

THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

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CONTENT THEFT PROTEST

WE WON'T BARE IT!

- **Designers strip in fight against thieves**
- **See the pics inside!**

By Coyne Nagy
TOP SL designers are stripping off for a saucy campaign to help put an end to content theft.
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INSIDE OPINION

"It is just such a shame that they and their kind feel the need to isolate themselves from the rest of us humans. Well done The AvaStar for highlighting this problem."

YOUR MAIL p.8

"Why spend time brainstorming new fashion ideas, you think. Why put in the painstaking hours it takes to design the intricate items, when you can just find a way to copy them, and sell them as your own? It's easy money."



REGIS BRAATHENS p.9

THE AVASTAR

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NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

62 ... per cent of residents believe new religions will be created through SL, according to a recent survey by Manhattan College.

64,305 ... residents were online at the same time on February 24 – yet another new concurrency record for SL.

100,000 ... unique visitors have now been to the Greenies sim, according to its creator Rezzable.

ANOTHER BOT BITES THE DUST



EXPERT bot spotter Marigold Devin catches another sim owner grey-handed! Help Marigold kick bots out of SL by sending us pics to yourphotos@the-avastar.com.

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A NAKED PROTEST

SL CELEBRITIES GO ON THE OFFENSIVE AGAINST CONTENT THIEVES

By COYNE NAGY

TOP SL designers are stripping off for a saucy campaign to help put an end to content theft.

In a sensational series of adverts, leading business owners and content creators such as Sachi Vixen, Minnu Palen, Damen Gorilla, Stroker Serpentine and Tigerlily Koi have bared all for the camera hoping to increase awareness of intellectual property rights. The striking and provocative poses carry the message that it is better to go naked than to wear stolen goods.

AGGRESSIVE

The celebrity shots will be distributed to customers making purchases but will also be plastered across the grid in shops and popular places to raise awareness of the issue. Chez Nabob is the driving force behind the campaign, and he decided to take action after becoming fed up with seeing so much in-world theft. Nabob told The AvaStar he hoped the eye-

Advertisement for 'I'd rather go bare than wear stolen hair' featuring a nude avatar. Text includes: 'Theft has a cost. We all pay it.', 'Second Life's content creators pay when they lose sales to thieves who steal their intellectual property.', 'Don't buy stolen content. Report content you suspect is stolen. Please.', 'Together we can make a difference.', '- Tigerlily Koi | Calla'.

catching idea would encourage creators to be more aggressive in tackling theft: "I think content creators need to stop sitting back and waiting to be victimised and adopt a more offensive strategy."

PROTECTION

"I looked at PETA's anti-fur campaign and decided some kind of parody of those ads would potentially help deliver the message in a fun way. We hope that by educating residents they'll understand the

costs to everyone in SL and support us in our efforts to gain greater protection for IP rights."

Fellow campaigner Vixen warned that everyone would lose out if nothing is done to combat the issue: "The problem is that if this kind of theft is allowed then it will inevitably lead to less good qual-

Advertisement for 'Content theft steals the clothes off our backs' featuring a nude avatar. Text includes: 'Content theft steals the clothes off our backs', 'BARING ALL: Sex mogul Stroker Serpentine supports the cause'.

TOO LOVELY TO STEAL FROM: Former AvaStar of the Week Tigerlily Koi

BARING ALL: Sex mogul Stroker Serpentine supports the cause

NEWS BITES!

NEW COURT CASE

SL could be dragged into another RL court case as a resident is set to sue BNT Financial. Arthur Burma is planning a class action suit against the firm for blocking depositors access to their funds and for posting non-audited accounts.

FILM'S SL DEBUT

A FILM highlighting the dangers of climate change previewed in-world this week. 'The Age of Stupid' features British actor Pete Postlethwaite in the year 2055 as he looks back at archived material from 2007 to ask why nothing was done to prevent ecological disaster.

GLOBAL LAUNCH

JAPANESE RL firm Globalink will launch an in-world service on February 29. The company will rent out virtual space for exhibitions, presentations and advertising, and will also open a language school teaching English, Spanish, Japanese and Chinese.

IT'S GOOD TO TALK

TECHNOLOGY giant NEC has launched the 'NEC Communicator' device in-world, which allows residents to call or send text messages to RL phones. It follows similar projects by companies including Vodafone.

NAUGHTY DEMO

ANGRY CUSTOMERS VOW TO CRASH NAUGHTY SIM IN MONEY ROW

By CARRIE SODWIND

FURIOUS customers who say they were ripped off by one of SL's biggest skin designers have threatened to crash the label's sim.

The residents say they were cheated out of thousands of L\$ by the Naughty label when expensive products they bought never appeared in their inventories. In retribution, they are organising a sim crash and protest at the Naughty sim next week.

Omarion Houston says the hair and skin he bought for L\$2,150 never materialised: "I've sent many notecards and didn't get an answer. I work hard for my L\$, so I want to pay for something that I know I'll receive.

I'm going to tell people to stay away from Naughty."

DISTORTED

Another angry customer, Hansimagnet Boyle, has altered a slogan normally associated with the fight against texture theft in SL for the anti-Naughty demo. The phrase, on a distorted picture of a Naughty skin, now reads: "I'd rather go naked than wear Naughty!!! Viva la revolución!"

The owners of Naughty, Ambiance2 Anubis and Lost Thereian, have cut off all contact with customers. Thereian's profile now says: "No longer taking responsibility for missing purchases. Please contact Linden Labs for support when this happens. Do not

send me notecards please. Do not IM me." Neither were available for comment this week.

The suggestion the pair have acted in anger at Linden Lab's failure to tackle texture theft has incensed some of their customers. Maiké Hoorenbeek said: "They have problems with LL and try to put it on the customers... but it is not fair to take the money and not to deliver, it's not the fault of the customers."

UNFAIR:
Angry customer
Maiké Hoorenbeek



POPULAR LABEL:
Shopper Francisca Biedermann
dons a 'Naughty demo' skin

CULTURE SHOCK!

By ISOLDE FLAMAND



WACKY: Creative China Tracey's
stunning RMB City sim

RL CHINESE ARTIST CREATES HER VISION OF AN EASTERN CITY IN SL

A GROUND-BREAKING Chinese artist will highlight her work in SL at the opening of her RL exhibition in New York this week.

China Tracey, the avatar of Cao Fei who is renowned for using

SL as the medium for her RL work, spoke exclusively to The AvaStar about her latest masterpiece, RMB City. It is described as a virtual China which combines communism, capitalism and Chinese mythology. It will

be shown in the Lombard-Freid Projects gallery in Manhattan, opening this Friday.

The AvaStar: How did you come up with the idea?

China Tracey: I took half a year to adventure in SL, and finished a 28 minute-long SL documentary called 'i. Mirror'. The film participated in The 2007 Venice Biennale and is now showing in New York. At the end of the Venice Biennale, I thought that maybe I could create a place that belonged to me within SL – my own city utopia.

TA: What does the city represent to you?

CT: RMB City (RMB refers to 'renminbi' or 'people's money', China's official currency) mixes the different elements of China. I'm very interested in the city as

an organism and have done a lot of research on cities in China, and I'm hoping I can use my knowledge to build a Second Life version of my vision of the Chinese city today. All the cities currently in SL are Western-style, so Chinese users can't find spaces that reflect their culture. SL is a big world, and you want to build something to locate your own identity.

TA: What is the future of SL as an art medium?

CT: SL is a good medium for art, also for architecture, fashion, business, neo-sociology research, communication. It's such a big subject for different fields. Although I'm an artist, I hope my city will help build dialogue between different territories.

MASTERPIECE:
RL artist China Tracey



MFA
MEROVINGI FASHION AWARDS

the 2008 Awards

NOMINATE
YOUR FAVOURITE DESIGNER
FOR THIS YEARS FASHION AWARDS



It is time for the 2008 Merovingi Fashion Awards! Last year's show helped raise money Relay for Life, and this year, we plan to help Doctors without Borders and the National Breast Cancer Foundation!

This year, our show will be twice as big, spread on 4 sims in Second Life. In comparison to passed shows, we will not hand pick designers, instead we invite you to nominate your favourite designer!

Also this year, we will award a brand new Apple iMac 20" computer to each winner, and there are 20 iPod nanos to be raffled among those who nominate and vote!

This years Awards show offers performance by live artists, among them the SpaceJunkys! For more information, visit our website today!

www.merovingifashionawards.com

MFA PARTNER
and official broadcaster of the Award show



L\$500 PICS OF THE WEEK

yourphotos@the-avastar.com



This poor guy ended up face first in a hedge while trying to land. Pic by **SHELDON HOLMER**.



A few heads were certainly turned when the beautiful **KENDRA LUNASEA** stepped outside for a spot of gardening – and it wasn't because of the pretty plants!



MARGA MOLINARO visited the Tomance Ice Skating and Cavern in Yalm and found this adorable polar bear family.



This poor but hopeful mouse is willing to work hard for his money! Pic by **I.F.**

your mail @ YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

RL PRICE TAG FOR SL ART? NO WAY!

Dear Regis, SL art selling for millions of US\$?

I've got to say, I don't see it myself. I know some people on the grid might be saying that SL art will take on RL art prices, but that is just a pipe dream. I think it would be a shame as well, because SL art isn't infested with that horrible fakeness which pervades its RL equivalent, and that would surely be the result!

By F.W.

FURRIES GONE MISSING

Hey Regis, I WAS very interested to read your article on furries last week [Furries hide from abuse!].

I'm not a furry myself, but I used to have a couple of close friends in SL who were. Unfortunately, I haven't heard from either of them in a while. When we were hanging out together, there was the odd idiot who

would say something stupid to them about being furries, but we just ignored them and I thought it wasn't a big problem. But I started hearing less and less of them, until they just seemed to stop coming in-world altogether. I hope they are still around some-

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

where, enjoying a more peaceful Second Life with their fellow furries, and it is just such a shame that they and their kind feel the need to isolate themselves from the rest of us humans. Well done The AvaStar for highlighting this problem - I think it was high time someone stood up and did something about it.

By S.F.

ADVERT

Madeleine Island - tropical beach resort Grundstücke zu verkaufen! - Parcels for sale!

Leben Sie auf einem exklusiven Privatsim in einer Bauhaus-Umgebung. Keine Schandflecken! Auf Wunsch stellen wir Häuser gratis zur Verfügung.

You live on a exclusive private sim in a bauhaus-style neighbourhood.No eyesores, guaranteed! We provide free houses on demand.

Contact (inworld):
Madeleine Cazalet

TP to: Madeleine 42,184,21



REGIS BRAATHENS

YES, IT IS STEALING!

CONTENT THEFT ON THE GRID HAS A REAL IMPACT ON REAL PEOPLE

Dear content thief, NO doubt you're feeling very pleased with yourself.

Why spend time brainstorming new fashion ideas, you think. Why put in the painstaking hours it takes to design the intricate items, when you can just find a way to copy

them, and pass them off as your own? It's easy money. And after all, it's only a computer game and he who cheats wins. That's how gaming works. Why are people getting so upset, you ask, it's only virtual stuff anyway. It's not like it's stealing.

HURT

But that's exactly what it is. Stealing. You are robbing real people of their money, their time, their pleasure, and for some of them, their livelihood. Look at the faces of the avatars

YOUR COMMENTS:
 regis@the-avastar.com

on the posters and imagine them in real life. Would you take money from their wallet? Would you go to their home and rob them of their possessions?

You may have gotten away in the past with thinking Second Life is a game, that you were not hurting anyone. Residents won't be so forgiving again.

Yours sincerely,
Regis Braathens

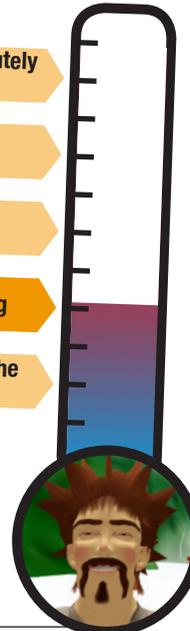


STORMS AHEAD?

I SEARCHED a few times through the paper this week - but I still couldn't find any criticism of Linden Lab. I asked Leifer Stepanov if there had been a mistake, but it turns out, there's nothing to complain about right now! Of course, we have yet to see effective action being taken against content theft, but that's not going to happen right away. Apart from that the waters are calm at the Lab right now. Perhaps there's a storm on the way...

Lind-o-meter:

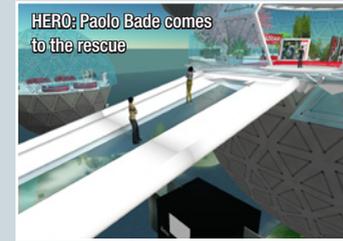
- Lab-solutely awful!
- Phil-ing blue!
- Lagging behind!
- IMproving
- Sim-ply the best!



DISASTER AT AVASTAR ISLAND!

WHY doesn't SL have an undo button? I've never been the best builder here, but after nearly destroying a part of The AvaStar island, I think I really will lay my tools down for good. I was just putting up new textures for Paolo Bade's fashion photography exhibition, when I heard a shout from Carrie Sodwind, that she had fallen through a massive hole in the AvaStar platform. To my horror and utter disbelief, I had managed to tear up about half of the access ramp having unwittingly moved connected prims! Feeling like a

little kid that had knocked over a vase in an antiques shop and fearing the wrath of Aimee Weber, who built the island, I appealed to Paolo who was at hand. It turns out he's not just a fantastic photographer but an able builder too, and was able to put it right. Phew!



HERO: Paolo Bade comes to the rescue

META-NEWS!

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

BUSINESS KEY FOR FUTURE OF THERE

By COYNE NAGY

BUSINESS holds the key to the future of There, according to the boss of the virtual world.

CEO Michael Wilson was speaking in an interview in There, which was also streamed into SL.

The world has already attracted interest from big RL firms such as Levi Strauss and Coca Cola.

BEAUTY

And Wilson revealed that, in the short term at least, business would be a defining factor for There: "I believe that these virtual worlds become successful when real businesses come in and join the metaverse as a tool to engage with their customer. I think the beauty of virtual worlds is that it's a new way for real people and real businesses to interact with each other."

He also rubbished the notion that There should release user numbers for comparison. He added: "I would rather focus on figuring out what it is my customers need than try to come up with the latest set of good numbers to go into the press or go into some report."

NEW LOOK FOR SIMS

MUTED REACTION TO COMPLETE OVERHAUL OF LONG-RUNNING WORLD

By COYNE NAGY

ONE of the oldest virtual worlds in the metaverse has undergone a complete overhaul and re-branding in an attempt to win back users.

The Sims Online (TSO) was relaunched as EA-Land this week, and it is hoped the new-look version will attract back disaffected residents who had left the old version for other virtual worlds.

ABANDONED

It was originally created in 2002 to build on the success of the popular 'Sims' series of computer games, but had struggled against the competition in recent years. Users were abandoning it in droves and not even the owners, Electronic Arts, seemed to be interested.

But the success of other worlds has persuaded the company that a modern and up-to-date version of the game could be viable. The thirteen cities which made up TSO have been transferred

to EA-Land but the new world is much bigger, with about 100 times more land on the map. Users can now play for free, although they will not be able to access all of the features. Residents can also create and upload their own content which they can then sell on for a profit.

AUTOPILOT

It is hoped the economy will change so that profit is generated by interacting with other residents rather than completing in-game tasks.

Dakota Dixon is one of the residents who moved to SL from TSO, and she said: "Most people started putting their sims on autopilot and being away from the computer so there wasn't really much communication in the old world. I'll probably try EA-Land out a few times when it is complete to see how it is different from before."



Pic: www.ea-land.com



A STEP FORWARD? A user surveys EA-Land

Pic: www.ea-land.com

WAR OF WORDS AS WSE ABANDONS L\$

KUSH ISLANDS BOSS ANGER AT DECISION BY WSE CEO VANDEVERRE

By COYNE NAGY

A WAR of words has broken out between the controversial CEO of the World Stock Exchange and the chairman of Kush Islands.

WSE boss LukeConnell Vandeverre set out his vision for the future of the exchange, which remains offline for renovation, to investors on February 24. He insisted there were no problems with the relaunch of the exchange before revealing the WSE would abandon the Linden dollar, with accounts being converted to World Internet Currency (WIC).

INEXPERIENCE

But not everyone was happy with what was said. Rockwell Ginsberg, chairman of Kush Islands, reacted furiously to the new policy and moved his company to the SL Capital Exchange. He told The AvaStar: "While we have not always seen eye to eye with LukeConnell's seemingly unilateral decisions... we have been tolerant of his inexperience. But the decision to convert all customer deposits to a fictional currency that has no clear value was simply too much to bear. Many of our shareholders feel that they have been robbed. We have lost all confidence in LukeConnell's ability to execute."

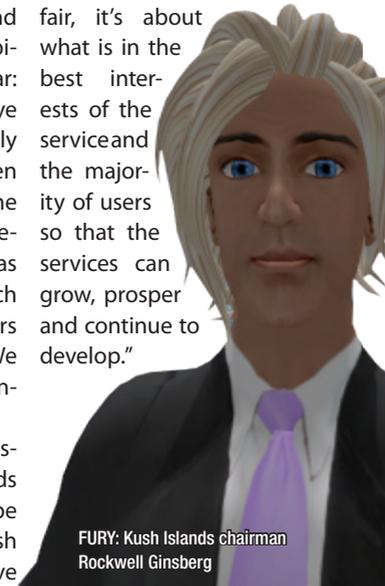
Vandeverre hit back, claiming Ginsberg was always negative towards the WSE and that nothing would be lost by his leaving: "The CEO of Kush Islands has been publicly negative



towards WSE's decisions, growth strategy and overall operations for many months, even before we closed, and even faced a potential de-listing prior to his requested de-listing. We will not miss him."

PROSPER

He also defended his decision to convert L\$ balances to WICs without giving investors a chance to withdraw their money: "It's not about fair, it's about what is in the best interests of the service and the majority of users so that the services can grow, prosper and continue to develop."



FURY: Kush Islands chairman Rockwell Ginsberg

BIZ BITES!

IT'S O'REAL OVER

THE little-known but successful link-up between L'Oreal Paris and SL will end this week. The firm did not have an island, but integrated branded products such as skins into the stores of SL retailers and also established the Greenies Kitchen sim.

GIBSON ON SONG

MUSICIANS will have to wait to explore the new in-world presence of Gibson Guitars. The firm aims to make its island a haven for guitar enthusiasts but it has closed the sim to enable further work to be done before it is officially opened.

NEW STOCK RULE

THE Virtual Stock Exchange has reiterated its intention to prevent insider or unfair trading. A new code of conduct states that alts cannot be used to purchase shares to affect market prices.

CHANGES AT SLCE

CHANGO Kato has been appointed the new chief technical officer of the SL Capital Exchange with a brief to improve the platform and introduce additional features.

a-stars



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

SL'S BEST PIN UPS!



PIN UPS: Teena Basevi, above, and Lyra Nitely, right

STYLISH: The models head down the catwalk

By ISABEL BROCCO

FIVE models donned vintage catwalk designs as part of the Instyle Graduates show on Saturday.

The gorgeous group of Anja451 Clary, Lolita Nomura, Lyra Nitely, SweetRegina

DeCuir and Teena Basevi were all initiated as 'Pin Up Dolls' during the event. Organiser Pin Upshaw based her shop on the idea that any girl can look like a pin up in SL. Saturday's show featured a sneak preview of her latest gowns.

Silas and Luigi rock SL



ON STAGE: Silas Scarborough

By KITTY OTOOLE

A REUNION of regulars from the Old Salts pub took place on Saturday to raise funds for the Macmillan Cancer charity.

Some of the best live artists in SL, including Luigi Diprima and Silas Scarborough, donated their time and tips to the fundraiser at Havens Paradise.

FOR A GOOD CAUSE: Old Salts regulars enjoy the party



PARTYING FOR CHARITY

ON THE DECKS: DJ MaartenSupercharge



By PHIL SPACKLER

SL hosted part of a global dinner party organised by the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation on February 23. The event was raising funds for research into the disease and to raise awareness. It was taken into SL by the VUMC group, an experimental project created by the Free University of Amsterdam. There were six hours of live music at the event at the MS Island VUMC sim, and nearly L\$350,000 was raised.



GROOVIN': Partygoer Nonna Hedges

By ISABEL BROCCO

Icing on the cake

A TOUCH of 'je ne sais quoi' was on show at the launch of the Icing clothes line. The line, from Miko Omegamu, had a French theme running through it, and those present at the event included the owner of artilleri, Antonia Marat, and architect Scope Cleaver.

Travelling minstrels



MEDIEVAL: Noren Rang on his trusty white steed

By BABU WRITER

A TRADITIONAL travelling minstrel festival took place at the Koblenz sim last weekend. Atheene Dodonpa, a performer of medieval music, sang and accompanied herself with a number of instruments including recorders, pipes and a celtic harp.



I FEEL FRUITY

ARE YOU A TROPICAL SHAKE GIRL, OR MORE STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM MILKSHAKE?

Chiquita Fruit Complete Outfit
By Absolute Betty
Son (175, 209, 27)

L\$200

By SOLANGE KOROBASE

Willis II Hair in Scarlet
By ETD
ETD Isle (207, 209, 27)

L\$150

Mmmm Strawberry Top
By Canimal
Canimal (176, 85, 24)

L\$90

Liv Hair
By Kin Eventide
Far East (165, 209, 45)

L\$100

Callie cLine's STYLE HOTLINE HI TOPS FOR HIGH FASHION



FORGET THE 'NEW BLACK' AND WEAR SOME COLOURFUL SNEAKERS!

I LOVE high fashion – I'm always on the look out for the 'new black'.

But sometimes it can be confusing. Mash-ups are the new black, red is the new black, black is the new black. What the heck IS the new black? Well I for one don't care right now, because when it comes to 'high' fashion, you can't beat high tops!

That's right, good old basketball shoes, I'll wear them with anything. When I used to wear my princess gown (at the island which I'm the princess of!) I ALWAYS wore high tops.

ATTITUDE

This week I found some great new high tops with changeable colours. In these photos I have mixed them with a few great pieces by Digit Darkes, a RL fashion designer who has a great attitude about SL style. I think this outfit of black with bright colours is really fun. I am also wearing some purple ERD hair, and a multi-coloured bracelet and make up as well,

so I was lovin' it! Black with bright colours and high fashion hi top shoes – what could be better?



HIGH FIVE: Callie's hi-tops outfit



BRIGHT: Callie with her ETD hair

WHAT'S HOT! AN ODE TO A STYLE ICON

By CARRIE SODWIND

FOR my last fashion column at The AvaStar, I want to pay tribute to a style icon of mine.

The AvaStar's cartoonist has a mystique around his style – his av is always so bugged that nobody knows what he really looks like! He turns up to the weekly editorial meetings sporting a pair of ruth breasts, a shoe up his backside, or hovering in an awkward pose near some floating hair. Ruthed or lag-skinned, Ermanno Spitteler – I don't know what you really look like but thank you for the anti-style. It's cool.



CHESS, ANYONE? Ermanno Spitteler at an AvaStar editorial meeting

SL'S BEST ART AT AVASTAR ISLAND!



PAOLO'S STYLE: Past fashion pages from The AvaStar

AVASTAR photographer Paolo Bade has been exhibiting his ground-breaking work at AvaStar Island, including past fashion pages and AvaStars of the Week.

Now it's YOUR turn – for the chance to see your work on display at our fantastic home sim, email your exhibition ideas to newsdesk@the-avastar.com.



TOP SLERS: Some of Paolo's AvaStar of the Week pics

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

By ISOLDE FLAMAND

ESHI OTAWARA OF CHAMBRE DU CHOCOLAT



I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT...

"...my Gritty Kitty Hair made by Noam Sprocket. I would love to cut my hair like this in RL. It works great with elegant dresses and isn't a 'prom do'! I stick to platinum because people tend to have more fun with blondes."

I HAVE ALWAYS HAD...

"...my detailed tattoos by Zabitana Assia of FORM. They have grown to be a part of me. They look lovely with my gowns, plus I like Buddha, who is featured in the design - we have much in common."

I JUST LOVE...

"...my black sneakers, and wear them with everything, especially gowns! They were made by Fenoe Lowey, and are only L\$50 on slexchange."



MY PERFECT HAIR ACCESSORY IS...

"...my sunglasses that I got at the Primoptic Eyewear Boutique, by Nibb Tardis. They are scripted to change colours, they have radar and flight enhancers and even an anti-idle. They were the first things I ever bought that fit me right away."



WEDDING BELLS



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

~Muse~ Claris Pearl and Diamond Choker

By Caliah Lyon
Muse (201, 173, 27)



L\$200

Calla Lily Cake-Autumn

By Jade Opel
Petals (182, 237, 24)



L\$400

Wedding Bouquet

By Carrie Grant
Insanity (68, 16, 21)



L\$350

ZHAO Bella

By Melanie Zhao
Asgard (206, 37, 44)



L\$650

RH Engel-Carass Wedding Ring Set

By RH Engel
Jewelry (228, 67, 37)



L\$1000

NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: A CHANCE FOR RESIDENTS TO STAY HEALTHY WITH TWO NEW HOSPITALS

IS THERE A DOCTOR ON THE GRID?

By COYNE NAGY

AVATARS feeling under the weather will be delighted with the news that help is now at hand.

Cisco Systems recently unveiled the PalomarWest Hospital, a representation of a RL facility the firm is planning to build with Palomar Pomerado Health in San Diego by 2011.

ROBOTICS

The sim contains spectacular buildings and showcases new technology and advancements in patient care. Improvements have been made in the field of robotics, medical imaging and

patient tracking which will no doubt attract both professionals as well as casual visitors.

Computer giant IBM has also recently launched a medical cen-

tre on a new island, which residents can visit but currently only on request. The aim of the project appears to be similar to the Cisco creation in that it displays new technology, but it seems the focus of IBM's build will be more on the use of information and patient records than new medical developments.



SECOND AID: IBM's medical centre

ADVERT

SWIMBALLS
Just drop the Swimball Rezzor in the water and its ready for you and your friends to swim.
L\$435

Wise Owl Owl!
L\$395

Landscaping Rake
Terraforming has never been sooo much fun!
L\$125

Trip & Fall
Makes you trip and fall whenever someone says the two words of your choice together.
L\$395

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



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

DEAR

I'M A GOLDEN OLDIE BUT CAN'T FIND A DATE IN SL



MY AV IS TRUE TO MY RL SELF BUT NO ONE SEEMS INTERESTED IN VIRTUAL LOVE

Dear Randi: IN RL I am a 55-year-old woman who most people seem to think is attractive. I have a head full of silver hair, and have basically been able to keep my nice figure. I decided to be honest with my avatar when I signed up, and made her look as much like my RL self as possible. Now the problem I have is with my SL social life. I would

love to have a relationship, but men just don't seem interested in asking me out, probably because I'm not a young blonde bimbo. What can I do to get a steady boyfriend without misrepresenting myself? — P.M.
Randi says: Your integrity is something to be admired, but you have definitely put yourself at a disadvantage in the dating

pool by designing your av like you have. Most men like younger women. And in SL, many if not most avatars are much better looking than their typists. It's part of the fantasy. If you don't want to appear younger, perhaps you should join as many groups as possible which might interest men in your RL age range.

MY 'NICE' BOYFRIEND WANTS SEX WITH SIS

Dear Randi: I HAD always thought my virtual boyfriend was a nice guy, but recently he suggested we have a threesome in-world with my RL sister, who is also a friend of his. I asked her about it, and she said it would be OK with her. But I'm very uncomfortable with it. I would like to indulge his fantasies, but this is a little out of character and caught me off guard. Should I just go along with him, or should I put my foot down and say no? — I.B.

Randi says: If you're uncomfortable with what he has suggested, then you certainly shouldn't go along with it. Having sex with two women at the same time is a typical male fantasy, but I think very few turn it into reality without the help of escorts. Tell him you need some time to think about it, but by all means do not do it with your sister. If the scene goes badly, you don't want to damage two relationships.

BROKE FRIEND NEEDS ME TO HELP HER OUT

Dear Randi: THREE of my best friends and I have been renting a house in a beautiful sim. We have been sharing rent for months, but recently one of the girls said she had financial problems and would be unable to pay any time soon. One of our other friends says we should give her a month to pay up or just kick her out, and the other says we should be lenient. The money involved isn't very much, and I don't want to lose a friend. I have plenty of money. Should I just offer to pay her share? — H.P.

Randi says: If she has been a good friend, then suggest that plan to her. Just do it privately so as not to embarrass her. And never mention it to the others. Just slip her the money quietly the day before each payment is due and be done with it. You'll be going a good deed, and you'll be able to feel good about that and also keep three relationships intact.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

CONFUSING CRUSH ON GIRL IS CRAZY BECAUSE I'M GAY!

Dear Randi: I HAVE known I was gay ever since I was in my early teens, and I came to terms with it and am happy with my life. But recently I have become really confused about it all again. I kept quiet about my sexuality when I first went into SL. My favourite thing to do in-world is to dress up in a tux and go to dance clubs, and I have no trouble attract-

ing women to dance with me. Recently I met a girl who must be every straight guy's dream. She's beautiful, smart, funny, the whole package. I think I may be falling for a woman for the first time. Am I really gay or not? — C.K.
Randi says: If you've only been with men before this but now you're convinced that you're suddenly wild about this one

girl, then chances are you could be a little bit bisexual. Either way, you shouldn't see it as a problem. You aren't betraying anybody. Go ahead and pursue your relationship with her and explore that side of your sexuality. Just make sure she knows that, at least for the near future, you aren't interested in anything more than an online affair.

ADVERT

Slaggin'

ARTWORK:
Ermanno Spitteler
Regis Braathens

"PAIN IN THE LAB"



© Andrea Manfredini 2008



Freebies

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

SL's best FREE stuff!

THIS WEEK: MINIATURE JAPANESE BONSAI TREES

THERE are some wonderful Japanese creations in SL, which are simple and elegant at the same time.

They include furniture, homes, dresses – and of course, free bonsai trees – least, Revochen Mayne has created a lovely Zen garden with waterfall and sound (Kaseyo 23, 64, 68). They include furniture, homes, dresses – and of course, free bonsai trees! Some people still have a very cute one from a while back which was created by Kitten Lulu. It has a willow, a rock and a small waterfall. You can find the 2008 edition at Isle of Phoenix (57, 29, 24).

There is also a fantastic sculpted bonsai by Llorando Runo (Woodfall 101, 236, 21) with flexi branches swaying in the wind. It comes with a big tree

of the same type which also has a very realistic shadow. At Japan Travelguide (Jtb 139, 130, 24) there is a nice bonsai with sculpted trunk, and last but not

These objects are made with a lot of prims, unfortunately, but they are hard to resist!



ADVERT

DemetriusSlade.com

- › Land sales › Property rentals
- › Land rentals › Financial services

Rue D'Antibes Grand Opening

Sunday, March 2nd
11am-1pm and 4pm-6pm SLT

Freebies, Giveaways,
Live DJ, Special Sales
and much, much more...

...the little mediterranean shopping town
with all the best names in SL fashion,
furniture, prefabs, art....

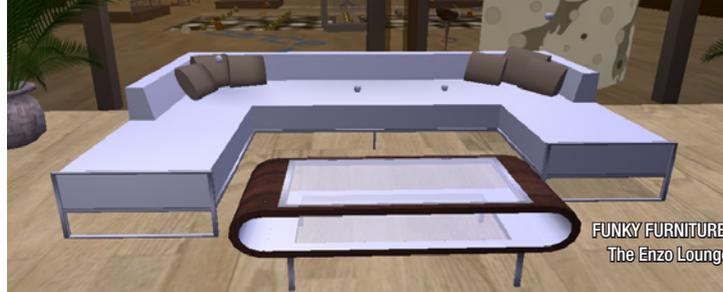


THE GUIDE TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: LOUNGES

SMOOTH STYLE

By GAETANA FAUST



FUNKY FURNITURE:
The Enzo Lounge

RELAX AND CHILL OUT WITH LOUNGE LIZARDS ON THE GRID

JOIN the hip and trendy avatar set for a Martini and a chat with your friends at a swanky lounge bar, without the 'woot woot' of a typical SL dance club.

You won't find a cooler place in SL than **Sky Lounge Noir** in Bury Island (116, 74, 227). Swathed in black walls and crystal chandeliers, the quiet retreat features roaring fires, comfy floor cushions and contemplative golden Buddha statues against white curtains.

R&B lovers will appreciate the hot music pumping at the 70s-style **Enzo Lounge** in Tifa (19, 103, 23).

Lean back on the sleek and comfortable furniture and enjoy the hip-hop vibe. **Legend Lounge** in Hamlet (77, 31, 28) is about as laid-back as a bar can be. Take a seat

and drink in the chill out tunes and low-key atmosphere as you watch the fish swimming in the aquarium behind the bar.

Smooth electronic music is on offer at **Jennifer's Bistro Cafe and Bar** in Shikasta (217, 193, 26). Grab a table overlooking the water and enjoy the food and drink. You'll love the classic jazz music at the lounge in **Eolus** (236, 22, 24) as much as the swanky décor. Black leather lounges and colourful Persian rugs make you feel like settling in with a cocktail and a friend.

Artisan Isle (206, 76, 24) is home to the **Star Bar Martini** and **Jazz Garden**. Enjoy the sparkling Martini bar set against a dramatic waterfall.

ÜBER-CHILLED SPOT DOGLOUNGE



Take in the deep house music and cool, open design featuring black Barcelona chairs.

Where: Plush Delta
(92, 30, 22)

A TOUCH OF GLAMOUR SANPELLEGRINO CAFE



Loiter by the pool or take a seat inside the sleek red café as you gaze at the indoor waterfall.

Where: Fragrance
(52, 41, 26)

SIPPING A MARTINI STAR BAR



Sit at the sparkling Martini bar, the ideal place for a nice cosmopolitan.

Where: Artisan Isle
(206, 76, 24)

2.29. - 3.6.

DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in SL Time



CONTEST

COMBAT CARDS

Join your fellow card duellers for the Spring Tournament '08 hosted by Osprey Therian which includes three different categories of combat.

When: Mar. 2, 14:00–15:30

Where: Europa (101, 137, 56)



OPENING

TUBE2SL.COM

The website will launch its service allowing residents to upload videos for broadcasting in SL, as well as its new island sim and cinema complex.

When: Mar. 1, 12:00

Where: Glenmore (120, 236, 51)



EDUCATION

YOGA AND MEDITATION

Learn how to meditate and find spiritual development. You will need to be voice enabled.

When: Mar. 1, 16:00-17:00

Where: Airtol Hill (181, 73, 59)



LIVE MUSIC

DJ TAZZIE TUQUE

Enjoy some of the best blues music on the grid, including on the spot song requests and dedications.

When: Mar. 1, 19:00-21:00

Where: Hall of Fame (62, 123, 22)



ENTERTAINMENT

MEDIEVAL KINGDOM BALL

The event will be the starting point of a role play game in the sim. Formal medieval dress is required.

When: Mar. 3, 17:00-19:00

Where: Pindarus (83, 128, 22)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

LINE DANCING CLUB

Good dancing, great music and top DJ Gerg Gloster will launch the club, so head onto the dance floor for a boot scootin' good time.

When: Mar. 2, 14:00-17:00

Where: Cecil (219, 187, 51)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



FASHION

SL SKIN EXHIBITION

A total of 68 SL skin designers will take part in the international event, so come down and see the new looks on offer.

When: From Mar. 1

Where: VANITY UNIVERSE (111, 11, 629)



NIGHTLIFE

SALSA TANGO PARTY

Put your dancing shoes on and come on down to make some moves to the sounds of salsa and tango. Bring a partner or meet someone there.

When: Mar. 2, 07:00-09:00

Where: Sphinx (24, 70, 22)



DISCUSSION

SOCRATES CAFE

Anyone who loves exploring philosophy and discussing it with others will have a great time at this event, which is open to everyone.

When: Mar. 6, 20:00-21:00

Where: Tintafel (34, 27, 100)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

LOOKER LUMET

The renowned in-world photographer will display work at his first solo exhibition at the Galeria LX.

When: Mar. 1, 02:00

Where: Portucalis (111, 81, 22)



LIVE MUSIC

MICHELLE DALZIEL

The wonderfully talented singer, whose voice has often been compared to a songbird, will be making her Glass Earth debut at a not-to-be-missed gig.

When: Mar. 6, 15:00-16:00

Where: Glass Earth (135, 173, 23)

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.



THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

By PAOLO BADE



CIENEGA SOON

CIENEGA IS A JOURNALIST, GALLERY OWNER AND ARTIST WHO TAKES SL PICS AND TURNS THEM INTO ART.

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: CIENEGA SOON
BIRTH DATE: 12/2/2006

PROFESSION: Gallery owner, artist, journalist
ATTITUDE: Culture culture

INTERVIEW

The AvaStar: What form do you take in SL?

Cienega Soon: I am mostly human, but sometimes a dark elf, Drow, with blue skin.

TA: What is your best feature?

CS: I think my avatar is well proportioned. I use it mostly for photo artwork.

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

CS: Running my gallery, taking photos for my art work, taking portraits for clients and custom commission photo artwork. I do interviews, take photo shoots for stories, chat to friends... and change clothes all the time.

TA: What would you change in SL?

CS: The limit on groups. I hate having to leave groups so I can do interviews with live performers. I want at least 50.

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

CS: My shape. It's not one I bought, but made by reshaping the first shape I received when I started SL. So it's my work, and it's not available anywhere except my inventory!

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

CS: Ammon Pera. He impresses me the most.