



THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

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SICK FURRY PHOTO SHOCK



OUTRAGED: Albina Trenton

EXCLUSIVE

OUTCRY AT HORRIFIC IMAGES OF SKINNED FURRIES

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INSIDE OPINION

"It seems that the Lab has responded to The AvaStar and tried to deal a blow to bots by limiting incessant searching. It won't stop them, but it will slow them down."

REGIS
BRAATHENS
p.10



"I certainly won't miss the passing of ratings. I log on virtually everyday, but with only 15 points to show for it, I think my score is the most honest around. With avatars who have received and given 2000+ points, it just reeks of an 'I'll rate you if you me' scenario."

YOUR
MAIL
p.11

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

yourphotos@the-avastar.com

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\$.

LINEDANCING IN SECOND LIFE



DIEDONEE Beaumont was left confused by a screen full of lines while dancing at a club. She accidentally pressed CTRL-SHIFT-R and got SL without textures.

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FURRY HATER'S CRUEL TAUNT

By CARRIE SODWIND

FURRY COMMUNITY EXPRESSES OUTRAGE AT SICK PICS

SHOCKING images of skinned furies hanging on pikes have caused outrage across the grid.

The pictures were taken by a non-human resident too frightened to reveal his identity for fear of retribution. The gruesome discovery was made in what he described as a "torture room" hidden under a grass cover in the sleepy Winnipeg residential sim.

He said: "I was horrified. I am relatively new to SL, and I am shocked how people bring their RL prejudices into the world."

The resident responsible for the contents of the bunker is Michael Hatfield, who is a

member of groups such as Furry Death and Furry Hate. When contacted by The AvaStar this week, he said the bunker was his personal home, and declined to comment further.

ABUSE

Many from the furry community, the largest and oldest subculture in SL, have expressed outrage at the images, although they also say that 'anti-furryism' is common. Furry Al-



VICTIM: Albina Trenton

bina Trenton said he has been the subject of regular abuse. "I had one guy come up to me and say 'Hey fufag! You're a fufag, huh?'"

GRIEFING

Michi Lumin helped to build Luskwood, the first furry community in SL. He said: "Griefers should be treated like bullies, because that is what they are. Both the community and LL are developing ways to combat this." A co-builder of Luskwood, Liam Roark, says he is concerned about this kind of griefing: "I worry - it's uncertain whether 'make believe' violence in a place like SL has any bearing on a person's RL capacity for violence."



HUNG: Furry hatred

THE WHO'S WHO OF POLITICS IN SL

SEGOLENE ROYAL



THE 'Segolife' group has been officially recognised by the Socialist leader.

FRONT NATIONAL

The official SL branch of the far right-wing French party has been extremely active in-world.



BARACK OBAMA

US Democrat frontrunner's avatar appeared in SL last month.

MARK WARNER

The former governor of Virginia made a splash when he arrived in SL in August 2006.

NICOLAS SARKOZY

The frontrunner in the French presidential race has an unofficial SL headquarters and fan base.

OTHER POLITICIANS

Americans Hilary Clinton and Wes Clark; the Brazilian PSDB; the British UKIP, and other EU politicians



THE SL POLITICAL BANDWAGON

BY BILBO WINKLER



POLITICAL BATTLEGROUND: Attack on Sarkozy's HQ

RL POLITICIANS RUSH TO SET UP THEIR VIRTUAL SUPPORTER BASE

THE final battle for the French presidency will be fought out in SL as voters go to the polls in RL next month.

Groups working on behalf of both socialist candidate Segolene Royal and conservative Nicolas Sarkozy have been active in SL for months, as have supporters of Francois Bayrou, who finished behind the front-runners in the first vote last week.

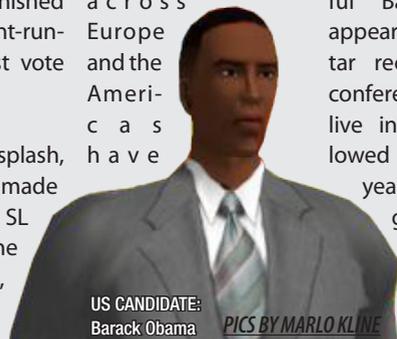
BUZZ

The biggest splash, however, was made by the official SL branch of the Front National, a far-right party

ty led by Jean-Marie Le Pen, who finished fourth.

Their arrival in January prompted riots and grieving on the grid.

The buzz in SL caused by the French election is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to RL politics making a mark in-world. Political parties and individual politicians from across Europe and the Americas have



US CANDIDATE: Barack Obama

PICS BY MARLO KLINE

been setting up SL groups and avatars. Last month, the main Brazilian opposition party, the PSDB, became the latest big-name entry.

CAMPAIGNING

With the US presidential election drawing closer, the potential candidates are taking ever more notice of SL. Democrat hopeful Barack Obama appeared as an avatar recently, his RL conference streamed live in SL. This followed the arrival last year of former Virginia Governor Mark Warner, and a recent campaign

supporting John Edwards. But not all residents are convinced of the significance of in-world politics. A Bayrou supporter, Akapouf



ROYAL SUPPORTER: Ariana Link



HEATED DEBATE: German politicians at PolitikLand

Yoshikawa, said: "Although I support Bayrou and have been in SL for some time, I only came to his headquarters yesterday. I didn't feel the need to. SL is only for fun."

Politics is about communicating a message - and communication works differently in SL. Segolene Royal activist Ariana Link said: "People are real in SL, and that's a major difference to RL. They don't hide their real opinion."

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE IS THERE A PLACE FOR POLITICS IN SL?

"SL is still like a small town - I don't think it's really worth their while being here with only 38,000 maximum online at once."



Katie Beresford:

"SL is a platform for diverse possibilities. Politics is important - people stuck in small towns need a place to voice their opinions."



Wolfette Kuhn:



Lotte Nakizo:

"THEY have to keep it separate. SL is for amusement. Here you can forget problems of RL. Politics - they can't do it right in real life, why should they do it here?"

"It's more useful for political activists than for politicians. I attended a talk on conditions worsening in Poland. If that's politics - getting information out - I'm in favour."



Nic Writer:



Patchouli Woollahra:

"AS long as they don't inflict their message on people who don't want to hear, it's not a problem. Politics to inform people of their choices without fear or favour is always a good thing. But usually politicians promise to build a bridge, even in a desert."

IT'S WORTH IT

By BILBO WINKLER

DR Jorgo Chatzimarkakis is a German member of the European Parliament and the first politician to open his own virtual office as avatar Chatzi Holmer.



CHATZI HOLMER

THE AVASTAR: Why did you set up in SL?

CH: In SL you can reach segments of society who cannot be reached through the normal channels of politics. It's not that people here are interested less in politics - it's the opposite. People here are full of new ideas which they are prepared to discuss, something which helps me.

TA: What has SL taught you?

CH: I've learnt how differently communication works. In SL it's more spontaneous and unplanned, and more open. In SL you can, and have to, listen to people - without this exchange of information I may as well just quit my job now. SL is a simple way for me to get in contact with people.

TA: Is it worthwhile?

CH: Relatively few people come to my SL office-hours, but I'm satisfied. In fact, I think every politician will have an office in SL in a few years.

NEWS BITES!

FOOTBALL FEVER

THE most popular sport in the world has arrived in SL. Aspiring soccer teams can join 1.FC Linden and FC Apfelland in the Linden Fussball Liga.

SL RAPE PROBE

A RAPE incident in SL is to be investigated by the RL Belgian police. According to newspapers De Morgen and Het Laatste Nieuws, a SL user from Belgium reported the attack.

DUTCH DISASTER

DUTCH residents were left stranded in RL when the Netherlands-based ISP 'XS4ALL' was unable to access the grid for almost two weeks.

TREE HUGGERS

HELP save the environment by buying a virtual tree from Second Chance Trees. For every tree sold an equivalent real one will be planted in RL.

ARCHITECT TEST

THE Real Life Architects and Designers in SL group began an experimental project on Architecture Island this week. Wikitecture aims to discover whether it can benefit from a collaborative approach.

IS SECOND LIFE BEING TAKEN OVER BY RACISTS?



By MANTA MESSMER

'NAZI' ATTACK ON JEWISH SIM

GIANT Swastika symbols appeared on a Jewish sim in a cruel and apparently anti-Semitic attack.

The victim of the incident, which happened on April 20, Adolf Hitler's birthday, was GruvenReuven Greenberg. Red objects bearing the Nazi emblem were placed on land around his site at SL Kotel.

SICK

Such racist attacks have become a regular occurrence for GruvenReuven. He said: "I've had folks

place the land next to me with mines, put up a porn slide show, push giant pictures of Borat onto my land and I've also been visited by folks in Nazi uniforms."

PLEA

GruvenReuven is unable to remove the offending objects, which are provocatively positioned opposite his recreation of the Wailing Wall

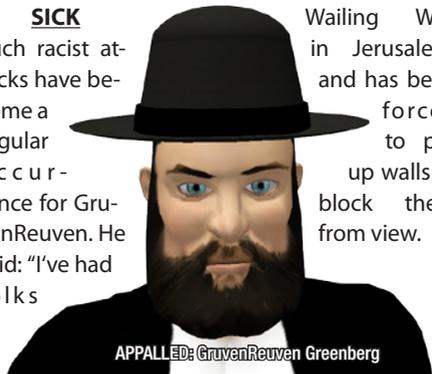
in Jerusalem, and has been forced to put up walls to block them from view.

Linden Lab has yet to respond to his pleas for help, and he says the snub could be the final straw which sees him quit SL altogether.

He said: "As a paying SL customer and Jew, I find this appalling. I think I'm more offended by Linden Lab's lack of response. This is abuse!"

ABUSE

GruvenReuven claims anti-Semitism has become an increasing concern for SL's small Jewish community. He added that there have been attacks by at least four different griefers, and not only SL Kotel but all the Jewish sims suffer some degree of abuse.



APPALLED: GruvenReuven Greenberg

SWASTIKAS: The attack on SL Kotel

ORIGINAL AVATARS

By MANTA MESSMER THE SIGHT OF WELL-TONED NATIVE INHABITANTS? THE AVASTAR SHINES PHYSIQUES AND GLAMOROUS CLOTHES A LIGHT INTO THE GRID'S DARK CORNERS IS ALL TOO COMMON IN SL – BUT WHAT TO TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF SL'S WEIRDEST AND WACKIEST AVATARS.

Drider – half-human, half-spider:

"I get a lot of compliments on my look as well as the usual "OMG, it's a spider - yuck!" It is pretty humorous at times to see people actually move away



from my path like I am going to grab them. I am terrified of spiders in real life, even the smallest ones gives me the creeps. Maybe this will help me get over my fear."

Dr Zoidberg: "I hadn't actually heard of the Futurama character Dr Zoidberg before. I just thought that seeing as how in RL I'm a student doctor who loves crustaceans, in my second life I should be a lobster who practises medicine!"



Raven: "When I first arrived in SL, everyone was doing furies and dragons. Dragons were originally my primary interest, but they were done to death. Birds were totally unknown in SL, so I turned to those. Sometimes people wonder if it's really an avatar and not a statue or something."

Mermaid: "My avatar is like a personification of the pacifying forces of the ocean and outer space. So I guess I was trying to make the ultimate calm. My creations are inspired from the moment, whatever stimuli is floating around my head, it could be people I meet, or something I saw. Everything you see, I created - except the socks!"



Dragon: "Some people tell me I'm scary and evil but I'm not at all. "I'm a dragon mentor and I'm here to help with newbies and non-English speakers."



REGIS BRAATHENS

80 PER CENT TO GO VIRTUAL

NEARLY everyone will have a second life by 2011 – that's according to Gartner consultancy firm which released a report this week.

Their analysts claim that 80 per cent of all internet users will be in a virtual world similar to Second Life in just four years time, although it will not necessarily be SL.

It sounds incredible, but four years ago most of us would not have dreamt of the second life that we have now. The importance of virtual worlds in the future seems to be taken for granted now.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

RUMOURS of a clamp-down on the adult industry have been flying around the grid. Some residents have received IMs from Lindens asking them to remove offensive content from profiles.

I caught up with Harry Linden who simply said it was community standards, and as profiles fall under an unrated area of SL, these should be considered non-Mature (PG).

BOTS TO BE STOPPED?

LINDENS TAKE OUR LEAD AND START MEASURES TO LIMIT BOTS

IT looks like someone high up at the Lab has been reading The AvaStar during their coffee break again.

We splashed 'STOP THE BOT!' last week in response to unwitting residents who are being taken to the cleaners by landbots. These bots are programmed to grab land quicker than you and I can say "search".

BLOCKED

But if you happen to have pressed the land search button several times in quick succession this week, you will have been confronted with this message: 'Land Search Blocked. You have performed too many land searches too quickly.'

So it seems that the Lab has responded and tried to deal a blow to bots by limiting incessant searching. Although it won't stop them, it will slow them down.

Now call it a coinci-

dence, but this isn't the first time the Lindens have acted on a story that has been published in the AvaStar – such as when they came clean with the fact that Windows Vista and SL weren't compatible shortly after we broke the news.

OFFICIAL

So why haven't the guys at the Lab come out officially about

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

they sent notecards out to people the Lindens deemed to be advertising or promoting age play in SL.

TRANSPARENT

It's a difficult one for the Lab to call. On the one hand they have to be transparent, on the other they would need a whole staff just to explain the changes they are making every day.

However, in this case where residents and landbarons are affected alike, they need to come out and explain their decision.

Did the Lindens really want to put a nail in the coffin of landbots? Philip, if you're reading this, please let our readers know next week on your official blog, or email me at regis@the-avastar.com. We're all interested to know.



FLASH: Last week's front page

this change to land search? Well, actually the Lindens do a lot of work behind the scenes without communicating it. Take the age play affair where

Land Search Blocked. You have performed too many land searches too quickly. Please try again in a minute.

BOT BLOCK: Linden measures

your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

STRUCK BY FRAUD LOSS

Hey Regis, I'VE recently bought a large amount of L\$ on eBay.

Within 24 hours, the company, which also runs a professional website and has thousands of positive feedbacks, sent me the money in-world. Everything was just fine. I bought some land, exchanged the rest via LindeX and requested a Paypal payout. All in all I did four

Paypal requests. Well, seven days later Linden Lab sent me the payout I requested on April 11, but disabled my account at the same time. I called them and was told that my account was under investigation, because of fraud. It really shocked me, because I felt I was being found

guilty of a crime, which I did not commit.

I thought this might be interesting to your readers to inform them about risks when buying from third party sellers. I've read quite a few posts about Linden Lab's 'Risk-Api' and that a lot of accounts get closed because of fraud investigation, and about 95 per cent are completely innocent.

By L.L.

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

MUSIC FEE WILL END FUN

Dear Avastar, IN regards to your article revealing plans to make residents pay for live music ('Top acts to cost', The AvaStar Issue 16), I would like to point to a concert last Sunday.

Four musicians performed with the audience giving proposals to the singers about 'something on their mind'.

A wheel was turned and when it stopped, the selected singer

had to perform a song about the proposal. It was a lot of fun and there were more than 50 people listening (despite a lot of technical challenges).

It was a real milestone in stream combination and free donations were given generously. If people do have to pay for live music, then I do not think that this kind of live entertainment would be able to take place.

ByTeja Merlin



INTERACTIVE: Live music

HONEST SCORE

Dear Regis,

I'VE been in Second Life for nearly three years now and only barely scraped 15 points, and have probably given away less. I certainly won't miss their passing. I log on virtually everyday, I am very pleasant and one of the nicest people you'd ever want to meet but with only 15 points to show for it, I think my score is one of the most honest of them. With avatars who have received and given 2000+ points, it just reeks of an "I'll rate you if you me" scenario.

By YoofalooPacer

RATING DEFICIT

RATINGS are gone, and nothing has been put in their place.

There hasn't even been a mention of a replacement. I didn't have an impressive amount of ratings, but I think that the concept was essential. Some people put hours and hours into SL – and we need to know who they are. You could really rely on them for advice, a good build and some invaluable knowledge about SL.

By J.B.

PLANET VIDEO



IN-WORLD PROFESSIONAL VIDEO
MACHINIMA SPECIALISTS

CONTACT
info@planetvideo.co.uk
IM: Frankie Rockett

WWW.PLANETVIDEO.CO.UK

CHEQUERED FLAG:
A great race!



“ITS ABOUT F1-NTASTIC TEAMWORK”

FANS of Formula One may soon be celebrating as the ING Renault F1 Team gets ready to roll onto the grid. Talking to the AvaStar an ING Renault F1 spokesperson revealed that the aim is to use SL to build a community base for its fans from around the world. F1 enthusiasts will be able to interact with drivers and the personalities of the team. “We want to give people a full insight into their lives - to show that F1 is not a one-

man sport but an 800 person team sport. We want people to have a chance to see the fantastic emotion, effort and teamwork behind the scenes in F1” he said. The island, designed by Rivers Run Red, will launch within a month.

RL BRAND SUCCESS IN SL



BRAND TRUTH: Pebbles Hanya

By BILBO WINKLER

RL brands in SL have been given the thumbs up by residents, according to research carried out by an in-world firm.

The study by Market Truths Ltd found that 49 per cent of residents considered the presence of brands in SL to be positive, as opposed to just 17 per cent who said they were negative.

But RL companies do need to employ non-traditional marketing methods to be successful in SL, according to Pebbles Hanya, managing director of Market Truths.

She said: “Our report found companies should link SL and RL, give residents things to do while providing a quality experience, make a contribution and tread lightly, plus try to work with small content creators and increase awareness.” Hanya added it was too early for firms to be measuring the return



on their SL investments, although it would be worth it in the long run.

CONVINCED

Not everyone in the business world is convinced, however. Eric Kintz, senior vice president of global marketing at computer giant Hewlett Packard, recently published his ‘Top Ten Reasons Why I Still Need to be Convinced to Market in SL’.

In response, Hanya said: “The types of things he and others are saying now about SL and other virtual worlds are exactly the same types of things people were saying about the web in the early- to mid-90s. But by the late-90s they couldn’t get enough of it.”

BIZ BITES:

UGS CORP IN SL

UGS Corp, provider of Product Lifestyle Management software creating various day to day products, announced their SL launch this week.

PIZZA PLEASE!

PIZZA can now be delivered to your RL door from an SL store after Dynamedia teamed up with Pizza.net, the world’s largest pizza search engine.

TREE CRITICISM

DELL has been criticised for its program of planting SL trees on Earth Day, with environmental groups claiming planting SL trees does nothing to help the RL environment.

AUTO PROJECT

NISSAN has teamed up with Electric Sheep to re-vamp their Altima Island as an amusement park, sharing open-source coding to increase interaction with the SL public.

STAFF PORTAL

CONGREG will be the first exhibition company in SL to have staff online, describing the project as an ‘information portal’ for their services.



A-STAR GOSSIP
JenZa Misfit

A-STAR GOSSIP

ECO PROTEST DAY CELEBRATED IN SL

THE FIRST IN-WORLD EARTH DAY IS A BIG HIT WITH RESIDENTS

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

EARTH Day was celebrated in SL for the first time this week.

The day was created in RL in the 1970s to protest against environmental abuse, and was launched in-world by the Environmental Council of Second Life.

Opening the event on April 22, the group's founder Planet-Thoughts Raymaker said: "Our main purpose with this celebration is to come away with new information, new contacts, and

new and improved plans to change the direction that the planet has been taking with its environment."

Some of the best musicians in SL played at the Bliss Garden Centre, including Komuso Tokugawa, Al Hofmann, Jamba Losangeles, Kourosh Eusebio, Slim Warrior, Blue4u Nowicka, Fabrice Crosby and JeanChristophe Chevalier, culminating with a performance by AldoManutio Abruzzo. There were also talks

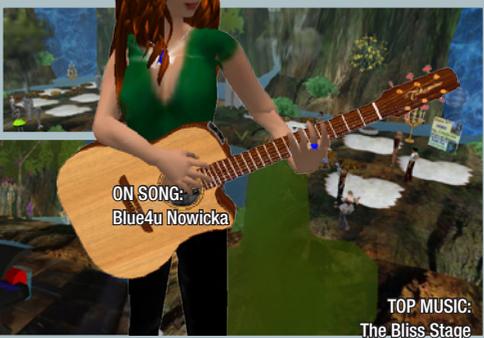
PICTURESQUE:
The Bliss waterfall



by environmental experts and exhibits with guided walks, organised by participating groups including Clean Energy Now, the Climate Change Info Center and the Friends of Greenpeace.



ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND: Etopia



ON SONG:
Blue4u Nowicka

PREPARED:
Komuso Tokugawa

TOP MUSIC:
The Bliss Stage

SPOTTED!

SALOME Strangelove from Lindenlifestyles.com was spotted at the Lyndon Heart concert on April 21.



GERMAN POP GIANTS HIT SL

TOP German pop act Juli attracted thousands of fans to their first appearance in SL.

Band members Eva Briegel, Simon Triebel, Marcel Roemer, Andreas Herde and Jonas Pfetzing sat next to host Kirah Singh on stage at the LIFE-4U

studio, and answered questions before performing their latest single, 'Zerissen' ('Torn').



POP ACT: Juli

SINGER: Eva Briegel

A-STAR GOSSIP

LINDENS GET DUNKED!

TORLEY AND BLUE AMONG THE LINDENS DUNKED FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Pics DAEDALUS YOUNG

By LEIDER STEPANOV
RESIDENTS were given the chance to get their own back on

the Lindens – all in the name of a good cause. The annual Linden Dunk took place at the Dreams sim last week, and saw Lindens sent plunging into a tank full of water below.

Blue, Hermia, Pathfinder and Torley Linden were among those taking part. Dunkers were also able to wander among the fair booths and tents at the Dreams Community Fair to discover information on more than 30

educational and arts groups in SL. On the adjacent Dreams East sim, there were games, rides and the Elf Drum Circle.

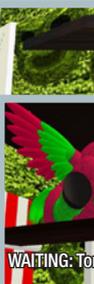
Originating at the TouchStone Fair of 2005, the Dunk tradition is now into its third year. There were tanks for regular avs and 'tinies' at the 2007 event on April 20, and there was also an auction in aid of the American Stroke Association on April 22.



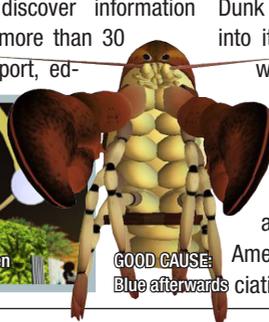
HOT:
Hermia Linden



HARD CASE: Blue Linden



WAITING: Torley Linden



GOOD CAUSE:
Blue afterwards

ADVERT

CUBIK CIRCLE FURNITURE STORE



ROSSA (139, 63, 27)

THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY?

ROBOT EXPERT ENTERTAINS SL'S BRIGHT THINKERS

By MANTA MESSMER

THE future of humanity was at stake at the uvvy island auditorium this week as SL's brightest thinkers came to listen to renowned professor Kevin Warwick.

Appearing on stage as his green and white cyborg avatar Kevinw Zenovka, the famous robotics expert gave a talk called 'Upgrading Humans: Why Not?' about the artificial evolution of humankind to a rapt audience of scientists and

enthusiasts.

His talk touched on subjects like the benefits of artificial intelligence and how in the future, we might all end up looking just like

Kevin's cyborg avatar!



ROBOT: The audience, below, as they listen to Kevinw Zenovka, left.

ENTHUSIAST: Lucifer Darrow

TECH EXPO SHOWCASE FOR SL BIZ BIGWIGS

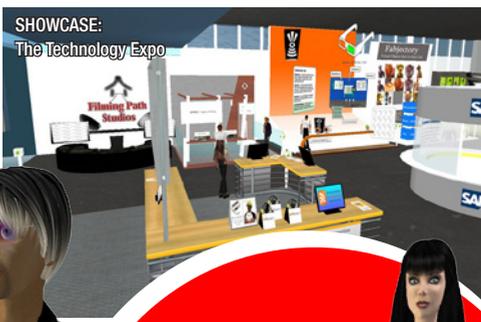
By JENZZA MISFIT

MORE than 50 business-related SL services were showcased at last week's International SL Technology Expo (ITE).

Vendors at the event on Silicon Island and Silicon City from April 20-22 were set up throughout a three-level complex with booths giving out free

gifts and promotional material. There were also a number of guest speakers giving lectures on business in SL, while visitors were given the chance to vote for the ITE's People Choice Award.

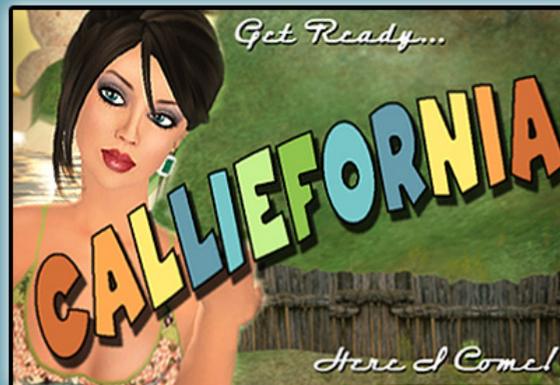
SHOWCASE: The Technology Expo



VENDOR: Cattle Puppy owner Noel Finney

HAVE YOU HEARD?

LILLANI LOWELL, the queen of adult content in SL, has relocated her famous Dictatorshop to her brand new island, Matriarch, which caters for Dominant women!



new sim opening soon!



women's fashion & beauty items, accessories, shoes, "mainLine" for men, "home" by caLLie cLine and more.

now in PLUSH LAMBDA



RETAIL THERAPY

By CARRIE SODWIND

DUMPED, stood up, or putting something off - we all get those moments when there is nothing else to be done

but shop. Shopping on a whim can be liberating, or a total disaster. This week, AvaStar readers share their retail therapy stories.



TRINITYELECTRO NORI:

When I had some RL problems, it put me in a mood where I didn't want to be flashy at all. I went out and bought a man's suit, just because it's totally neutral! I still really like the suit, but I never wear it.

Black suit (for men)

By Made Men
Made (99, 197, 26)

L\$1250

Black and Silver Silk

By Analise-Fashions and Accessories
Talana (128, 128, 0)

L\$600



RAEGAN LISLE:

Feeling adventurous, I went to a role playing sim on a whim and bought a silk. It is an entirely new look for me. I fell in love with it.

Elegant Black Dress

By Truth
Plush Altstadt (97, 87, 496)

L\$195

CATTY LOON:

I bought this one night when I was frustrated about the house chores. I found myself looking for something glamorous and new to take my mind off things. It's one of my favourite items.



Daewalker Blade

By Phantom Kaos
Hells Kitchen (215, 194, 30)

L\$900

TALYN BARRETT:

I bought this right after getting stood up. It's the perfect bad mood item. I don't normally go for violent toys but the blood spatter is just what you need sometimes.

Party Dress

By Blaze
Glory (71, 118, 23)

L\$150

SUZ BOYDM AND SARAHLOUISE SHEPHERD:

We ended up buying the same dress - a mistake because we always hang out together. One day we'll turn up to a party dressed the same!



callie cline's STYLE HOTLINE



TRYING THE GOTH LOOK

WHY NOT BECOME A GOTH THIS WEEKEND - JUST FOR FUN!



GOTH, rock, spikes, studs - however you define it, in SL it's a fun fashion to try from time to time.

True 'Goths' don't just try it for fun, but in SL you can do exactly that, and why not? I've gone Goth a few times (with the help of the real deal) and it has been a lot of fun. Recently I found a great pink guitar and I tried wearing it with different outfits, and after putting on about 20, I thought: "Oh my Goth! I'm gonna try it sorta 'rocked out' and have a fun, fashion rock n' Goth n' punk time!" So I did, play-

ing my new guitar for this photo! Pink and Goth? Why not! So what do you need to try the Goth look? Take a 'white' skin and black clothes, then add a few metal accessories - belts, boots, anything goes when you want to experiment. I love the nevermore Goth skin I have on in these photos, but there's loads more. So this weekend, be daring, get together with some friends and have a rockin' time! I'd love you to show me what you came up with - just send your pics to yourphotos@the-avastar.com.

ROCKIN': Punk guitar

GOTH: Callie's latest look

WHAT'S HOT! MISMATCH STYLE

By CARRIE SODWIND

BOLD Polysilox Apogee was heaped in primes, dripping zips and chains, and oozing class when she was spotted by the



MISMATCH: Polysilox Apogee

AvaStar this week. With one leg in fishnet, the other in Dennis the Menis stripes, and a school tie teamed with a biker leather jacket, she clearly know how to mis-match with style.

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK ANA LUTETIA

By ISABEL BROCCO



I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"My lace shirt and ripped jeans in black. This is a really cute look, as well as being informal. The floral and lace shirt is by Refuge. The dark wash jeans are by Luminosity, and they look great with the ballet wedges by ETD shoes."

I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"My Danger Babydoll tee by Renegade is really useful. For the perfect day-time combo, I wear it with these pants and sneakers. The jeans are Tres Blah Charcoal Delight, the sneakers are KK Outfitters Hi-Top Kool Kicks."



I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"This comfortable plain outfit. I wear it with a man's jacket and a red-haired bob. The dingy white short-sleeved tee is from Civvies. The tan blazer is from [miw], and the jeans are Blah Og Juju. Each item is so simple, but they look great together."



STYLE BITES!
FLOWER POWER

By **BILBO WINKLER**

EVERYBODY likes flowers, but few people in SL like them quite as much as **Becky Pippen**.

Becky opened an SL shop with her business partner Katie Welles last month, which specialises in flowers and plants.

A highlight of her work is the Flower-Spawner, which creates flowers without a prim issue - temporary plants that don't count against the land's prim allocation while switching themselves off when no one is around to reduce lag.

SECRET

Becky's Boutique also features flowers and bows for the hair - a favourite of hers and her customers.

So what's her secret? She said: "No customer is ever allowed to use one of my products without feeling good about it."

"Everything I've made was made and packaged and sold with my smile and good wishes, and I think that is worth something a little special."



FLOWER CRAZY: Becky Pippen

STAR CRIBS 

By **LIONILA LIGHTFOOT**

MUSICIAN ZEROONE PAZ LIVES IN A NATURE PARK WHERE ART IS KING.



1 HOME FROM HOME

ABOUT ZEROONE PAZ
Born: 10/3/05
Activities: Musician and director of a large art community
Home base: The Bluffs Nature Preserve and Centre for the Arts
Rooms: Living room, spiritual team room, patio

A MODESTLY sized house which offers plenty of luxury, but retains its tranquillity.



2 SMOOTH SOUNDS: OPEN AIR CONCERT SPACE

A PLACE for ZeroOne to get together with friends to enjoy the smooth sounds of the various Gamelan instruments playing up to four compositions.



3 RELAXATION: ONLY A FOOTSTEP AWAY

JUST underneath ZeroOne's house is a waterfall which runs into a natural pool.



4 SPIRITUAL: THE TEAM ROOM

THE green Tibetan goddess of healing and tranquillity in the tearoom offers meditation with eyes wide open. The wall of floating waves was designed by Dan-coyote Antonelli.

DESIGNERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT
Nadir Skolem

SL Birth Date:
6/22/06

Famous for:
Leading the 'art e fact' design team

By **LIONILA LIGHTFOOT**

THE AVASTAR: What is your latest project?

NADIR SKOLEM: We are building a couple of sims here, one of which is a virtual version of Mexico City. We are a bit tired of closed spaces in SL. The Mexican community is growing fast. We are very creative and playful people and we love to fly.

TA: Do you have a grand vision?

NS: It is not about prim. It is great that we can fly and build, but in the end it is the people

that make you come back and stay. Our main project now is the community, so the space is just a way to help everyone play in here.

TA: How do you see SL?

NS: I see SL as a magnifying glass which lets the best parts of our personality come out. I love to play; everything is kind of a game. I just happen to be serious about it.

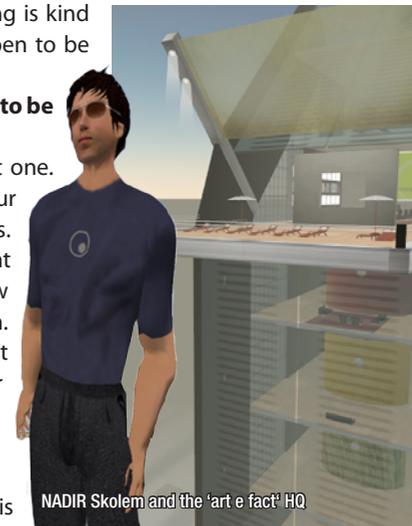
TA: What does it take to be successful in SL?

NS: I wish I knew that one. SL is like life, we try our best and hope it works. I feel successful in that I get to learn and grow together with my team. I just don't think that qualifies as success for everyone.

TA: Do you have a lot of competition?

NS: Competition is

a natural factor. In the Latin American market and community, the traffic is hard to beat, we are trying to capture the attention of the people. Having events 24/7 is a killer. 'La Isla' is the biggest sim for Hispanic people and our reference point at the moment.



NADIR Skolem and the 'art e fact' HQ

BAGS OF STYLE

By **TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN**



Vintage Traveller - Make-up Kit

Retro bag to keep your make-up in.
By Szabo Horn
Caprera (207, 115, 53)

L\$150

Kogal Bookbag

A great little schoolbag.
By Jen Blackhawk
Tofalar (131, 44, 44)



L\$350



Army Purse
By Jen Blackhawk
Tofalar (131, 38, 44)

L\$150



'London' style backpack
In rubber.

By Cara Ellsberg
Tamarack (164, 245, 145)

L\$150

***CD - Pepta Backpack**

A modern backpack for the 'in' girls of SL.
By Colleen Desmoulines
Hyades (218, 112, 27)



L\$50



ADVERTISE IN SL'S FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER

IT'S THE BEST WAY TO GET THE WORD OUT

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OR IM MANTA MESSMER

MY TRAVEL TIPS

FAMOUS SL ARTIST NEBULOSUS SEVERINE HAS BEEN EXHIBITING IN-WORLD SINCE 2005

By *BILBO WINKLER*

THE AvaStar: Where do you hang out and relax?

Nebulosus Severine: I loved the Black Sand beach and the neighbouring crystal cave in

Sanctum Sanctorum, but I think they're gone. I've also had a lot of fun exploring Cave Rua, Season's Alter, and Ethereal Teal.

TA: Where do you party?

NS: I've had some great times at Le Cimetiere and at Phreak Isle. In both places, the regulars are fun, diverse, and accepting and there are some great DJs.

TA: Which sims are the most creative?

NS: Clangers Inventions is one that springs to mind; nearly every prim on the island is a video screen that

constantly streams psychedelic, trippy imagery. It's been known to host some pretty wild parties as well. If you're not easily offended and/or have a slightly warped sense of humour, Baku is always chock full of hilarious and irreverent builds. For overall creativity, though, the annual Burning Life sims are second-to-none.

TA: What are your top tips for exploring SL?

NS: Check out other people's snapshots on sites such as Snapzilla and Flickr. Word of mouth is great of course, but these are fantastic resources.



FUN: Cave Rua



GREAT TIMES: Phreak Isle

TAKE YOUR PICK

Take a quick peek at the hot destinations in profile picks. This week: **L'OREAL MODELS**



ALISSA BRIGHT

MIDNIGHT REFLECTIONS

Midnight Reflections (62, 128, 26)

Lovers struggling to read each other's thoughts in the m el e of uptown SL are invited to visit these tranquil gardens. The lush scenery, waterfalls and cunningly-placed pose balls all aid intimate romantic liaisons.



SANDRINE BEAUCHAMP

SILVER DOLLAR SALOON

Dixie (184, 231, 23)

Way out yonder in the wild western hangout of the Silver Dollar Saloon, good, down-home fun is definitely the order of the day with its lively and raucous crowd of linedancers and regular bull riding competitions.



CINDY CRIMSON

THE BLARNEY STONE

Dublin (87, 97, 26)

A quick drink rapidly and inevitably turns into a weekend drinking session in Dublin, one of SL's most boisterous corners. The warm and friendly client le will keep you entertained while you soak up the black stuff.

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

DEAR RANDI



SEX AND MARRIAGE

SHOULD I WAIT UNTIL AFTER MY SL WEDDING BEFORE I HAVE SEX?

Dear Randi: I've had a pretty messy RL life for a few years, so when I learned about Second Life I decided to try it as an escape. There are many nice people here, but a lot of this place is about sex, sex, sex. I made a pledge to myself to abstain from sex here until I was mar-

ried, and not to marry for at least a year. But a new boyfriend is pressuring me to try sex balls with him. Should I do what he wants,? — J.M.

Randi says: It sounds as though you came up with a plan that was right for you, and that is the one you should stick with. Tell your beau in no uncertain terms that you want a ring before you go to bed with him. If he agrees to respect your wishes, tell him you're interested in talking about that marriage - maybe even as far as setting a wedding date!

ARE MY FRIENDS BEING RACIST?

Dear Randi: My Second Life avatar looks almost like my RL self, a decent-looking white guy about 30. My newest SL friend is a gorgeous black lady I met at a nude beach party, and I can't get her out of my mind. But a couple of my female long-time SL friends say they don't like her and she "isn't good for me". I think they don't like her simply because of her race. What should I do? — C. R.

Randi says: Just about everything good about RL has found its way into SL, and the bad has followed as well. Of course there is racism in SL. You may end up having to choose between your new love interest and your so-called friends, who don't sound like they have your best interests at heart.

BREAST SIZE IS CAUSING ENVY

Dear Randi: When I first signed on to SL, I tried to design an avatar that wasn't too over the top. But unfortunately I wasn't getting much attention from men at the clubs. So I went into the 'Appearance' menu and increased my breast size from 25 to 85, and it has made a real difference! As soon as I walk into a club now, guys hit on me.

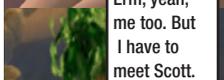
But some of my girlfriends are becoming jealous and catty. What should I say to them? — L.E.

Randi says: That you're having a lot of fun and they need to get a new second life!

This place is all about fantasy and living a different life. It's just too bad breast augmentations in RL can't be free of charge, painless and without health risks.

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK WEEK 1

Friends Kath and Angel hang out...



to be continued...

THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: PUNK

MEEOW:
Gritty Kitty



By GAETANA FAUST

MOVE OVER SEX PISTOLS!

CHECK OUT THE BURGEONING PUNK SCENE IN SL

TAKE a walk on the grungy side of SL by checking out the hard-edged punk scene.

Go to the Mosh Pit in Gatchina (200, 9, 692) to try out your hardcore dance moves to punk and heavy metal music on the huge dance floor. Le Cimetiere (160, 219, 65) caters to punks, goths, and other creatures of the night. The Blacklist club in Deviant (185, 115, 30) is a cool, grungy basement which plays punk music. Check out the vintage posters on the wall touting bands from Social Distortion to Flogging Molly. The Deviant sim is home to several edgy clubs and stores centred around punk music, fashion, and lifestyle. It is a gritty landscape dotted with shops like the Young

Urban, Nocturnal Threads, and Amara's Cup A Joe coffee shop. You can't go punk without the necessary look. Start by shopping at Ava Threads in Milarepa (75, 143, 48). They have a wide variety of edgy accoutrements for both men and women, including lip rings, tattoos, and an excellent collection of punk and rock t-shirts for every taste. Jeepers Creepers in Tean (240, 88, 25) is the place to go for great Doc Marten lookalikes. Stop in at Gritty Kitty in Koreshan (59, 20, 24) for punk-wear such as hoodies, t-shirts, and wrist cuffs. Glitterati of PuNk Couture in Osterhout (23, 25, 98) has some knock-out styles for the rocker who likes a little glam with their grunge.

INDUSTRIAL MUSIC ANARCHY



Check out this club for a heavy, industrial feel and French punk music blasting out of the speakers, as well as death metal and jungle.

Where: Taean
(134, 20, 88)

BASEMENT PUNK BLACKLIST CLUB



A cool, grungy basement club with vintage band posters on the walls.

Where: Deviant
(185, 115, 30)

GREEN WITH ENVY EMERALD CITY



A funky, casual venue - rhythm and knowledge regenerate here!

Where: Big Star
(63, 229, 27)

4.27. - 5.3.

DON'T MISS! –



FESTIVAL

SIMRAN SETHI

The host of 'The Green', an in-world TV program about the environment, will take part in a question and answer session.

When: May 1, 19:00

Where: Sundance Channel (71, 92, 30)



OPENING

LOTUS NOTES LAUNCH PARTY

IBM are holding a reception to mark the launch of their new Lotus Notes 8 Beta. Tell them what you think over a glass of sherry at the live forum.

When: May 2, 06:00-18:00

Where: IBM 9 (54,72)



OPENING

THE RED SUN

Once in a Blue Moon Jazz Club owner Keira Wilder opens the Red Sun, her new salsa bar.

When: April 28, 12:00

Where: Otaki George (73, 203, 72)



MUSIC

PAPTA MODE PARTY

Models Mode and Patpa Productions mark the engagement of Satine Heart and Ricardo Patpa.

When: April 28, 19:00

Where: Azzurra (160, 217, 23)



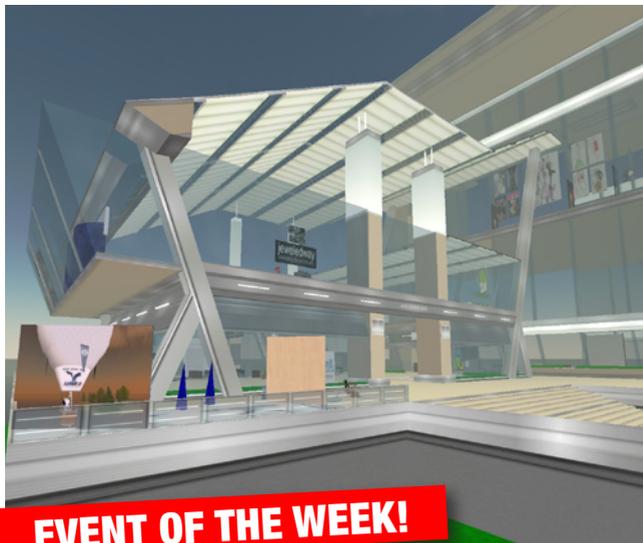
SHOPPING

CLOTHING FAIR 2007

Go along for street smart style.

When: Until April 30

Where: Noosa Heads (141, 181) and Whitsundays (139, 52)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

GOOD SAMARITAN GROUP GATHERING

More than 40 of the most innovative exhibitors in SL, including Holodeck and Meta Mart, will be at the Joysco Convention Center.

When: May 1-6

Where: Convention Center (125, 84)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK



LIVE MUSIC

ASPIRING ARTISTS NIGHT

The future musical legends of SL may well be making an appearance on SoHo's Main Stage - see if you can pick out the diamonds from the crowd.

When: April 29, 16:00

Where: SoHo (121, 141, 24)



ART

SOUND SCULPTURE PARTY

Artist Daruma Picnic doesn't want you to just stand back and admire his new artwork - create wild jazz by bumping into his interactive musical sculptures.

When: April 28, 18:00

Where: Info Island (32,117,33)



OPENING

STA TRAVEL PARTY

The student friendly travel company mark their entry into SL with a celebratory bash. DJ Zod Colville will be spinning the tunes for the globe-trotting guests.

When: April 27, 14:00

Where: STA Travel (9,126,30)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

VIRTUAL CASTING

RL film director Paul Verhoeven, of Basic Instinct fame, will hold an open virtual casting, inviting residents to show off their talents for a jury.

When: April 28, 05:00-06:00 and 10:30-11:30

Where: Drop Zone 4 (111, 200)



OPENING

SEXY IN PINK LAUNCH

Gorgeous model Kristen Corleone marks the launch of her new store. One side of the shop will be casual boutique, the other dressy. There is also a men's line.

When: April 29, 06:00-08:00

Where: Athlone (31, 241, 77)

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.



By Deeeep Witte

How to...

Everything a newbie needs to know!

HOW TO... MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR PRIMS

WHEN you first buy land, you may think you have more prims, or blocks of memory use, than you would ever need. Ha! You will soon find out that you are very much mistaken.

It seems like there are never enough prims, no matter how many you have. But there are ways to have a beautifully decorated home without using up all your prims.

For example, you can buy a lovely oval table with a long neck and a small bottom stand which only takes up one prim.

Add elegant texturing and it

becomes the ideal home ornament.

BEAUTIFUL

Some builders don't care how many prims they use in their creations, but others use time and talent to keep the number down, mindful that more economical goods will boost sales. So when shopping, always ask how many prims an item has, and only then look at the cost.

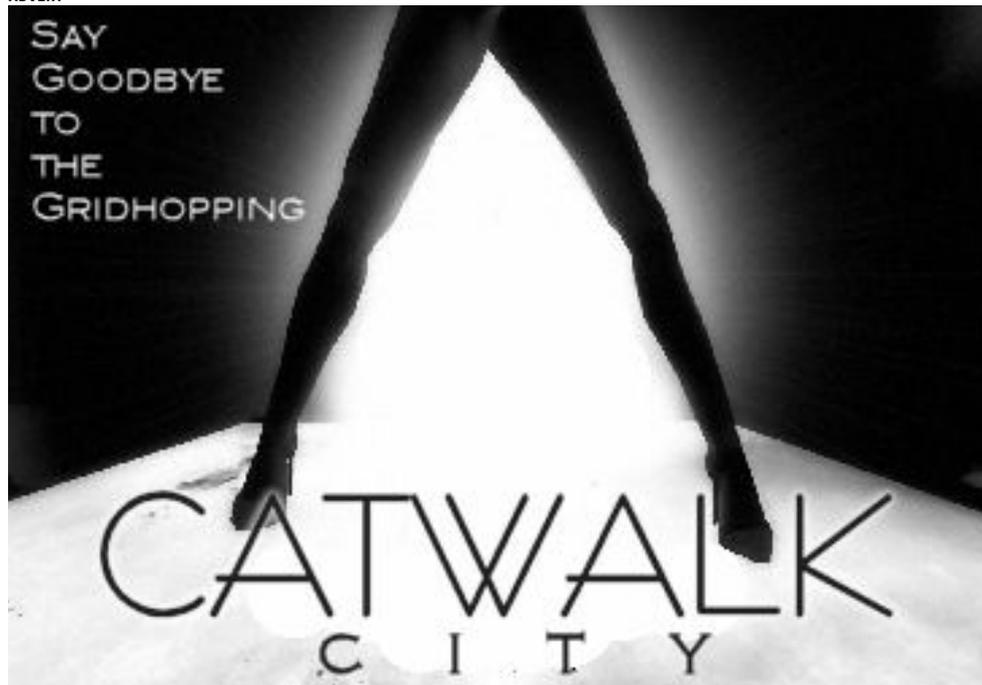
To save prims, always think texturing. A beautiful tree can be created by shaping branches into the sky, adding individual branches to the trunk, and putting in squirrels and apples.

Even a two prim tree can look pretty good.

The choice can be hard. Do you have a beautiful high-prim statue which leaves little room for additional furnishings - or do you use low-prim accessories and fill the land with variety? The choice is yours!



ADVERT



Reader's

DIARY OF A NEWBIE



NEWBIE LOVE

I NEVER thought it would happen to me in SL, especially not so soon, but it did.

I was at a live concert at the Crazy Sharks, together with a friend. We were dancing close to the stage and enjoying the music, when I noticed a cute guy standing not very far from me. I thought: "Geez, what would it hurt to talk a little to this guy?" and decided to send him an IM. He answered right away and half an hour later we were still talking, not noticing that the concert had already ended. The next day my new friend showed up at the club I work at and took me, when I was done, to one of the most romantic places I've been to. Before I knew it I was falling head over heels in love.

Now, three weeks later we're still very happy together and have been seeing each other almost every day, even though we're in different time zones and an ocean apart. But love makes it possible.

Never say never, it can happen to you too, in-world, anyday, when you least expect it.

SAIL INTO THE SUNSET

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

THE deep blue seas of Second Life are the perfect setting to learn a spot of sailing.

Before buying a big, expensive sailing ship, however, it is possible to learn and enjoy for free, with the lovely Flying Tako 2.3 Racing by Kanker Greenacre - a small but complex tool (Gray 34, 154, 22). First, find a big body of SL water such as at Adriatic (153, 178, 36), where a copy of the boat is also available.

Right-click on the starboard (right-hand) bench and choose 'Sit'. The port (left-hand) bench is reserved for up to four passengers. When you are ready to begin sailing, say "raise" to raise the

main - sail, and set off

using the arrow keys. A tutorial will help you discover all of the tool's possibilities. It has voice commands which allow an almost complete configuration, from wind speed and direction to the colour of the boat. The package includes a HUD which gives heading, wind direction, speed, sail angle and much more. Finally, once you are tired out from sailing, you can change your boat to the small but fast CCC RIB by Garth Fairchang (Burandt 230, 14, 83). With a 40HP engine, it will have you back to harbour in no time.

• Don't forget to tell Petronilla about your favourite freebie by leaving a notecard at her kiosk at Oyster Bay (Shepherd 235, 131, 93).



HIGH SEAS: The Flying Tako



DO



DOS AND DON'TS - SHOPPING

By GAETANA FAUST

DON'T

- + Use search to find what you're looking for. Checking Classifieds and Places is usually fastest.
- + Landmark your favourite stores so you can make a return visit.
- + Try SL Exchange if you can't find something in-world.
- + Look for an object's properties to figure out where you can buy one.
- + Check the fit on demo hair and the size of the prefab house before laying down your L\$.

- Buy something with the idea that you can return it if you don't like it. Items are often non-returnable.
- Purchase without checking whether you can modify, copy, or transfer the object.
- Miss out on the freebies offered in many shops or via a store's group.
- Forget to browse the yard sales to see if you can get a bargain.
- Buy something you can easily build. Building is fun and can save cash.

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

DAMIANA ACQUITAINE

LANDED L\$10,000 LAST WEEK AFTER WINNING THE HAVANA CLUB'S 'HOTTEST ESCORT BABE IN SL' COMPETITION.



By **BILBO WINKLER**

PROFILE

NAME:

Damiana Acquitaine

BIRTH DATE:

1/31/2006

PROFESSION:

Model, escort, dancer

ATTITUDE:

Feisty

THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?

DAMIANA ACQUITAINE: My SL Master/fiance/partner says my best feature is my personality. My eyes and hair aren't too bad either... oh wait, do guys actually look at that? Just kidding!

TA: What is your favourite place in SL?

DA: At home in my

Master's arms. I also love Lost Gardens of Apollo and City of Acropolis as well; soooooo romantic!

TA: How do you spend your time in Second Life?

DA: I'm an escort... read between the lines! I also dance at Club Arsheba. When I'm not working, I love spending time with my SL fiancé and our friends, whether we're hanging out at home, sightseeing, or shopping. Ah, shopping... I'm a major shopaholic!

TA: What would you change in SL?

DA: Larger group list capacity, less lag in high traffic areas, a more foolproof way to keep minors out of SL, world peace... oh, wrong speech, sorry!

TA: Which personal achievements are you most proud of?

DA: My relationship with my SL Master/partner, Steve Glass. We've been together for over a year now, and on May 5, we will finally tie the knot! Also, the relationships established with

our home group, The Power Exchange. My fashion modelling and voice gesture projects. And last but not least, I'm really excited and proud of having won the contest to become 'The Hottest Escort Babe in SL' for 2007.

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

DA: My collar, which Master placed around my neck nearly a year ago, on May 5, 2006. It is the one thing that is and will always be the most precious to me.