe. It's definitely a positive that he's keeping you in the loop. You certainly must know that hundreds of thousands of the SL ladies have RL males as 'typists'. You should ask him directly if he ever plans on or fantasises about dressing up like a lady in RL. You should take his word for it if he says no, and accept he is simply working something out of his system.

RANDI

The Virtual World's  
No 1 Agony Aunt

## I LOVE HER BUT I'M NOT GOING TO SHARE HER WITH OTHER MEN

*Dear Randi:* RECENTLY I was visiting an art gallery in SL and I met the most beautiful girl I have ever seen. When I checked her profile I saw we share many interests, including a love of fine art. After we had talked for a while, I learned how sweet, smart and funny she is. I asked if we could maybe meet again for coffee, and she agreed and we met up on two other occasions. Everything was going

great, but on our third date she let it slip that she's an escort who has made plenty of money at her job. I asked her if she'd consider quitting the business for me, and she said that just isn't going to happen. How can I convince her otherwise? — P.F.

*Randi says:* I'm not sure you can. She clearly has some strong feelings for you, or there never would have been

second and third dates. But she has hardly been stringing you along, and has been honest enough to tell you the truth about what she does. Women who are escorts sometimes do it for reasons other than just the money. Many of them thrive on the adoration of so many men. If you play your cards right you can have her as a friend, just not an exclusive lover.

ADVERT

**Gypsy Gadgets**

**SWIMBALLS**  
Just drop the Swimball Rezzor in the water and its ready for you and your friends to swim.  
• 3 Swimming companions  
• Rezzor with underwater camera  
• Access through phone or in-world  
• Free and fully scripted  
• Copywrite © 2008 Gypsy Gadgets  
L\$435

**Wise Owl**  
Wise Owl is a virtual owl who can help you with your SL needs. He is a very smart owl and can help you with your SL needs. He is a very smart owl and can help you with your SL needs.  
L\$125 mod/copy/no-trans

**Landscaping Rake**  
Terraforming has never been sooo much fun!  
L\$125 mod/copy/no-trans

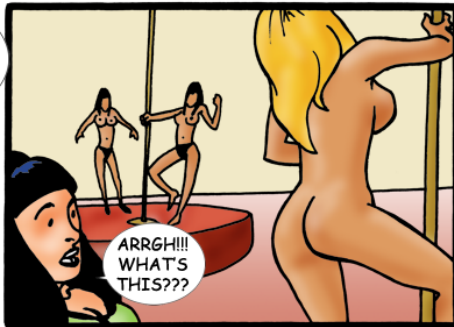
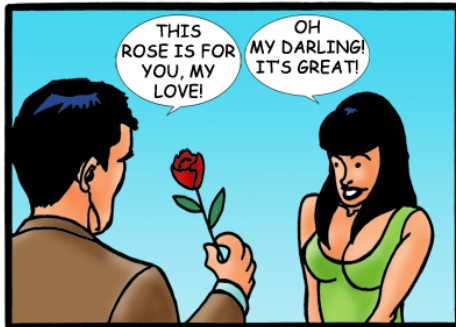
**Trip & Fall**  
Makes you trip and fall with the best of them. Says the two words of your choice just by you.  
Just remove the attachment to set your trip words.  
L\$125 mod/copy/no-trans

**Animated Climbing Rope Gypsy Rope**  
L\$395  
• Climbable Rope  
• Quality Animos  
• Can be any length  
• Self rezzing pose balls adjust to length of rope

# HOT Slaggin'

ARTWORK:  
Ermanno Spitteler

## "FREAKY VALENTINE"



© Andrea Manfredini 2008



# Freebies

SL's best FREE stuff!

## THIS WEEK: GO SNAP-HAPPY WITH THE FLICKR2SL

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

**IF you love photos then you are probably already familiar with Flickr.**

It is a website where you can store your pics online, including, of course, your best snapshots from SL. Freebies designer Miki Gymnast has recently created a new tool which enables residents to view in-world public Flickr photos from both the website's users and groups. The Flickr2SL, available at Rezzable 04 (155, 120, 650), also offers single picture browsing and thumbnail overview. The tool is simple to use – make

sure your video settings are turned on, and rez the panel from your inventory. Press the green button and choose the options you prefer. There is a preset list of favourites, but you can select your own as well. If you are looking for the photos of a specific user – maybe to show your own pictures stored on Flickr – type in

chat /44 recent (or /44 thumbs) followed by the flickr username. The 'recent' option will show the newest pictures every 20 seconds.



ADVERT

# REDVINES

Opening February 15th, 11am  
FIRST 30 GET FREE 4lb JAR of RED VINES  
Enter the L\$26,500 Prize Drawing!

## 2006 DRAWING CONTEST GALLERY

LIVE Concert  
Opening Feb. 15 11am

Feb. 15 - Apr. 15, 2008

2008 Drawing Contest Information Available

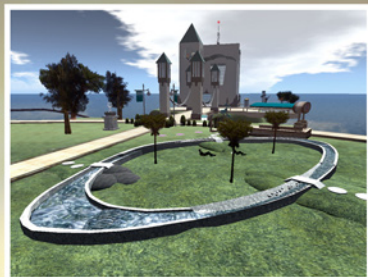




## Celebrating first life

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)

# THE GUIDE TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## THIS WEEK: MACHINIMA

# LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

TOP THEATRE:  
Tube2SL Cinema



By GAETANA FAUST

CHECK OUT SOME GREAT NEW FILMS ON THE SL-SILVER SCREEN

**MOVIE madness will hit RL later this month with the Oscar award ceremonies, but SL also has plenty to offer film buffs in the form of Machinima.**

When you enter **Machinima Studios** in Tennoz Isle (126, 79, 26), you can hop on a tram car and take the tour past all the warehouses, prop rooms and sets used to make movies in SL. It soars high in the air to show you forests and seas, all set up to make movie magic.

If you want to learn how to make movies in SL, start at the **Machinima Institute and Cafe** in Eduisland 3 (63, 21, 23). It is a cool place to hang out and chat with other aspiring filmmakers, and there are also useful tutorials on how to

film, some free equipment and information about volunteering to help out with productions.

### IMAGINATION

Enjoy the best machinima around at the **Tube2SL Cinema Complex** in Glenmore (120, 212, 51). Not only is the theatre beautiful from the outside, but you will find several screens inside showing the works of local filmmakers. The concession stand and popcorn machines make you feel right at home and ready to settle in for a great flick.

Drop by **Wye-Eye-Slash Multimedia** in Selby (144, 66, 62) to catch some films which will fire your imagination. The current selection is a film by producer and director Sidra Stern.

### KUNG FU FIGHTING MACHINIMA STUDIOS



You'll feel like you're on a Japanese film lot when you enter, as a traditional warrior greets you.

Where: Tennoz Isle (126, 79, 26)

### FIND YOUR BIG BREAK CALEDON STUDIOS



Pick up some useful information on becoming part of a machinima production in SL.

Where: Caledon Penzance (36, 204, 0)

### THAT'S A WRAP FILM PARK STUDIOS



Cameras and other filming equipment are available here for your use.

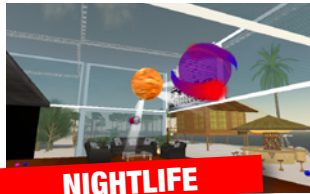
Where: Sourmilk Ghyll (183, 165, 29)



2.15. - 2.21.

## DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in SL Time



## NIGHTLIFE

## SCANDINAVIAN TUNES

DJ Johnny Lewsey is on the decks for this night of super Scandinavian music. Rock, pop, indie and alternative tunes will all be on the playlist.

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

**Where:** Legolas (43, 242, 23)



## ENTERTAINMENT

## SALAMANDER MAROON

Enjoy the dry wit and humour of the stand-up comic from the north of England, which are sure to guarantee a hilarious afternoon.

**When:** Feb. 16, 14:30

**Where:** Laurel Arts Isle (234, 36, 22)



## ROMANCE

## VALENTINE BALL

Celebrate the season of love at a fancy ball, with Grace McDunough providing the music.

**When:** Feb. 17, 14:00

**Where:** Tanglewood (107, 203, 27)



## LIVE MUSIC

## KYLE BELTRAN

The jazz pianist will show off his talent at the MANifesto Cafe, with its beautiful rainforest setting.

**When:** Feb. 18, 14:00

**Where:** MANifesto (176, 158, 27)



## LIVE MUSIC

## ANDE FOGGARTY

The up-and-coming SL music star of the future will showcase some acoustic covers from the 1970s.

**When:** Feb. 19, 13:00

**Where:** Ingvar (119, 188, 44)



## EVENT OF THE WEEK!

## METAVERSE U

Speakers including blogger Hamlet Au and ex-Linden Cory Ondrejka will be at the conference about the future of virtual worlds, which is being streamed into SL from Stanford University in RL.

**When:** Feb. 16 & 17, from 09:00

**Where:** Scilands (100, 128, 30)

## EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



## OPENING

## ANANKE MEDIA

Head for the futuristic sim where Ananke Media Systems will launch its new photo media with a model photo contest.

**When:** Feb. 17, 12:00

**Where:** Alexander Beach (128, 128, 25)



## LIVE MUSIC

## SPIRAL TRANCE

Hailing from Milwaukee, USA, Spiral Trance are taking SL by storm. Come along and enjoy the band's fresh new approach, with live vocals and backing music.

**When:** Feb. 20, 19:00

**Where:** Mens Depot (62, 156, 22)



## ART &amp; CULTURE

## EURO OPEN HOUSE

Art fans can enjoy a meet and greet session with some of the top European photo-artists in-world. Doubledown Tandino will provide music.

**When:** Feb. 18, 10:00

**Where:** Shepherd (162, 217, 92)



## EVENT OF THE WEEK!

## BRITISH INVASION

The Beatles triggered what would be known as the 'British Invasion' of American culture in the 1960s. They and other bands of the time are celebrated in an exhibition.

**When:** Feb. 17, 15:00

**Where:** Infotainment Island (76, 211, 31)



## ENTERTAINMENT

## MISS ITALIA

A group of lovely Italian ladies will battle it out for the title of Miss Italia 2008 and residents of all nationalities are welcome to watch the contest.

**When:** Feb. 18, 12:00

**Where:** Versilia Island (136, 116, 22)

## WANT TO SEE YOUR EVENT HERE?

DO you have an event which you would like to see published in The AvaStar's Events section? If so, email us details at [news-desk@the-avastar.com](mailto:news-desk@the-avastar.com).



# THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

By PAOLO BADE



# DEA MILLS

DEA IS THE CEO OF MODAVIA, WHICH PRODUCES THE MODAVIA FASHION DIRECTORY.

## AVA - ID CARD

NAME: DEA MILLS

BIRTH DATE: 5/18/07

PROFESSION: Fashion mogul

ATTITUDE: Always help others

## INTERVIEW

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

**Dea Mills:** It's what I tell our staff and models – people first, fashion second. I love people and am most happy when I feel I'm helping somebody.

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

**DM:** Helping the Modavia staff and models, as well as working behind the scenes to keep Modavia on track and moving forward. Any time left over... shopping, what else?

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

**DM:** That's like asking a woman which one article of clothing would she keep if she could keep only one! I guess my skin.

**TA:** What's your funniest sex story?

**DM:** I was in a club and my screen was full of IMs, so I couldn't see in front of me. I closed all the windows and there was a newb guy standing right on me and thrusting against me with his newb 18-inch... you know what!

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

**DM:** The resident who promised the hottest fashion for free, zero lag forever, and peace and goodwill toward all men!