

THE AVASTAR

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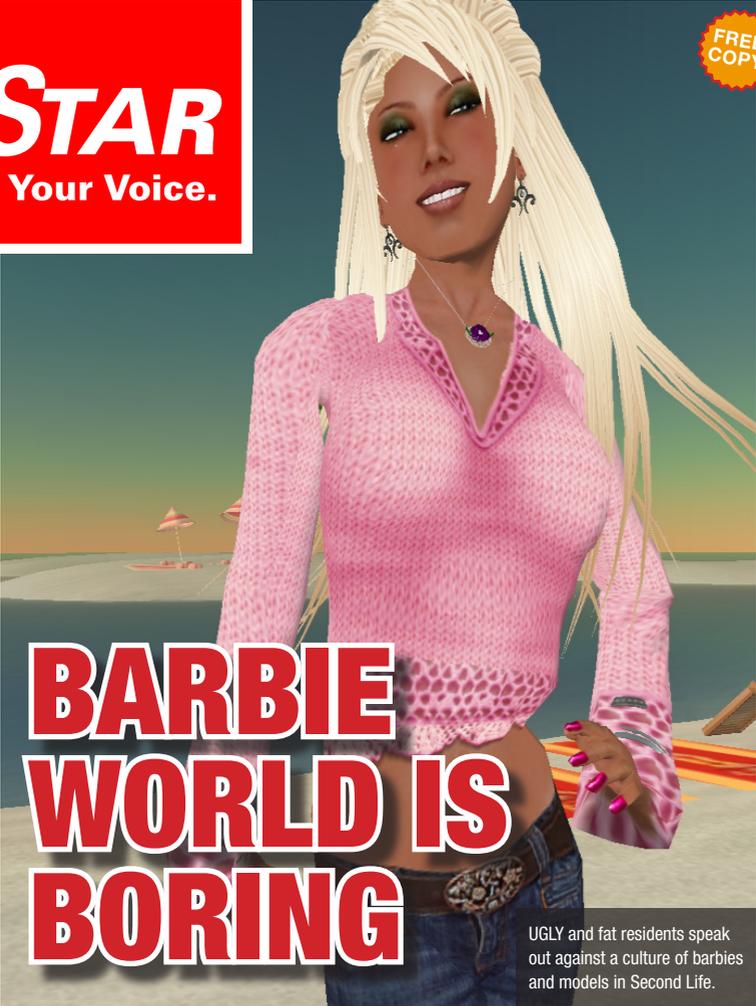
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UGLY and fat residents speak out against a culture of barbies and models in Second Life.

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Thousands of newbies are logging in wanting to have a look at the wonderful things they have heard about - and seeing nothing but slow moving grey zombies. These disappointed customers will not return.



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WRITE FOR THE AVASTAR

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

YOUR Photos L\$500

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

LINDENS GET LUCKY ON V-DAY



JESKA and Spike were among the lucky Lindens making the most of Valentine's Day by kissing hundreds of residents in the 'Kiss a Linden' event. Pic: Torley Linden

THE AVASTAR STAFF

CEO

Gregor Ginsberg

BUSINESS MANAGER

Ikarus Santos

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Regis Braathens

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Leider Stepanov

WRITERS & CONTRIBUTORS

Pham Neutra, Lionila Lightfoot, Deeep Witte, Randi Barracuda, Gaetana Faust,

Tina (PetGirl) Bergman, India Obviate, Nebriil Spark, Marian Maverick, Valentino Schnabel, Carrie Sodwind, Gavin Pertwee, Isabel Brocco, Petronilla Paperdoll, JenZa Misfit, Jane Calvert, Bryan Dix

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Ronsen Sungsoo, Raoul Cimino

ADVERTISING & DISTRIBUTION

advertising@the-avastar.com

ONLINE WEBSITE

www.the-avastar.com



By CARRIE SODWIND

"OH MY GRID!"

GRID HAVOC LEAVES NEWBIES FED UP AFTER DISMAL FIRST DAY IN SECOND LIFE

CONFUSED newbies suffer virtual nightmare as lag, grid problems and sim-crashes ruin their first days in Second Life.

Orientation Island was in a state of crowded chaos on Monday as technical problems at the Lab plagued the grid. Countless newbies were forced to walk around like grey headless chickens, unable to see themselves, chat with others or teleport away.

Nathan Fargis, who joined Second Life on Monday, said his first day was miserable: "I was logged in on Orientation Island for six hours but couldn't see my avatar and couldn't really do anything. Help was nonexistent, and I couldn't talk to anybody."

Lighheart Oppewall was also born on February 12 and left equally frustrated with his

chaotic first experience of the virtual world. "It was crazy. I was running around with an all grey body and just some hair on top. The map was also not working. But I stayed on because I thought it would have to get better."

But not all newbies were so patient and thousands left unimpressed. Hildama Babii, who talked to The AvaStar in the early hours of Tuesday stayed only two hours before vowing not to return: "I read about this place and wanted to check it out. But it's a major disappointment. Everyone is grey and I can't even get off this island. I don't know what the hype is about."

Veteran residents also vented their anger at the grid problems which they

have grown used to in recent months. Caliandris Pendragon who was due to celebrate her second rezzday on Monday said: "Normally I would have been able to invite a few friends over but I will have to organise a party another time."

Event organiser RacerX Gullwig, was also unimpressed: "Someday the Lindens will get it together and make this place liveable again."

Mick and Jean Linden blogged furiously throughout Sunday and Monday's fiasco to try and calm aggravated residents and inform them about system bugs.

Most newbies however were left completely in the dark, wondering what on earth was going on.

NOOB: Also comes in colour

“PEOPLE WANT TO LOOK GOOD”

By VALENTINO SCHNABEL

Lijan Biziou is a model making money from her looks.

THE AVASTAR: Did you ever feel ugly in SL?

LIJAN BIZIOU: When I first got here and saw all the amazing avatars, I changed. Avatars who aren't beautiful are sometimes overlooked by people. I felt like that when I first came in.

TA: Why are there so many beautiful avatars?

LB: In SL you can be whomever you want. Most people want to look good, to be desired and loved. Maybe they feel a need to make up for some perceived inadequacy in RL.

TA: What are the advantages of being beautiful?

LB: As there are so many beauties here, I don't see that it is a huge advantage. And the people who are "ugly" choose to be so. We can choose how we look, which we can't do in RL. With all that choice you have to ask, what actually defines beauty.



PRETTY: Model Lijan Biziou

“I DON'T WANT TO BE A BARBIE”

NO REGRETS: Juliette Cordeaux is happy to be fat in SL



By VALENTINO SCHNABEL

UGLY AND FAT RESIDENTS SPEAK OUT AGAINST CULTURE OF MODEL AVATARS

BLOND hair, long legs and pornstar sized breasts - the look of the average female avatar.

SL is so full of beautiful people, it often looks like a Ken and Barbie paradise. Men stacked with muscle with permanent tan lie on the beaches of SL with their bimbo honeys.

When JoJo Yue entered SL she couldn't understand why everyone looked perfect. The heavyweight woman with a large belly wanted to be different. "I don't want to be a barbie" she said.

BODY FAT

Danny Peng is also fed up seeing beautiful avatars: "Who wants a world in which everyone looks like a model? It's boring."

He created more than ten ugly shapes and set up the group 'Ugly Avatars'. Many play

around with being ugly, he said, but few stick to it. "I think many people feel themselves forced to look beautiful because of dating purposes," said Danny.

Biker Geer, member of Fat Furies, is upset that making fat people is difficult: "Body fat modelling on a fat avatar does not look realistic. It would help if Linden Labs could put a 'body fat' feature in SL or refine the facility to make fat legs example."

Ugly people are also viewed often with suspicion. When



BEER BELLY: Valentino Schnabel enjoys SL as a big boy

Danny arrived at a nightclub during a grieving attack the bartenders were sure that Danny was to blame, ejecting and banning him. "Later the club manager found out it was one of those attractive male avatars," said Danny, "seven feet tall, bronze skin, mountains of muscle."

SURPRISE

Juliette Cordeaux, who also chose to experiment with being fat, has no regrets: "To my surprise, everyone has been quite

personable and helpful, and I made friends quickly."

She says in RL she would not have been accepted so well. "I like to think that even in the virtual world, we are drawn not only to beauty but to someone who has substance over perfection," said Juliette.



OLD MAN: Danny Peng



FAT & HAPPY: JoJo Yue

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

"Everyone wants to be well liked in SL, so of course most people want their avatars to look good. But I have also seen some avatars that were not beautiful."



Ginger Marseille:

"People here may be beautiful, but SL allows inner beauty to shine through."



Romana Sinatra:



Lisa McGuire:

"No one in RL chooses to be unattractive. So I guess in SL where you have the choice, you tend to create an idealized version of yourself. I think it is human nature to do so."



Hanna Ferraris:

"It is fun to be able to turn my dreams of being beautiful into reality."

"I like being able to be beautiful. I think it is just a virtual game and if someone isn't happy with his/her body in RL they can be satisfied in SL."



BassBabe Miles:

"I think it's normal, everyone wants to look fine. It is easier than in RL."



Ithandil Silverstar:

UGLY PEOPLE ATTRACT MORE

By VALENTINO SCHNABEL

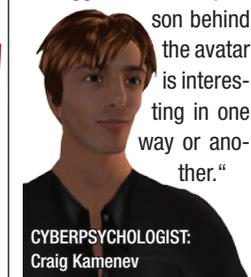
CYBERPSYCHOLOGIST Craig Kamenev, who offers avatar-based therapy in SL, says that residents make themselves beautiful to meet more people: "Physical attractiveness has

been shown to be a key predictor of the likelihood of meeting new people."

But Kamenev has seen that not all RL rules apply to SL and that being ugly in SL has its advantages. "Since conventional beauty

appears to be the norm in SL, it seems that many of the 'unattractive' avatars actually attract more initial interest."

The psychologist even thinks that SL ugliness could also work as a tricky form of communication. "It seems that being unattractive in SL may send a message of confidence to other residents, or suggest that the person behind the avatar is interesting in one way or another."



CYBERPSYCHOLOGIST: Craig Kamenev

"I AM SO GRATEFUL"

OVERWHELMED: Ayeshe Millions is amazed by the generosity of the SL community

ILLNESS-STRUCK AYESHE MILLIONS THANKS THE GENEROSITY OF RESIDENTS

BY INDIA OBIVATE

AYESHE Millions, a resident stricken by a life-threatening illness, has won the hearts of Second Lifers.

When fashion designer Simone Stern learned her SL friend had tumours, she was determined to help. "I would do the same, and have done so, for any friend" she said. Simone set up a fund called Ayeshe's Angels, with the aim of raising US\$8,000 to cover medical expenses for Ayeshe. Generous resident Susan Pegler also joined the cause and set about organising fundraising events in aid of Ayeshe. From fashion shows to bachelorette auctions, Ayeshe's Angels called upon people to help. And several million L\$ have already been raised. The response to The AvaStar's Valentine's Special, where residents sent in love message to raise L\$30,000 for

Ayeshe, was yet another demonstration of the willingness to help.

CHARITY

Ayeshe said she was so grateful for the generosity of the community: "What was once a vision in a dream is fast becoming a reality in being able to get the required medical treatment, which could not have been done without the help of friends, new and old. God Bless you all for making this possible."

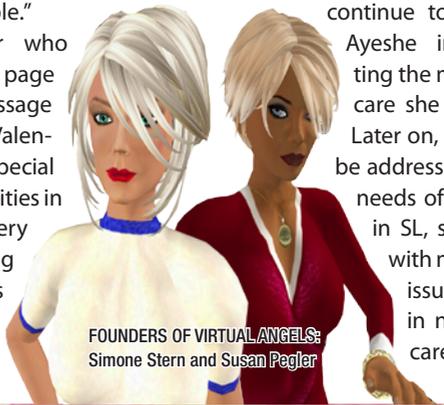
Rit Tracer who had a full page love message in the Valentine's Special said: "Charities in SL are a very good thing - as long as they are authentic! I have

donated before to Ayeshe's Angels. I could not live with myself without giving. SL should be used for raising money for RL causes."

But RL non-profit organisations are only just discovering SL as a place to raise money, with the Red Cross entering last week. Simone Stern is also taking steps to make Ayeshe's Angels a legal charity called Virtual Angels - to help more people: "We will continue to assist

Ayeshe in getting the medical care she needs. Later on, we will be addressing the needs of others in SL, stricken with medical issues, and in need of care."

FOUNDERS OF VIRTUAL ANGELS: Simone Stern and Susan Pegler



LINDENS SHOULD BE MADE TO PAY

AN ANALYSIS OF THE LAW SUIT THAT COULD CHANGE SECOND LIFE

THERE are no laws, no courts and no lawyers in Second Life. There are only the Linden authorities and when it comes to disputes, they couldn't care less. That's why the case of Bragg vs Linden Lab is so important.

The real life trial might just result in the first RL court ruling on the "realness" of virtual possessions. Up till now the only law of SL is the ToS, which are basic good behaviour rules. This trial could force that to change and may have a huge effect, especially on those in business.

PROFIT

To recap what started more than a year ago: Resident Marcus Woebe-

gone (Marc Bragg in RL) found a so-called "exploit" in the land auction system, with which he was able to bid for whole sims, without anyone noticing that an auction had even started. He got sims for US\$300

or less when the cheapest sim on the auctions was around US\$1,100. He then parced them up and resold

them to other residents at a huge profit.

ROBBED

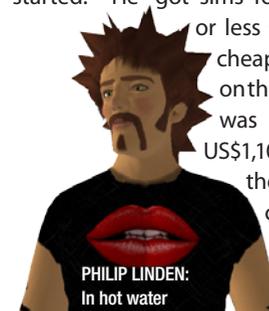
When the Lindens found out, they reclaimed the holdings and subsequently booted him out - with Marcus losing all money on his account. Being a lawyer in RL, Marcus filed a law suit sometime later, claiming that he was robbed by Linden Lab.

Leaving the jurisdictional points of the case aside, (for example, if agreeing to the ToS is a binding contract) and looking at the business implications - then Linden Lab didn't handle this case well.

COMPENSATION

Taking back land which Marcus gained unfairly is understandable, but confiscating his possessions was wrong. Even in real life a convicted criminal does not lose everything he owns. This is a bad case of self-righteous ruling by Linden Lab and it is bad for them too.

If the court made LL compensate Marcus for the US\$ and the L\$ they took from his account, it would be good for SL and the Lindens. It would send a clear statement: What we the residents own here, in our inventory, as well as the money in our account is "real" and ours.



PHILIP LINDEN: In hot water

NEWS BITES!

QUAKERS IN SL

Fourteen people gathered for the first Quaker worship in Second Life, with hymns to open the session. Organised by Otenth Paderborn.

ANNA NICOLE SMITH SHRINE

A memorial for Anna Nicole Smith has been set up on Crumbi (139,80,46) by resident and fan Becks Newchurch.

JOHN EDWARDS FOR PRESIDENT

US Presidential candidate John Edwards is rumoured to be set to enter SL. An avatar in his name was created last June, and this week fan Jose Rote set up a 'John Edwards for President' area.

RL JOB-SEEKERS

Residents looking for a real life job may soon get a helping hand from recruitment ad agency TMP, which is looking to bring RL job fairs to Second Life.

GRIEFER ATTACK

TOPGOL was the scene of a grieving attack this week, as scripts set off in a nightclub brought the sim to its knees. Griefer Lisa Baxter was reported.



REGIS BRAATHENS

KILL COMMUTING - WORK IN SL

HATE your journey to RL work every morning? Wish you could work from the comfort of your home?

That's what depo consulting ltd boss Peter Dunkley has been urging people to do this week.

He believes in his idea so much, that he has employed a full-time consultant, Marissa Meltzer, in their offices in Second Life - and she has never met her colleagues in real life! She even came for an interview in SL.

ENVIRONMENT

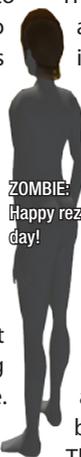
It's certainly an interesting concept and one that may well be practiced more and more in the future. Dunkley plays up the 'Save the Planet' angle - but I don't really buy that, as there is so much energy used up by running SL itself. However, with an office in SL you can create a social and working environment that you couldn't if you just had freelancers working at home. Will we soon be working full-time in a virtual offices? I already do!

NEWBIES NEED HELP TO FIND THEIR FEET IN SL

LINDENS MUST IMPROVE HELP FOR NEWBIES OR FACE LOSING THEM

BEING a newbie is always a confusing experience - but the rez days of many newbies recently have been simply awful.

It's one thing not to know where to go or what to do, it's another when you can't go anywhere and you can't even see yourself. As the population continues to soar so rapidly, it is understandable that the system at the Lab is creaking under the pressure. Most veteran residents swallow the



bitter lag pill and wait for brighter days. But from a business point of view, it's bad for the future of Second Life.

ZOMBIES

Thousands of newbies are logging in wanting to have a look at the wonderful things they have heard about - and seeing nothing but slow moving grey zombies. These disappointed customers will not return, but will spread the word that SL is not all it's cracked up to be.

There is no quick

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

solution to the grid problems - we have to trust the Lindens to sort them out as quick as possible. But help needs to be given to the newbies. Signs in Welcome areas and on Orientation and Help Island are a must, to make newbies aware that what they are experiencing is only temporary (we hope!). The lack of decent customer service is very frustrating for both newbies and oldbies.

VISTA PROBLEM ADMITTED

LAST Friday The AvaStar revealed that Windows Vista is incompatible with the SL software.

Later that day, Steve Linden, having no doubt flicked through the pages of his favourite tabloid and spotted the article, hastily posted on the official Linden Blog. What gets me, is that no one came forward and admitted this before. The Lab obvi-

ously knew that the software did not work with Second Life, and Microsoft definitely knew it as well. So why during the massively publicised and much celebrated launch did no one step forward and let the residents know? Why do they have to wait until The AvaStar catches them out before coming clean? Still, that is what we are here for.

your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

GIVE MARRIAGE RESPECT

Hey Regis, IN your last issue you had a page of wedding dresses in Isabel Brocco's fashion column. I have to admit that I think the dresses are wonderful designs which have obviously had a lot of time and care put into them.

I do, however, think that the whole wedding thing which seems to have taken Second Life by storm, goes beyond the ridiculous to the rather

worrying. It is not that I am a religious person, and I am all for trying out new looks, situations, experiences, and sexual relationships or friendships. I would also not deny that as a child I would do playground weddings with my friends for fun.

But REALLY while a lot of us might be playing here, we are not all children. As well as costing a lot of time and money, a marriage is a very serious thing, and not something to be taken lightly in any world. I say this as I have friends who have been married in SL 3 times. It is a distasteful example of what a relationship, let alone a marriage, should be.

By Bestregards Nakatani

E-MAILS OF THE WEEK

500 LINDEN DOLLARS

WRITE TO: YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

Hey Regis, I FOUND the "Copy by design" article on copyright in SL in last weeks edition very interesting.

What I find very disappointing is that even though people have unlimited possibilities designing and creating in SL they go in-world and copy stuff from RL. This is true not only for clothes, sunglasses and other accessories but also for cities. Why do we need another Kitzbuehel, Paris or Casa-

blanca in SL if we have it in RL.

I mean it is okay to get ideas from RL brands and places but an exact copy is so boring and completely pointless. I think residents should

create things out of their own fantasy.

I suspect that soon enough RL companies and designers will go for all those copy cats in SL and sue them for taking their logos and creations.

This will happen as soon as people start earning real money with the copies. There will probably be specialised SL lawyers dealing with problems like that. And it will be their own fault.

By Moon Greenberg

THE POWER OF THE MEDIA PEN

Dear Regis,

SEEMS like The AvaStar has made a big impression on the Lindens. After writing to Paypal and Lindens for weeks about the bug with little effect, I mentioned that The AvaStar was set to write an article about it. Surprise, surprise: hours later, both issues suddenly appeared on the Linden blog, the Paypal-bug had been found and should now be corrected. Love the power of the pen!

By Beatrice Boisblanc

THANKS FOR THE LINGERIE TIPS

Hey Regis and The AvaStar-team,

I absolutely loved your Valentine's special!! Unfortunately I was too late submitting my love message to my sweetheart. She gave me the cold shoulder for quite a while! Had to buy her some of the lingerie you were showing in the paper to appease her - which worked! It was great that the proceeds went to charity as well!

By Wolfmother Izdiak





YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
ASKBIZ@THE-AVASTAR.COM

ask BIZ!

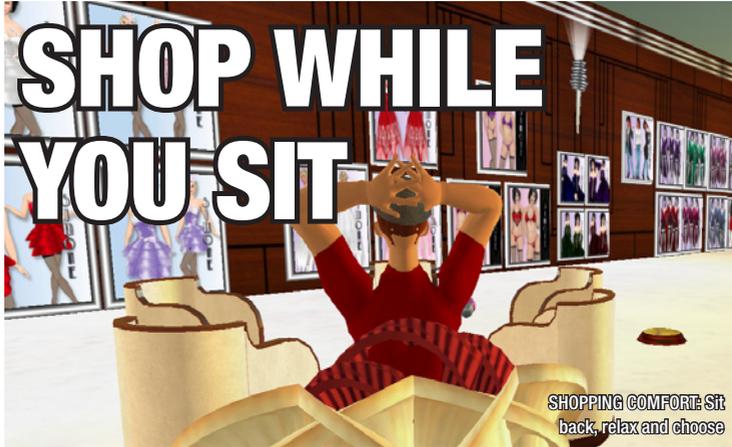
TRACKING DOWN THE CREATOR

How do I find out where to buy objects I see?

BIZ! says: A lot of the objects you see when exploring SL have no visible price or owner tag and no "Buy" button. However, if the object tickles your fancy, you can still find out who made it and trace the object back to its store.

To do this, right-click on the object and select "Edit", this will give you the build window. Then click on "More" and select the general tab. There you will find the name of the creator and a button which will take you to his profile.

A creator who read my previous advice in this column will have created a pick under his picks tab with the store location. Otherwise check if he has placed a classified in "Search".



What can I do with my store to optimise sales?

BIZ! says: There are many ways of optimising sales. Producing attractive and clear posters of your goods, placing pose-stands out and keeping your store uncluttered are a few key ways. However, another clever way is to provide a good seating area. As with shopping in the

real world, people like to sit down and have a pause from running around. If the seating area is well-made, then customers may stop and chat with others, thereby keeping the numbers on your sim high.

A seating area is also appreciated by veteran SL shoppers, who like to use the "far-see" option using alt+mouse

to move around. This allows you to sit in one place and shop the entire store by zooming in and around the place. This means that your customers can sit on the ground floor while shopping on the first floor, all from the comfort of your seating area. This is especially helpful when there is a lot of lag - the less you move the better!

WRITE TO: ASKBIZ@THE-AVASTAR.COM

TIPS ON GETTING MORE FREEBIES

Where can I get my hands on freebies?

BIZ! says: Some standard freebie haunts are easy to find: Use "Search", type freebies and teleport there!

However, there is a whole world of hidden freebies for the clever bargain-hunter. This requires you to investigate objects a bit closer. Use the mouse-over option on objects and a small box will pop up with the

details of that object. In the last row of that box, it states "Free to copy". So feel free to do so! How do you copy? Simply right-click on the object and select "More...". You will then be presented with a second wheel of

options. One is "Take a Copy." This will drop a copy of that object into your inventory - and it won't cost you a penny! So keep your eyes peeled and start collecting the mass of freebies that are out there.

"WE WON'T LOSE YOUR MONEY!"

JOINT-VENTURE PROMISES TO RESCUE THE WORLD STOCK EXCHANGE

By REGIS BRAATHENS

THE ongoing virtual stock exchange saga took a new twist this week with the announcement of a merger between the Metaverse and World Stock Exchanges.

The WSE has been plagued in recent weeks by technical problems which have mainly kept the system down since its launch last month.

However, in a meeting attended by investors and traders on Tuesday, a 50-50 joint-venture deal struck between HopeCapital owner Luke Connell Vandeverre and Shaun Altman of SL Solutions was announced.

Though many deadlines have been missed in recent weeks, Vandeverre is confident the WSE will relaunch at the end of next week, boosted by nearly 800 members of the MSE and Altman's Cyberland stock.

Changes will be made, starting with

a new board of eight directors including prominent residents such as fashion designer Simone Stern. Altman, the new WSE's Chief Technology Officer, is responsible for fixing the problems: "The first thing I'm going to do is throw the existing web application out the window." He is confident with new software the WSE will "lay the ground work for the future of virtual world finance." An optimistic Altman told investors one of the changes that will be made: "It won't lose your money!"



PROBLEM SOLVING: Shaun Altman and Luke Connell at WSE

MERCEDES GOES VIRTUAL

FORMULA ONE GIANT SET TO LAUNCH ITS PRESENCE IN SECOND LIFE



FAST: Mercedes Benz in SL

HOT on the wheels of Mazda's launch this week, Mercedes-Benz is set to unveil its concept for SL.

The German car giant will open eight islands to the public this weekend. As well as a track for

testing cars there will be a presentation area, a stage for events and large screens on which films about the cars and commercials can be seen. Each visitor will also receive a virtual Formula One suit and helmet.

FLIRT YOUR WAY TO SL SUCCESS

GERMAN online dating portal FriendScout24 wooed its way into the hearts of SLers on Valentine's Day with it's romantic launch on NEON island.

Flirt expert Diana Simons was on hand to offer relationship and flirt advice, which she will do each Thursday from 9AM to 12PM SLT.



LOVE SEARCH: New dating

SWISS BANKING COMES TO SL

THE recent surge in the French speaking population of SL has led the Banque Cantonale Vaudoise to enter the virtual world.

The Swiss bank will not only provide information, but will display its unique art collection in SL. It hopes to build a community for the French speaking part of Switzerland. The BCV is the third bank after Wells Fargo and ABN Amro to join SL.



UNIQUE: Art collection



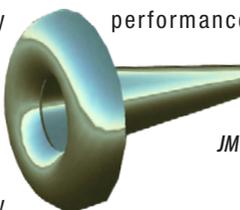
A-STAR GOSSIP
Jane Calvert & JenzZa Misfit

CRAZY CARNIVAL CELEBRATION

CHARITY MARDI-GRAS PARTY ROCKS SL

A parade of creative talent and colourful floats opened an evening of visual and musical expression in SoHo last Tuesday. Fun-loving SoHo Mayor Andrea Humphrey had the idea of bringing the crazy Mardi Gras atmosphere to SL - while also raising money for charity. "We collected money, which will be given to Victims of Katrina" says SoHo City

Manager and Events Coordinator TheDiva Rockin. So far L\$6000 have been donated. Sebastian Jacks & Weiss Plessis got the crowd dancing with their fantastic musical performance.



JM



PARTY PEOPLE: SoHo City Manager TheDiva Rockin and Mairread Fitzgerald

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

THE AvaStar sends best wishes to Hamlet Au. The author of New World Notes will celebrate his Rez Day on February 23.



SL LIVE MUSIC

AN international mix of musicians and guests came on Friday February 9 for the grand opening of SL Music Live in Koala. Owner Joy Ash wearing a low-cut silver dress loved the opening, "it was amazing and went better than I thought it would". JM



SEXY OWNER: Joy Ash opened SL Music Live

SPOTTED!



HERE the Celebrity Musicians and DJs of SL convene for the 2007 SLCC conference performers meeting. SLCC is going to be held August 17-19 in Chicago.

A-STAR GOSSIP

U2 IS BACK

BOTH CONCERTS PACKED TO THE BRIM

By ANA LUTETIA

THE legendary SL-rock-band U2 got the crowds up on their feet to scream along to their all time favourite songs in two full length concerts at the Dragon Moon Arena last weekend. As at every concert of the roleplay band the sim was packed

out. Rumour has it that Bono - as he has apparently done after previous c o n - c e r t s - sneaked off to check out Amsterdam's pretty hot and raunchy nightlife.



FRONTMAN: Bono

PERFORMANCE: Roleplay-band U2

LEGENDARY: The band got the crowd rocking

TAO'S REZ PARTY

Happy Rez Day Tao! Some may think of February 14 as a romantic holiday, but I know it as Tao Takashi's Rez Day. Tao threw a kickin' party for with dancing, drinking and entertainment. It was a great time to hang out with friends and make some new ones. It was also perfect distraction to get any Valentine blues! JC



WILD LAB PARTY!

THE place to be last Tuesday was the Linden's Concierge Party. 900 guests were invited to the invitation-only party spread over four sims. A definite who's who of Second Life with wild dancing, chatting and lots of fun. Thanks to Harmony Linden for the great event! JC



THE BOYS: Menno Ophelia and Spin Martin

THE LAB'S DARLING: Torley Linden



PARTY PEOPLE: Cerze Ophelia, Artemis Fate, Harmony Linden and Hiro Pendragon.

FURRY FASHIONABLE

UNGAINGLY EARS, A LONG NOSE, FURRY PAWS AND A LONG FLEXI TAIL MAKE SHOPPING FOR LATEST FASHION TRENDS MORE OF A CHALLENGE. THE AVASTAR HAS HUNTED DOWN A REAL VARIETY OF ANIMAL-FRIENDLY FASHIONS - FROM CUTE COYOTE BEACH WEAR TO SUAVE FOXY CHARMER.

By ISABEL BROCCO



L\$100

Beach outfit

This cute little bikini is tail-friendly, and comes with some really dainty high-heel shoes. Gallows Mall & Club
Gallows - Ho, Bruin (148, 99, 73)



L\$70

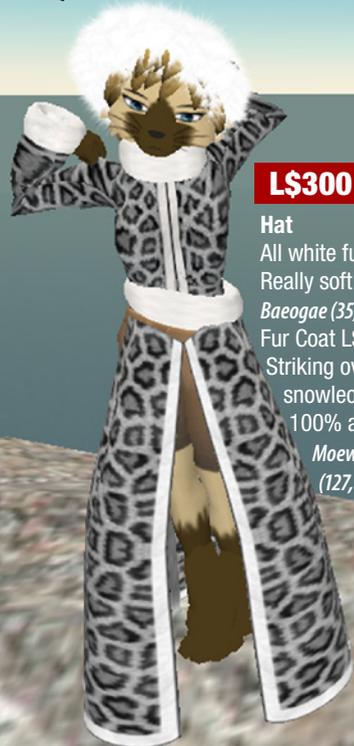
Shades

Specialty design, covers those extra large eyes. MafiaFoxes creation, Rainbow Canyon Mall, Rainbow Canyon (79, 53, 41)

L\$200

Tattoo trousers

Hippy design printed on a range of different denims. Moewenklippe (127, 141, 23)



L\$300

Hat

All white fur hat L\$100 Really soft and cuddly. Baeogae (35,47, 69)
Fur Coat L\$ 200 Striking overcoat with snowleopard print. 100% animal, 0% fur! Moewenklippe (127, 141, 23)



L\$200

Sweatshirts

Come in six different colours. Moewenklippe (127, 141, 23)

L\$300

Paw Boots

A sturdy way to cover those sharp claws. Moonlight (178, 166, 22)

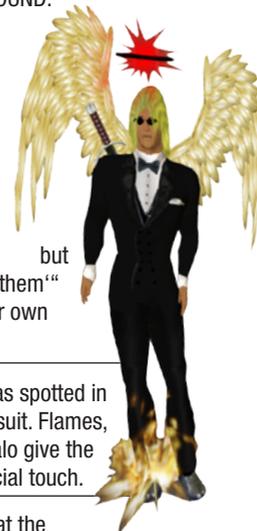


STYLE CHECK - LATEST TRENDS!

THERE IS TOO MUCH HAPPENING IN SL'S WORLD OF FASHION TO KEEP TRACK OF ALL THE NEW TRENDS. TO HELP OUR READERS GET THROUGH THE FASHION JUNGLE THE AVASTAR WENT OUT TO CHECK THE CURRENT STREET FASHION. THERE IS SOME GREAT STUFF AROUND.



FASHIONISTA Nat Taiko was spotted in a fashion mall. Most of her outfit - skirt, legwarmers and top - comes from Wrong (Tipsico 168, 165, 302). "I think their clothes represent an assertive upfront attitude; like 'Here I am. I'm not a princess, but I'm way funnier and wilder than them'" Net said. The other items are her own design including her tattoos.



MAFIA member Gal Sewell was spotted in Brasil in this smart black suit. Flames, wings and a red shining halo give the outfit that special touch.



BLONDIE Alabaster - here at the Welcome area at Dore with Flash Comet - got her suit from DE. Both the shoes by Cybele Pontoppidan and her outfit cost around 500 L\$. By chance Flash found the Tshirt by Monkey Eagler with his first name printed on it.

THE AVASTAR Fashionista Isabel Brocco

WHAT'S HOT!

TOP fashion designer Callie Cline was spotted on AvaStar Island wearing an exclusive yet to be released outfit.

The fantastic intricate hat and dress called "Bubble" from caLLie cLine was recently on display at the iVillage fashion show. It works just as well off the catwalk - the black corset giving it a sexy, naughty touch.

There is no doubt it will be a hit among extravagant partygoers and fashionistas when it goes on sale soon.



EXCLUSIVE: Bubble by caLLie cLine

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK WITH MIRIEL ENFIELD OF MIRIEL JEWELRY DESIGNS



Sparkling:

TO make this necklace I used the prim mirror script. It lets me only build one side of a piece of jewelry, and then mirror it. There's so much stuff that I'd never be able to make without this script.



Smooth:

THIS skin is by Tete a Pied. Roslin Petion made it custom for me for my rez day. I really like the skin tone and the red of the eyebrows, even though I don't always go around as a redhead.



Sexy:

UNFORTUNATELY these shoes from Shiny Things have been discontinued. They are my favorite nice shoes as they go with a zillion things and they look like real shoes.

'HYPER-REAL' PLANTS

NEW CENTRE OPENS TO DELIGHT ALL GARDENING FANS

By TINA (PETGIRL)BERGMAN & PHAM NEUTRA

DOLLY and Lilith's Garden Centre opened on Valentine's Day displaying 15,000 prims of plants and flowers.

That is no mean feat considering the amount of work that goes into the budding designers' plants, flowers and trees. "All our plants are works of art.

It can take up to three days per plant. Sometimes we work the whole weekend on a non-stop plant-making binge" said Lilith. The intricate detail that makes the plants seem so life-like is time-consuming. "We think of them more as hyper-real, almost cartoon versions of plants and trees. They are more il-



lustrative rather than photo-real." Next to Mediterranean plants are temperate zone trees. "We want it to be possible to create a wild wood, a fairy forest - something out of *A Midsummers Night's Dream*" said Lilith.

However, working full-time in SL remains a pipe-dream for Lilith: "Right now sales are quite erratic, but growing every month. Only 3 to 5 percent of people own land, so it's quite a small market compared to, say, avatar accessories."



DESIGNER PLANTS: Flowers, bushes and trees as far as the eye can see



TOYS FOR BOYS

A SELECTION OF MUST-HAVE GADGETS FOR MEN



L\$400

Personal SL-TV
The HDTV is a Video Url Player for your land or for group land
Where:



L\$50

L\$50

60s Style

TV and sidetable are both designed by gecko Surface
Where: *Shaka* (149,225,29)

The Master Of The Drums
Scripted drums: SLDrumming-Drum N Bass Kit by Robbie Dingo,
Where: *Scafell* (68,148,48)



L\$420

Timesless Designerstereo
K-tech by Jason Keegan
Where: *Desires Island* (124,100,36)



L\$350

DESIGNERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT Spider Mycron

SL Birth Date: 22.10.2006
Profession: Artist
Gallery: Life Heart Beat

By BRYAN DIX

The AvaStar: What kind of art do you make?

Spider Mycron: I concentrate on painting SL avatars. It is the language between me and people in SL. When I paint I just paint the person, his moment,

his future.

TA: Does your art in SL send a message?

SM: The last painting I did was "Bubble". We should not miss any moment. Life is just a silly bubble and we have to use every moment for love, business, improving - all kinds of

good and great things. **TA:** What do you mean by: "Words can never tell our secrets but colours can"?

SM: The best way to let people know how I feel about them is to paint. Every painting here tells the story of a moment of my life. The way I paint gives the whole story. For instance, someone I love might not be able to understand that. But when I show the painting to her she will never forget.

TA: Which artists in SL do you admire?

SM: Misty Taira is one of



GALLERY: Life Heart Beat



ARTIST: Spider Mycron

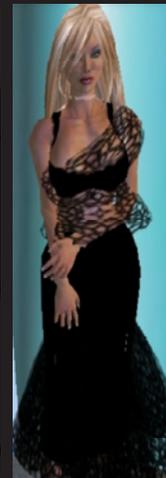
them. She is my partner in SL and she is a real photo artist.

TA: What are your aims in SL?

SM: SL is just like RL but SL is the big dream. I just want people here to work as a real community, to build the love that RL lacks.

ADVERT

Bollywood Fashions



**Exclusive beautiful dresses
Classy, unique Limited Editions**

CORPORATE SIM STYLE CHECK

By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

The new 14-sim LanguageLab is taking education to a new interactive level.

The courses organised by a real professor will be free for the first few months. Currently English and Spanish are on offer. Teachers will be present inworld to facilitate learning and a voice system enables small groups of



NEW: The LanguageLab



6 to 8 students to speak to one another in real time. The sim is built around the World Fair theme. In the orientation area (Language Lab 154,96,22) every living aspect of SL from chat to inventory is embedded in a creative space. Lessons are designed with realistic detail and new ways of approaching communication in the learning environment.



By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

CONNECTING SL ARTISTS

CREATOR: JC Fremont

TOP ARTISTS DISPLAY THEIR BEST WORKS

NMConnect was the artistic highlight of last week, as 75 original works by international artists were on display.

The NMC campus built by creative artist In Kenzo of AMO Studio hosted the three day event which had the theme of love, peace, beauty, truth, chaos and wisdom. The works were all interlinked to show how we bond within our shared new worlds.

Top musician AldoManutio Abruzzo (usr/sbin project), performing a stunning stream of seven one-hour-long pieces back

back entitled "Out of Chaos, Peace". It was an amazing experience never tried before in SL. Interaction was another keyword



SINGER: AldoManutio Abruzzo performed for seven hours

of the NMC mission. with a great amount of compelling discussion groups. These are now available for all that missed them as podcasts and video on the NMC website.



COLOURFUL: A morphing sculpture

COLOURFUL

A totally original experience was The Prism Hero Walk: a tour of contemporary paintings with an interactive guide. The aim was to live "the colourful life of a hero in about 15 minutes".

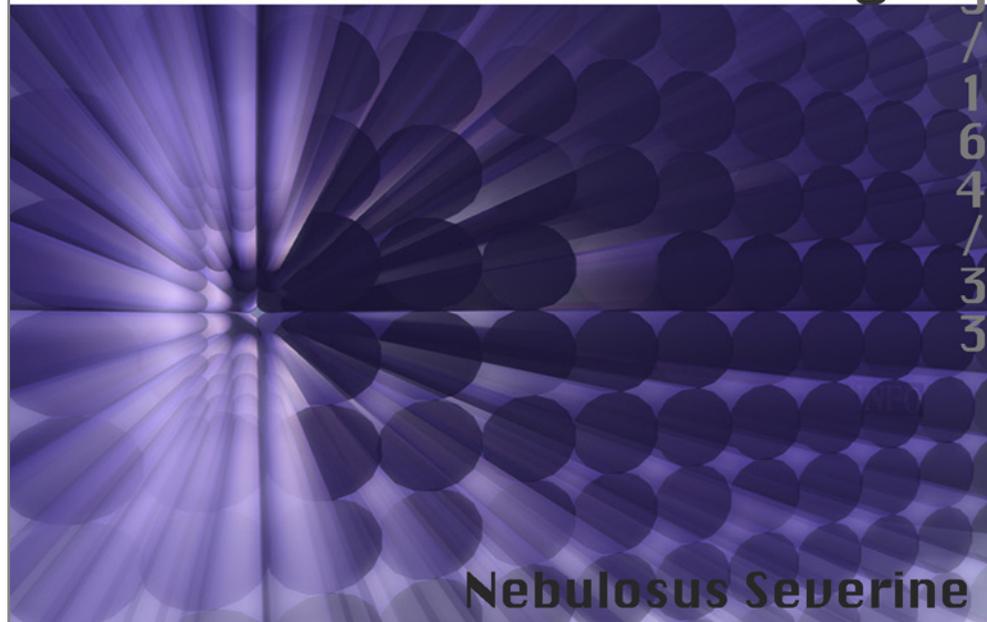
Thanks to Imaging Place, created by JC Fremont, visitors could walk on a huge satellite photo of the earth suspended in the sky, using it as a navigational interface. It can teleport users to other Imaging Places all over SL.

Countless great experiences were to be had, such as the walk along an invisible path ending at a constellation of floating orbs, where an audio story could be heard. You can still visit the sim at the Peace and Truth.

Arahan Claveau



SALON DU DISRUPTIF @ The Heldscalla Gallery



Nebulosus Severine

Buttermere / 53 / 164 / 33

ARTIST'S SANCTUARY

THE BRAND NEW SIM OF ARTROPOLIS IS A HAVEN FOR ARTISTS AND ART-LOVERS



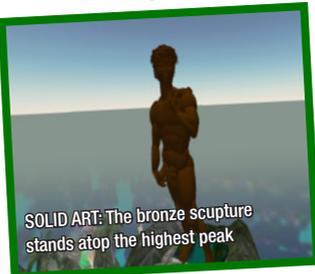
By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

A SMALL community of artists has found sanctuary in the mysterious surroundings of Artropolis. The brand new sim which opened this week to the public is built upon the traditions of an ancient culture of peace and dynamism that give rise to fascinating works of art. Wander through the beautiful scenery and discover the exhibitions of nine Second Life artists. Works of stars including Filthy Fluno, Shoshana Epsilon and Gracie Kendal are on display, as they seek to revive the spirit of Artropolis. The sim brings together the wildlife of an Alabama mud

hole and the calmness of Fiji islands. You feel that nature is caressing its artistic children and their creations which seem to have grown out of the meditating ancient leader sculpted in bronze stands on the highest peak of the island. The breathtaking view is not to be missed. For some mental exercise head over to the recreation area where you can challenge residents to board games such as chess, backgammon and Mahjong. If all that is not reason enough to visit Artropolis then check out a series of seriously chilled live music events which will be held in Mandel's Brats and Brew (Artropolis 71,85,26).



CREATIVE COLONY: Artropolis



SOLID ART: The bronze sculpture stands atop the highest peak

TRAVEL FEATURE FORSETI SVAROG

By REGIS BRAATHENS

Electric Sheep and SL guru Forseti Svarog gives his travel tips... The AvaStar: What did you explore recently?

Forseti Svarog: AOL

Pointe, Mooz, NE section of OTHERLAND

TA: Where do you go to hang out and relax?

FS: Usually Tableau or Fuchsia with friends.

TA: Where do you go to party?

FS: When I'm not working, I like to build or hunt down friends I haven't seen in a while. Some of my favourite moments are purely generated by the gravity effect of green dots and IMs - someone starts doing something wacky, everyone starts teleporting in, and voila, you have a raucous party. It's about the people, not the place.

TA: What are the most creative sims?

FS: Tough question. Sandboxes are a wild and crazy kind of creativity, but the work you see there often lacks refinement or

sophistication. Fallingwater's new Shiny Falls sim is great. Of course, I love the work my colleagues put together at Electric Sheep, and that location changes from project to project.

TA: Which three sims must everyone see?

FS: Nakama; I would say Tableau except the volcano blew up and it's all on fire and...well...y'all come back later now; Spaceport Alpha (I really want to see more museums come into SL).

TA: What are your tips for exploring SL?

FS: I usually take two approaches. Step 1: Start bugging everyone on my IM list for new tips. Step 2: I play the dart board game with the map!



CITY FLAIR: Nakama

ADVERT

dAlliez Private Estates

Java dAlliez

YOUR NEXT HOME IN SECOND LIFE

1/2 the estate is protected land
for your enjoyment
double prims on all six islands



Java dAlliez (38,51,24)

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

DEAR RANDI



I CAN'T CHOOSE

FIRST-LOVE WANTS ME BACK - BUT I'VE GOT WITH ANOTHER MAN

Dear Randi: A FEW weeks ago, I broke up with my first SL boyfriend. We were together for over a year and we went through and experienced so much together. But in the last few months we had some huge arguments and I eventually decided that I don't need any stress in SL and left him. I thought our parting was friendly and even mutual.

I am now involved with another guy, and we are serious about each other. But then the last few days, my ex-boyfriend has started IMing me saying he wants to get back together. I really like my new man but at the same time I still cherish what I had before. I'm trying to think about how to let him know I've moved on - yet I'm not sure myself

what to do. Any advice? — C.H.
Randi says: You must be firm and direct, otherwise you are just stringing him along which won't help either of you. Sort out your own feelings and make a decision. You can't have them both so you have to decide what you really want. But the quicker you act, the better for everyone involved.

SUGAR-DADDY GOT WRONG IDEA

Dear Randi: I HAVE become friends with an older man who has given me frequent gifts of jewelry and accessories for my home. I always thought our relationship was platonic, like a father-daughter thing. Last night though when out dancing he dropped to a knee and proposed. I respect him, but the chemistry is just not there. Help? — O.B.

Randi says: You shouldn't have accepted all those gifts in the first place, it clearly led him on. You need to make your feelings clear to him immediately. Hopefully you can continue to be friends.

MY NEWBIE MAN HAS NO STYLE

Dear Randi: ABOUT a week ago I was dancing at a club when a two day old newbie asked me to dance salsa. We struck up a conversation and discovered we had a lot in common. The problem is he still looks like a newbie and his clothes are terrible. How do I tell him I like his personality but I hate his style? — M.K.

Randi says: You have to be tactful. Go shopping with him and compliment him on how he looks in outfits you like. Perhaps he'll get the message. But if you've got problems with his looks, maybe he's not right for you after all.

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK

PART 4: Raif is scared to lose Flora



RANDI SAYS: A relationship must be based on trust. If your wife won't believe you, you may have to end it.

Dedric Mauriac's Gadgets

Currently located in Higgins (240, 200) or just search places for "Dedric Mauriac"

THE GUIDE WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK!

THIS WEEK: JAZZ CLUBS

SMOOTH MOVER

TRY YOUR MOVES ON BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE IN SL'S JAZZ CLUBS

By INDIA OBVIATE NEW: Once in a Blue Moon Jazz Club opened last weekend

SMOOTH jazzy tunes linger in the air in many corners of the grid as lots of clubs offer a great jazz experience. The Blue Fusion Jazz Club on Lost Islands CTR (55,13,23) is the place to go for jazz-lovers seeking that romantictouch. Sit on one of the benches and cuddle up while gazing out across the sea or drink a glass of champagne by the fireplace. If it is funky jazz and beautiful company you are looking for, Phat Cat's Jazzy Blue Lounge (144,213,22)

is the place to go. It is very easy to meet people here and the dancefloor is always packed. To get away from the crowd jump onto the yacht moored in the water and stylish - though if you don't have the appropriate attire, you can always get a free Phat Cat's formal outfit at the entrance. Another great place to dance the night away is Jade's Jazz Lounge (209,60,111). There is space for plenty on the two huge dancefloors - one inside and one on the terrace on top of the club. Looking for something new - check out the just opened Once in a Blue Moon Jazz Club in Otaki Gorge (123,209,84).

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next to the club. The dress code is smart

FOR ROMANTICS

Blue Fusion Jazz Club



Watch the sunset and listen to the waves at this highly romantic place.

Where: Lost Islands CTR (55,13,23)

FOR DANCERS

Jade's Jazz Lounge



Lots of space to do all the moves you ever wanted. Great view from the top terrace.

Where: Haeoreum (209,60,111)

FOR SOCIALISERS

Phat Cat's Jazzy Lounge



Still SL's most popular Jazz club. Great spot to socialise and dance.

Where: Agriopis (144,213,22)

2.16. - 2.23. 'DON'T MISS!' –



MUSIC

Sebastian Jacks Live

The king of keys plays for a select audience at a cosy waterside venue. Snuggle up and listen to Sebastian on the piano.

When: February 17, 13:00 - 14:00

Where: The Freudian Slip, Seven Veils (18,17)



NIGHTLIFE

Jazz by the Sea

Herbie Hancock is this weeks classic Jazz artist who will take you through a calming session in this outdoor music venue.

When: February 18, 12:00 - 14:00

Where: San Sebastian Isles (25, 54)



MUSIC

Open Mic Night

Try out new tunes with an fun audience at the open mic night.

When: February 22, 16:00 - 19:00

Where: The Hummingbird Cafe, Menorca (63,20)



SPORTS

Fishing Tournament

A great way to chill out while you wait for your catch. Fish away to the sounds of DJ Kea.

When: February 22, 20:00 - 21:00

Where: Djork (33,57)



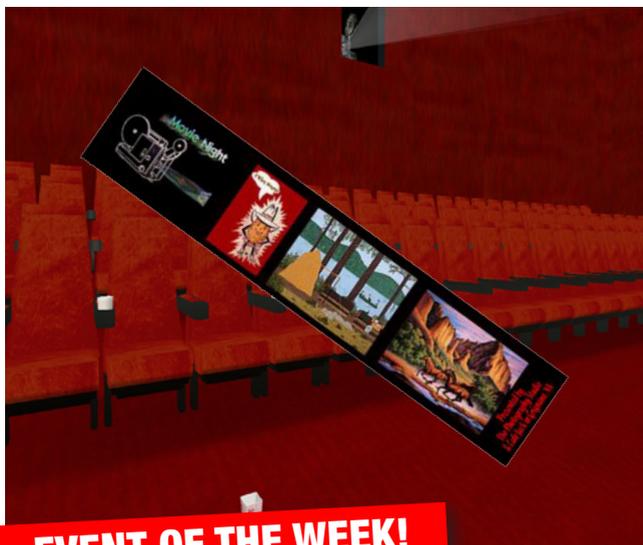
EDUCATION

Jewelry-making class

Learn this difficult but really rewarding building technique from the NCI experts.

When: February 17, 13:00 - 14:00

Where: NCI, Hamnida (229,77)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

Movie Night Extravaganza

A showing of some select weird machinima shorts chosen by Salazar Jack and Osprey Therien. A great chance to watch and discuss some of the really original films that SL has to offer, with other movie enthusiasts.

When: February 17, 14:00

Where: Cowell Amphitheatre, Cowell (159,135)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK



MUSIC

Line up of Live Artists

Get your Saturday night going at in the buzz of SoHo, with a line-up of three talented live artists. Dallas Horsefly, followed by Rich Desoto and then Bret Lock.

When: February 17, 16:00 - 19:00

Where: SoHo Island (111,161)



NIGHTLIFE

Dance Party with Krush Radio

Dance the night away with the hottest tunes streaming in from Krush. The night is hosted in memory of Aaron Spelling.

When: February 17, 22:00 - 1:00

Where: Miller (209,110)



ART & CULTURE

Dorkbot Meeting

Wirxli Flimflam's Second Front performance art group and Canadian artist and thinker Ian Ah will be taking part in the first in-world meeting.

When: February 17, 14:00

Where: Rhizomatic, Sand (177,16)

WANT TO SEE YOUR EVENT HERE?

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

ADVERT

Club Silverstar
Where the party never stops!

Well equipped dance-floor
Money sploder Talented strippers & dancers & We have the music you want to hear!!
From House of Music

Live Dj's, Audience Requests, pole dancers, strippers, escorts, complete entertainment.

FROM NEWBIE TO CELEBRITY

By CARRIE SODWIND

CELEBRITY TROLLOP IS MANAGING EDITOR OF SECOND STYLE. SHE KNOWS THE INS AND OUTS OF THE FASHION WORLD AND SHARES HER EXPERIENCES HERE.

THE AVASTAR: How was your first day in SL?

CELEBRITY TROLLOP: Awkward. I didn't know or understand what I was doing. I quickly decided I needed to buy a skin but I didn't know where, or how much they should cost. I found one after browsing the SL Exchange. I still have it, and no, I never wear it. In those days the GNUbie store and other places to help newbies weren't as well stocked.



EXPERIENCED: Celebrity Trollp

TA: What was your most embarrassing newbie moment?

CT: Wandering around a PG sim half naked. I can't remember why I had taken off my undershirt layer, but I was mortified when I realized where I was and what I looked like to others. There was also the highly confusing box-head episode, when I couldn't figure out how to unpack a box.

TA: What is your advice to newbies?

CT: The reason people stick around in SL is the circle of friends they find. It can take a little while to figure out your "niche" and find that group of people, but if you enjoy spending time in SL, persevere.

TA: Where do you recommend a newbie go?

CT: GNUbie Store, Free Dove and NCI. Those three places - the first and second especially - have a great collection of high quality items for new residents for free or L\$1.

DIARY OF A NEWBIE

PERV NECKS ME ON PINK BALL

First lesson I learned as a newbie: Don't accept any gifts from other residents, unless you are sure what it is.

I received a present from a complete stranger - a shiny pink ball suspended in the air. He told me to click on it. The very next moment the guy came up to me, grabbed me around the waist and pressed his mouth against mine. I was completely shocked! He wasn't even good looking. What a cheek!

I soon worked out I had clicked on an animation ball and promptly managed to stop his pervy kissing session and started to scold him. He simply replied: "I thought you wanted to kiss me!" To shock him a little I told him I was a man in RL and enjoy running around in SL as a woman. I've never seen somebody disappear so fast! Hopefully he will have learned a lesson of his own!



GROSS: Forced Kiss

DO'S AND DON'TS: GROUPS

By GAETANA FAUST

DO +

- **DON'T**

- + Join a group to get notifications of events and connect with others who have similar interests.
- + Create a group to promote a business, conference with friends, or establish group ownership of land or objects.
- + Use Group Notices to share information with your group.
- + Invite friends to join your group. The more the merrier.
- + Check the Archived Notices in Group Info if you missed an announcement.
- IM the whole group if you have a question that can be answered by one member.
- Join every group that offers you membership. You can only have 25.
- Forget which group title is active, if you have it hidden on your screen. Others see it floating over your head!
- Constantly spam group members with IMs.
- Use boring role names - Owner is much less fun than Grand Pooh-Bah.

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

FRANCIS CHUNG

IS A BOY-RACER WHOSE PRIDE AND JOY IS HER BEAUTIFUL COLLECTION OF DOMINUS SHADOW MUSCLE CARS, BASED ON HOLLYWOOD ACTION FILM CARS. HER PINK DOMINUS SHADOW, WHICH SOLD FOR US \$2,000, IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE ITEM ON RECORD EVER TO HAVE BEEN PURCHASED IN SL.



By CARRIE SODWIND

PROFILE

NAME: Francis Chung
BIRTH DATE: 9/22/2003
PROFESSION: Builder, car designer, racer
ATTITUDE: Yes, heaps of it!

THE AVASTAR: What is your favourite place?

Francis Chung: I'm not sure I have one. I rarely ever venture out into public. If I had to pick one, I'd choose the same place I would have since I joined SL - Nephilaine and Kex's cathedral in Mocha.

I think it's the simplest, most emotionally touching place in SL.

TA: What would you change in SL?

FC: First and foremost, I'd fix the bugs. They cause me no end of grief.

TA: What do you spend most time on?
FC: Private sims usually. I'm not much of a socialite - I just like some place quiet to do my thing.

TA: What personal achievements are you proud of?

FC: I'm not sure it counts as much of an achievement, but I'm very happy to have made the friends I have in Second Life.

TA: What's your most precious item in your inventory?

FC: Nephilaine made a one-of-a-kind skin for me - I'm lucky to have her as a friend. Later on, my friend

Cottonteil helped me tattoo it with a koi fish that crosses 4 seams almost perfectly. It's really an incredible work of texture magic by some very talented people.

TA: Who would you vote for president?

FC: Someone who's not afraid to express their discontentment with SL, but still has an intrinsic love for it. Someone like Moopf Murray or Kris Ritter.