

THE AVASTAR

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BIG BROTHER WIN FOR WEARY MADLEN

TIRED BUT HAPPY:
Big Brother winner is exhausted
after her huge campaigning
efforts of the last weeks.

CELEBRITY PREDICTIONS FOR 2007 - see pages 4-5

FURRY HATRED ON RISE

- HATE GROUPS ABUSE FURKIND
- MANY FURRIES FEEL THREATENED



By **CARRIE SODWIND**

FURRIES are alarmed at the growing wave of hatred and discrimination aimed at them.

Full story - Page Three

INSIDE OPINION

I wake every second Wednesday to find Second Life is down and nearly every weekend some idiotic griefer collapses the servers for a few hours or makes logging in impossible.

PHAM NEUTRA
p.6



Looking back at 2006 though, one of my fave moments was the Reuters article introducing their arrival here, because that really hit home and convinced my Mom that Second Life is a „real place“.



TORLEY
LINDEN
p.5

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

Photos your

yourphotos@the-avastar.com

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\$.

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY



Dedric Mauriac celebrates the New Year in style with the guys from the podcast, "Bucket" at their sim in Nowhereville. For more pics see page 13.

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STICKING TOGETHER:
Life at Furnation



By CARRIE SODWIND

NOT FURRY FUNNY

INCREASING DISCRIMINATION IS TAKING ITS TOLL ON FURKIND

A GROWING wave of furry hatred could be a danger for furkind, if not soon curbed. Thousands of furies throughout the metaverse are distressed at the increasing discrimination and harassment against them. Humans have always taunted furies, seeing them as an object of fun. However, the level and nature of cruel insults aimed at them is no longer a joke.

Cheeyote Desmoulins, a cheetah, is distressed by it. "I increasingly get sent harassing notecards with content about being a 'gay animal' and wanting to have sex with other animals and such nonsense" she said. The birth of groups like Anti-Furry Group,

Furry Death Group and Furry-Haters has coincided with the rise in violence against innocent furies. These groups, with aggressive slogans such as 'Furies die. God laughs' cause misery for furry SL lives. One such victim, Shiin-suh Ronzoni, was tormented by a gang of people: "I was attacked by humans. They kept caging me and shooting at me. I threatened to call in the sim admins so they fled."

Some furies have already given up their fur for a human look in order to stop the abuse. "We are not taken seriously" claimed one blue headed furry. Even respected Judge Richard

Posner seemingly poked fun at a furry member of the audience during his recent visit to SL, asking aloud "Is that a raccoon?" and then quipping "I like your tail!" Silverfox Rainbow is fed up of the prejudice: "I hate that people think all furies are sex crazed maniacs."

This growing abuse has made her retreat to safe-havens such as the Lost Furest and Furnation. But life is not easy and business is suffering. "Furry places like Fur Gallery are going downhill as too many people see the negative side of furies."



SHIINSUH
RONZONI:
"They kept
caging me."

CONGRESS
OPENS IN SL

THE opening of the 110th Congress in the United States and the declaration of the "100 hour agenda" was streamed live into Second Life. The swearing in of Nancy Pelosi, the first female Speaker of the House, was also watched on a video simulcast by a select group of people on the Capitol Hill sim.

The RL event was followed by a question and answers session with Representative George Miller (D - 7th District, CA). The session was moderated by Joanne Colan of the Rocket-boom video blog. Miller expressed his excitement at the opportunity of opening new channels of interaction between people in Second Life and the Congress. Miller also expressed his desire to develop links with the virtual world further as a platform on which ideas and proposals could be developed



REPRESENTING:
George Miller

VIP PREDICTIONS & WISHES

2007: There is something special about SL, and it will continue to grow and evolve as it has been the last 5 years

Wish: All I want is for SL to be able to grow gracefully. I have faith LL will be able to do this, but it doesn't hurt to keep my fingers crossed



Moo Money

Best of 2006: Seeing machinima grow by leaps and bounds in terms of popularity and talent

2007: It will be more widely accepted and more SL machinimists will win mainstream awards

Wish: Group hugs for all



Rik Riel

Best of 2006: Opening our our island Barcelona

2007: I hope that as SL grows we will see continued support from LL. I believe they have started to hear the people - I hope it continues

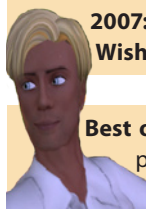
2007: A non-profit fundraiser will raise US \$100,000, causing many more non-profits to get involved in Second Life

Wish: An SL widget for the Mac that tells me who's online and can send and receive IMs

Best of 2006: Virtual Sex. How much detail would you like?

2007: 100,000 holodecks in Second Life

Wish: An Undo button

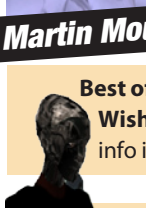


Martin Mounier

Best of 2006: Move of Laguna Nude Beach and being back to popular places in 48 hours

2007: LNB cracks 100,000 traffic

Wish: More stability of Second Life



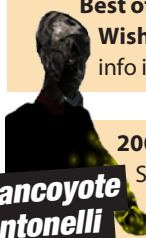
Dancoyote Antonelli

2007: I predict that the growing corporate inhabitation of Second Life will be a mixed blessing for the arts

Wish: A web browser coming soon in-world

Best of 2006: SLNN launch

Wish: SLNN to replace CNN as number one news info in US, as SL reaches 100 Mio users



Doeko Cassidy

BuhBuhCuh Fairchild

Chrissy Cordeaux

Biscuit Carroll

SL RAP
ATTACK 2007?

TORLEY LINDEN, THE ECCENTRIC, HIP HOP LOVING DARLING OF THE LINDENS, TALKS TO THE AVASTAR ABOUT HER PREDICTIONS AND WISHES FOR THE MUSIC INDUSTRY IN SL 2007.

I FORSEE in 2007 Second Life will be name-dropped in a chart-topping hip-hop track. I really like rap music, and so far, we've seen growth via the likes of Chamillionaire, Talib Kweli, Jay-Z, and more rappers coming to Second Life to lay down their verse. (My secret wish is to have Wu-Tang Clan perform out of their own interest, not because they were

necessarily arranged to come inworld.) Furthermore, I'd like to observe the growth of more hip-hop clubs; I think of freestylin' mic nights LIVE, and while we have many kinds of clubs, this front is oddly absent.

I also believe in the power of avatar-to-avatar communication, via dance and bodily expression, and hope we'll see some real innovative grooves emerge, in addition to a resident bringing „ghostriding the whip“ excellently to Second Life. I'd personally congratulate them for such a major achievement!

Related to sound, I really think the audio aspects of SL are limited, and haven't

been explored compared to their rival counterparts. I can imagine a crafty inventor making a locator sound stick for his blind friends so they can navigate, and more sound designers will explore the power of 10-second loops; even with their limits, there's a long way to go. I recently added ambience to my place @ the Linden Village (<http://torley.com/triumph-of-the-art-watermelinden-land/>) and it's been glorious! Looking back at 2006 though, one of my fave moments was the Reuters article introducing their arrival here, because that really hit home and convinced my Mom that Second Life is a „real place“. So on a touching, family front, that helped bring things together for me.



TORLEY LINDEN:
Sounds of 2007

NEW YEAR'S
GOO ATTACK

ANOTHER goo attack threatened to disrupt New Year's celebrations as a flying phallic symbol once again plagued residents. Hot on the heels of the Christmas attack, a similar self-repeating phallic symbol, called 'Copycock', was seen exploding on contact with residents. Starting at 11PM SLT the pathetic copycat attack did manage to crash the Luskwood sim twice. However, swift action by the new Frontier Linden minimised the attack to a mere inconvenience.

MIA FARROW
RETURNS

THE postponed Second Life meeting with Mia Farrow has been rescheduled for January 9th, confirmed the event organiser Bill Lichtenstein.

The actress and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and Darfur expert was set to give a talk about the situation in Darfur in December. The talk had to be cancelled due to a fire in the building.

Other prominent speakers such as John Heffernan, Ron Haviv and her son Ronan Farrow will be talking at the event.

20,000 CONCURRENT USERS BRINGS PAIN AND JOY

REACHING the 20,000 concurrent user milestone this week was largely overshadowed by a massive downturn in stability. Residents across the grid reported problems with shapes and textures, avatars failing to rez, inability to access money, inventory or friends, and grid outages.

Pathfinder Linden, who had posted the figures, was quick to try and calm angry resident's outbursts against the latest grid failure. "Yes, it's unfortunate that this happened just as I posted this announcement to share the fact that we broke the 20k concurrency mark. I'm sorry for the current database issue." On Thursday, Pathfinder sought to curry favour with residents by giving advanced notice of upcoming maintenance that would affect the grid. Problem times will include: January 6 (4-4:30am PST) and January 15 (12:01am-6:00am PST).

Logged-in Users (Updated: Mon, Dec 18)

Total Residents	2,250,763
Logged in Last 60 Days	841,769
Online Now	20,015

Source: www.secondlife.com

COUNTING THE COSTS OF INSTABILITY

By PHAM NEUTRA

WHY STABILISING THE SYSTEM MUST BE PRIORITY NO.1

THE AVASTAR Analysis

AS a resident I am used to inconvenience and occasional bad weather – and like most I bear it without much groaning. I wake every second Wednesday to find Second Life is down and nearly every weekend some idiotic griever collapses the servers for a few hours or makes logging in impossible. But we seasoned residents simply accept that - we are pioneers, after all, and a pioneer is used to some hardship.

FAILURE

What bugs me, though, is a series of unexpected downtimes which have tainted our beautiful world lately. A hardware failure brought down the whole grid for more than eight hours on the 29th, then another brought the Lab to its knees for three hours on January 2nd. And in the last case it was ironically a hardware component

(network equipment connecting the main Linden servers with a backup facility) with the intended purpose of making the world more stable and less prone to outages that was at fault.

GROWTH

"Growth is often a double-edged sword" said Pathfinder Linden after the hardware failure on the 29th Dec. It "poses challenges on how a community can scale, both in the technical and sociological aspects, and often involves some growing pains." A few days later, he said: "Maintenance issues arise, sometimes beyond our control."

Of course, although it is impossible to make such a huge and complex system as Second Life 100% stable, Linden Lab needs to seriously address its current failings. Those at the Lab need to shift some company-internal priorities to reflect the new and ultimate priority of making our world

much more stable. Pathfinder Linden claimed on the blog recently, "new features really are nice and of course I could list a few, which I would love to see implemented as soon as possible. But, as the world grows and becomes increasingly important to more and more people, stability must be paramount."

STABILITY

Why is stability so important? Because SL is not only about fun these days. For many residents it is a business, too. Downtimes – especially unannounced downtimes like those in the last few days are not only inconvenient. They cost a lot of real people real money. Nearly half a day of downtime means half a day of earnings lost – while most costs continue to run. Of course the Lab cannot avoid catastrophes may happen. But it needs to start bucking its ideas up when it comes to stabilising the system.

By GARRIE SODWIND

BIG BROTHER

EXHAUSTED BIG BROTHER CONTESTANTS GLAD FOR SHOW'S END

THE exhausted winner of Big Brother, Madlen Flint, barely got to her feet to show her appreciation to the boisterous crowd of sixty-two supporters who had gathered on prize island to witness the final verdict. With the last final days spent campaigning vigorously for votes, the three contestants cut a glum figure whilst awaiting the announcement. With the housemates spending around sixteen hours a day campaigning for votes, contestant Lillani Lowel said that she was "sleepy", when asked how she was feeling. Outside however, the fans had not let the criticism surrounding the virtual Big Brother and the

housemates cash-for-votes scandal affect their party. In a packed-to-the-rafters sim in front of the enclosed stage-area, crowds of Big Brother fans, supporters and members armed with banners and shouting slogans stood eagerly awaiting the final decision. It had been a mammoth effort by the contestants, who managed to get over 2300 people to turn out to vote for the Big Brother Second Life finale. Behind the glass screen the Big Brother contestants Madlen, Lillani and Golda Stein looked like they just wanted to get it over with. As the manager of BBSL King Ventura announced to the packed sim with much fanfare that Madlen Flint had won the contest and the motorbike racer barely moved a muscle. She soon disappeared to the press conference before vanishing for a quick break before the after-party started. But boss King Ventura, was happy with the way the event went and is already planning a second version of BBSL. Once they've all got some sleep.



REGIS BRAATHENS

SL IN 2007 - MINI AIMEES SWAMP GRID

IT is the year two thousand and seven and Second Life has been swamped by crowds of mini green Aimee Webbers.

Resident's have been buying up the delightful little winged Mini-Aimees to cheer them up on their lonely days or help them with some building.

However, little did they know that mini-Aimee can reproduce. Overnight thousands upon thousands of extra-mini Aimee's have filled the grid, building beautiful sunshine cities, tidal waves and futuristic floating spheres. The mini-Aimees are working tirelessly through clouds and rain on their mission to make Second Life a more archi-technurally beautiful place. The attachment of a pair of blue wings to the mainland has been reported to a helpless Linden Lab.



ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

SECOND LIFE THRIVES ON EQUALITY AND OPENNESS. ACCEPTANCE OF EVERYONE IN SL IS KEY.

ANY newbie entering Second Life over the holiday period could not have failed to be impressed with our virtual world.

The warmth of the Christmas spirit in SL was amazing, the beautiful decorations and snow covered sims a joy to behold. And as for the New Year, it was a night of sparkle, colour, fun and togetherness. Friends met up to dance the night away, have a small party at their own private place or just go out and meet new friends.

However, there are still too many newbies that are being put off Second Life before they have even really got started; and a large proportion of those are furries.

One of the AvaStar editorial staff decided to start out in SL as a

furry. But having been laughed at and verbally abused on Help Island, and barged and pushed around in a shop that she visited, she decided to change to a human. Only after persuading her to stick to her guns, did she decide to continue as a furry.

To some people this might seem like a lot of harmless fun. But it is not. And it has got very near to the point of no return. That means once you start segregating a group through discrimination, that group will



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

retreat within itself and remove itself from the general society. And when a group does that for such reasons, it is a great shame and a loss for Second Life. The beauty of Second Life is that you can be whoever and whatever you want to be. If someone feels more comfortable being a robot, a furry or a hybrid than a human, then who is anyone to judge. Most people come to Second Life to have fun, to relax, to experience something new and to live their dreams. Let us not contaminate our world by encouraging the RL problems of racism and discrimination here, and that applies to everyone in Second Life, not just furries.

your mail @ YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

GOOD ALTS AND BAD ALTS

Hey Regis, USING credit card information to verify identity and keep banned users banned is good. We have no disagreement there, as their activities make living in, or even getting into SL difficult.

However, I disagree on your position on the use of alternate avatars, or alts. As with many things, it depends on how they are used. I have run into many

folks who, and I must include myself in this, use alts to explore different aspects of themselves. One alt represents the strong, independent, and thoughtful woman I have over the years learned to be. She is even more of who I yet hope to be-

come, because she acts without various fears that I have yet to ban from my own life. I recently created a second avatar, also a woman, and she represents someone more playful and spur-of-the-moment than my first and main avatar. It can be very interesting and educational to explore these aspects individually. Thanks for the opportunity to offer response!

Veronica Gaea

E-MAILS OF THE WEEK

500 LINDEN DOLLARS

WRITE TO: YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

Hi Regis, I AGREE entirely with your editorial that alts that slander or divulge confidential information cannot be condoned and that verification would go a long way to reduce the problem.

I appreciate your stance about not obtaining an alt but there are cases where an alt can be of benefit: 1 to avoid unwanted attention (although it is much better these days now

that we can opt people in or out to seeing our location). 2 to spare the feelings of a former partner and start afresh with someone else. 3 to allow free-

dom to spend time with friends outside of SL work 4 to hang out with completely different groups.

There are many other people who like me have alts for personal reasons and don't use them to make mischief. I don't think we should put limits on how many lives people choose to live. Thanks for the editorial. It was thought-provoking.

Marian Maverick

THE BIG ISSUE

This week the issue of having alts is taking up by our readers. What are the benefits, the reasons and the negatives of having alts? Or should one not have an alt at all?

DON'T BLAST THE LINDENS

Dear Regis, YOU lambasted Linden Lab for failing to get the grid up for so many hours last week. And while you are right that it is terrible for all those that have jobs in SL, we should not automatically jump on the Lindens for every mistake.

I personally seem to find the balance between praise for Linden Lab and anger also difficult. On the one hand I have to thank them for giving me a new and amazing life. It has opened up so many new friendships and possibilities for me. And I think that is too quickly forgotten by many people. If it wasn't for Linden Lab, we wouldn't be here. But at the same time I am getting more and more annoyed when the grid is so often down, when half of my hair and clothes are missing when I walk around, when I can't teleport anywhere, and so on. I do then ask myself whether they shouldn't do more for us members living in Second Life now.

Deep Voight

YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
ASKBIZ@THE-AVASTAR.COM



ask BIZ!

DMCA MONITORS SL COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

What happened to my Harry Potter Castle and Bugs Bunny avatar?

BIZ! says:

WELCOME to the magical world of DMCA. The model under which Linden Labs operates Second Life is very similar to the model of an ISP hosting websites. The user is allowed to create pretty much anything the tools allow and the creator's mind can dream up. But the moment that infringes on somebody's intellectual property and the person becomes aware of this then DMCA comes into action. Under the DMCA Act the owner can force the ISP to remove all traces of the infringing content and so all the Harry Potter castles are mysteriously (that is hysterically mysteriously) removed from Second Life.

YOUR RIGHTS TO YOUR CREATIONS

Do I own everything I create in Second Life?

BIZ! says:

LINDEN Labs encourages the creation of User Generated Content. And to make sure



Why do I need a house and land?

BIZ! says:

OF course in your Second Life you do not actually need to sleep. And even if you want to, you can do so on the street or anywhere you please.

So why do you need a private piece of land that you can call

home? One of the reasons is privacy: with your own piece of land you can lock out („red tape“) prying eyes and unwanted intruders. Another reason is persistence: if you want to place something in SL and make sure it stays there, then you need to own land. Normally you can place items

on other people's land, but they can easily be returned to you when the landowner needs his prims back.

So if you want to build a shop or show your items in Second Life all the time, you need to have your own small piece of land whether you rent it or own it is up to you.

WRITE TO: ASKBIZ@THE-AVASTAR.COM

plenty of residents create as much content as possible, the ownership of the Intellectual Property remains with the residents. An excellent example of content ownership is the game Tringo. This is a game

which combines Tetris-like elements with Bingo, and which became very popular among SL residents. The creator of the game sold Nintendo the rights to it in RL for the Gameboy and to a British TV

company for creation of a game-show based version.

So if you have a great idea, create it in SL and take it later to RL. Just make sure that you have your RL legal work done as well.

Sell more with less effort!



By PHAM NEUTRA

NETWORKED VENDORS SAVE YOU TIME AND MONEY

Business Tips & Tricks

STARTING up a business in SL is relatively easy compared to the real world. Just right click on the item you designed, select „Edit“ from the menu and declare it for sale. And then the hard part starts.

Soon you realize that not only might some advertising be useful, but just one little shop alone won't get you rich. That's why many successful content creators in SL rent store space in ten, twenty or thirty locations all over the grid.

However, this leads of course to much more work. Whenever you decide to change a price or add a new product for example, you have to update it manually in all your locations. This can become very tedious – and that's where the idea of networked vendor machines comes into play.

When a customer buys one of your products from such a networked

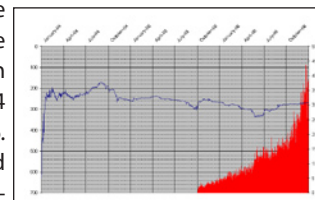
vendor machine it is no longer the vendor which delivers the product. Instead the vendor sends a buy request to the central server which then delivers the specified item. The server also delivers the description of the items for sale, their prices and their pictures to all the vendors. All of this information has of course first to be prepared and written down in notecards.

Why bother with all those technicalities? Because from now on, whenever your product selection or a price changes, or you correct a mistake or release a new, improved version of a product, you only have to do it once. Just change the information in the central server and all of your connected vendors across the world are automatically updated. This will save you hours of tedious work every month.



TURNOVER ROCKETS AS DOLLAR REMAINS STABLE

LINDEN Labs recently released a report on the exchange rates of the Linden Dollar from the beginning of 2004 to the end of 2006. Although it dropped from 600 L\$/US with-



in the first month and was fairly tempestuous after that, the graph shows the Linden dollar to be fairly stable overall, with an average of 280 L\$/US\$ for the past two years.

SL PASSED ITS PEAK IN THE HYPE CYCLE?

By GAVIN PERTWEE

CONSULTING firm Gartner Group's „Hype Cycle“ theory has caused a stir among Second Life analysts this week.

The Hype Cycle, has been used to chart SL's popularity and usefulness.

The cycle consists of five levels of 'hype':

- 1) The Technology Trigger (Product launch),
- 2) the Peak of Inflated Expectations (Height of fashion)
- 3) the Trough of Disillusionment (failure to meet expectations),
- 4) the Slope of Enlightenment (Experimentation with practical uses) and
- 5) the Plateau of Productivity (benefits become accepted and widespread).

Kevin Dugan of Strategic Public Relations says that SL has passed the Peak, but is still quite a way from reaching the Trough. Once the Trough has passed, says the strategist, the 'landscape' of the virtual world should be much better aligned with residents' needs. In an interview with Adam Reuters, Gartner analyst Steven Prentice said: „we're heading toward the peak of the hype cycle but we're not there yet.“

CELEBRITIES & GOSSIP

SOCIAL MEETS SL

SOPHISTICATED FACE OF VIRTUAL WORLDS

ELEGANT Catherine Omega was the centre of attention at the Social Signal event at TechSoup space on Info Island on Wednesday. The SL veteran was greeted warmly by the audience as the company's new Manager of Virtual Worlds.



BIG BROTHER AFTER PARTY

BB winner Madlen Flint must have taken some caffeine pills as she partied hard at the champagne event on Thursday night. She seemed to be enjoying every minute of her new found freedom from having spent the last month in the BB house.

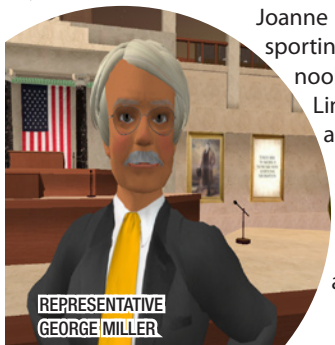
The party was well attended by BB members and fans alike. Also there, shaking his fat belly to the beats, was organiser and manager King Ventura. The party took place on Madlen's newly won island, which is soon to be made into a racing track.

110TH CONGRESS LIVE

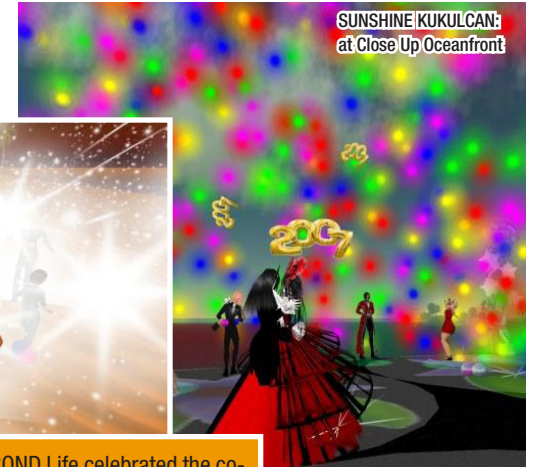
JOURNALISTS AND BLOGGERS GATHER TO HEAR THE 110TH CONGRESS OPENING

A SELECT crowd of distinguished guests were invited to the talk with the Representative George Miller on Thursday after watching the

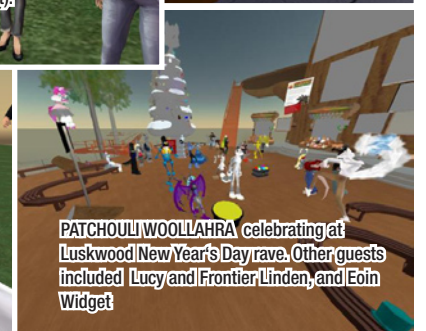
opening of the 110th Congress in the US. Katt Kongo of the M2, shone out in a beautiful green dress, whilst Rocketboom presenter Joanne Canto was sporting more of a noob look. Jessie Linden, Rik Riel and BuhBuhCuh Fairchild were among the other prominent guests in attendance.



NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY



SECOND Life celebrated the coming of the New Year in style! From wild dancefloor action to private parties and midnight weddings, 2007 got a warm, sparkly and colourful welcome in the virtual world. The AvaStar has brought you the best pictures of the festivities.



LITTLE DAZZLERS

By ISABEL BROCCO

BRING SOME SPARKLE AND SHINE TO YOUR NEW YEAR WARDROBE WITH THESE TREASURES. AVASTAR MODELS ISABEL AND GINGER SHOW OFF HOW YOU CAN TRANSFORM A CLASSIC CUT INTO SOMETHING THAT WILL DAZZLE

SHIMMERING WHITE:

Sexy low-cut front with full skirt. By Blaze Fine Fashion, *Triumph* (100, 140, 251)

L\$ 800

LADY MIDNIGHT:

Black with a twinkle. Dress by Rebel Hope Desgins, *Isla Del Amor* (155, 135, 30)

L\$ 400

SHINE LIKE A STAR:

Jewelry by Whittenton Designs, *Freshwater dAlliez* (196, 156, 23)

L\$ 450

GLAM UP BLACK

Dangle necklace by Purple Rose, *Babeli* (141, 186, 23)

L\$ 299

DIAMOND SOLES:

Shoes by X3D Apparel, and right now they're 50% off!

Dacham (107, 143, 49)

L\$ 200

WALKING TALL: White strappy shoes are perfect with the dress. Minx Shoe Designs, *Shepherd*, (19, 50)

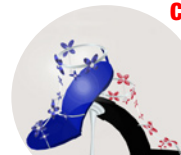
L\$ 500



BLING BLING!

By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

CUTTING EDGE:



L\$ 300

Bijoux - red or blue - with transparent heel and platform. They look great with some matching nail polish. Comes with a sexy walk, so strut your stuff!

By Estrelle Fauna, *PrimAdonna* (179, 117, 27)

MAKE TIME TO DAZZLE:

Multi diamond watch that tells the time in all zones. By Smerk Gorilla, *Los Altos* (154, 212, 25)

L\$ 149



GOLD AND BOLD:

Triple hoop earrings with that extra bling factor.

By Barnesworth Anubis, *ETC - Miramare* (176, 114, 27)



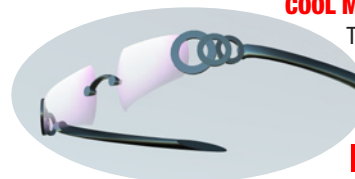
L\$ 100

COOL METALLIC REVISITED

These hot sunglasses come in 5 colours to match your hair.

By Barnesworth Anubis, *ETC - Miramare* (176, 114, 27)

L\$ 100 - for all 5 Colours



KILLER HEEL:

L\$ 250

Mules are now in. Diamante elegance comes in 6 different colours including snakeskin. Useful for all sorts of situations, bling and sexy walk can be turned off.

By Fia Hartunian, *Shoes Inc., Doesburg* (31, 129, 26)

SALSA HEELS

These gorgeous heels come in a large variety of styles and colors. They're made for a size 0 foot and can't be modified so make sure u know your octopia. Sylfie Minogue's Prim, Seonbawee (183, 86, 266)



RED HOT HEAD

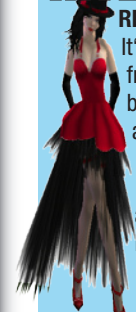
It's a new year...looking for some new hair? Well if you haven't heard of Cher Boutique you are missing out! She has demos now so you can try on before you buy. Hair by Cher Boutique, Hillcrest Estates, (215, 165, 26)



INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK WITH JEWELLERY DESIGNER CAILYN MILLER:

RED & BLACK DRESS:

It's called „Ring Mistress“ from Simone. „I love it because black and red are my favourite colour combinations and it's so different from what my avatar is normally seen in - jeans and T-shirt. It allows my inner exhibitionist out to play.“



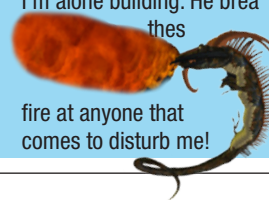
JEWELLERY SET:

Leather and Beads Necklace Set from Shiny Things „I love just about anything Fallingwater makes. These are my favourite because they go with any casual outfit. I love the leather and silver together. Something I have used in some of my own designs.“



FIRE DRAGON: „Calliath is a Fire Dragon Familiar made by Daryth Kennedy. For a year now he has been my companion for when I'm alone building. He breathes

fire at anyone that comes to disturb me!

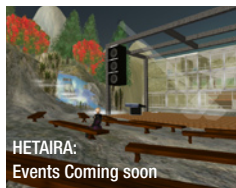


EXPRESSION OF ARTISTIC IDEAS

By Petronilla Paperdoll

HETAIRA is a new sim offering an interesting Second Life experience. The musician AldoManutio Abruzzo, project manager of the island, describes it as a place to promote and cultivate the expression of ideas; artistic or creative, educational or humanitarian, independent from a specific ideology or religion.

The island kicked off on Dec. 21st with a benefit concert for Broken Silence, an American organization providing aid to prevent domestic violence. And a small group of people including musicians, visual artists and writers, are busy organizing future events. The musician Kouroush Eusebio, is scheduled to perform on Jan.25, whilst among other events a Buddhist monk, Kusaladharma Demar, is also set to hold a talk. Resident visual artists Lazarus Longstaff and Grimfiddle Dogpatch, paintings are on display in the Information centre.



HETAIRA:
Events Coming soon

ART FOR RENT



CHANGE YOUR ART AS OFTEN AS YOUR SOCKS

BUYING a piece of art can be like painting your walls green: sooner or later you may get tired of it.

So what is the secret to buying the right piece of art? Well, the secret is actually to rent it! Irwin-Zohari Art and De-

signs (Muir, 10, 69, 50) offers you the unique chance to rent art for a short period of time.

You can decorate your home for parties, impress your date with you artistic flair, or rent art for special events like business meetings,

shop openings and weddings. One week of rent costs 10% of the sales price.

Order what you want and it will be delivered in your inventory. After the week is up, it just disappears, unless you want to extend it.

TOWERS, digital photography and ink by Kalea Kilara, \$L25,- per week

CITY, digital photography and ink by Kalea Kilara, \$L25,- per week

TREES 2, digital photography and ink by Kalea Kilara, \$L25,- per week

ALASKA, Oil on canvas by A.J. Dinkin \$L 60,- per week

DESIGNERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT Scope Cleaver

SL Birth Date:

1.21.2006

Famous for:

Custom builds, Okim House, Conference Island

A SUCCESSFUL commercial and residential custom-build designer, Scope Cleaver's futuristic style with a modern-retro touch is making its mark on SL.

BY LIONILA
LIGHTFOOT

LL: What is so special about being an architect in Second Life?

SC: I like the space that SL offers because it's more of an experiment than in RL. Building in SL can bring you in places you haven't expected, this is what I enjoy most in the creative process. It's not just inventing, it's discovering. Sometimes, no one has a clue what I am building.... and neither do I.

LL: How do you work?

SC: I am a conceptual designer, I like ideas behind a work. And I prefer doing everything „Freestyle“ - I build, sketch and conceptualise on the fly.



LL: What is the secret of your success?

SC: I dedicate a lot of time here. I'm in SL on an average for 12 hours a day. I speak with other designers on a regular basis share visions with some and get to learn and evolve with them.

LL: What negative feedback do you get?

SC: One of the usual criticisms is „Why do you have stairs?“ The short answer is: „Well, true there is no real *need* for stairs, but there is no real *need* for roofs either,“ and it's a slippery slope from there to why have a building at all.”

LL: Do you have a message to bring across?

SC: Well I express myself through what I do here and use my work to entertain a meaningful conversation with the public - getting someone to *interact* with my building, discovering details, discovering the feel for and using the space.

LL: Your advice to aspiring SL designers?

SC: Experiment a lot, don't be afraid to test things out. You don't need to be afraid here - if things go wrong, you just delete and start over a new idea.



LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE

BRIGHTEN UP YOUR HOME IN THE NEW YEAR WITH THESE BEAUTIFUL LAMPS AND CANDLES, ALL AT AFFORDABLE PRICES. BY TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

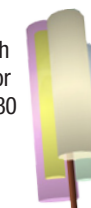


PILLAR CANDLE: With 21 preset colors - lit or unlit, it's a snip for L\$30 at Robin (Sojourner) Wood's Shop, *Benten* (44, 122, 28)



LUMINARIA - COLOR & LIGHT:

25 colors, light or glow - each for L\$ 65 at Robin (Sojourner) Wood's Shop, *Benten* (44, 122, 28)



EXAKT - 2 - PIPES
Many different stylish models and colours available. Pick one up for L\$ 199 at Exakt Main Store, *Verloren* (216, 30, 33)



RETRO HANGING LAMP:
Cool retro lamp for that 60s and 70s look in your apartment. Seen for L\$ 1, *Parrot Island* (85, 111, 30)



AMBIENCE LAMP: Touch it for light, with 4 different colours - it also includes a special script. Get one for L\$ 59 at Exakt Store, *Verloren* (218, 30, 33)



BY GAETANA FAUST

WHERE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO GO!

DISCOVER THE DELIGHTS OF PARIS, AMSTERDAM, ROME AND MANHATTEN IN SL

Some of the most fascinating places to explore in SL are re-creations of Real Life cities. The adventure-seeking avatar can see the world via teleport, enjoying shopping on the streets of Manhattan, a mug of beer on the Meisterstrasse in small-town Germany, or a gladiator battle in ancient Rome.

New Paris (121, 113, 24) recreates the City of Light, complete with chic boutiques, and lamp-lit cobbled streets. The highlight of a trip to New Paris is the Eiffel Tower. Visitors can teleport to one of two observation decks, which have sprawling views



and a few spots to share a romantic moment with someone special.

One of the most realistic cities in SL is Parioli, Italy (99, 137, 40). Parioli features an enormous piazza that is the center of activity in this virtual city. Shops line the edges of the piazza, offering clothing and even Italian olive oil at Salentoli. The Trattoria Da Leo is tucked into a quiet corner of the piazza, with a few tiny tables and a little space for couples to dance.

Chase's Manhattan (Hawthorne 167, 188, 22) is dominated by the Empire State Building. You can scale the art deco structure by taking the elevator up to the top floor for breathtaking views. Another popular American destination is Hollywood (190, 161, 30), which employs

the slogan „Where Sim and Cinema Meet“. Take a stroll along the walk of fame or play a round at the Holly Kai Golf Club.

Take a walk on the wild side in Amsterdam (136, 233, 25). It's a great build that gives you a real feel for the city. It has also become one of the seedier destinations in SL, and one of the most popular. It's a hub for escorts.

After a more historical experience? Check out the Roma sim (215, 25, 22). Immerse yourself in ancient Roman culture from the Baths of Caracalla to the Circus Maximus Hippodrome.



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

DEAR RANDI

SL LOVE CHEAT

MY BOYFRIEND IS CHEATING ON ME WITH SOMEONE ELSE IN SL

Dear Randi: My RL boyfriend and I recently joined SL together to try to make our long-distance relationship more exciting. The idea has definitely worked as our encounters here are much more satisfying than phone sex. Recently I was at his RL apartment for a visit, and as soon as I arrived I noticed he was logged into SL on the computer he keeps in his living room. When he excused himself for a moment to answer the door for a delivery, I saw that his avatar was having passionate sex with a voluptuous escort. I confronted him about it, but he said she didn't mean anything to him and it was no big deal. I disagreed, and we had an argument. We're still together and I love him, but was I right to be so angry? — V.G.

Randi says: SL relationships can either be very important to residents or very shallow. I can see why you didn't like what you saw, but if you really want to be with him you should take his word on this one. He may well be telling the truth. But it is important you both set boundaries for your SL relationships.

MY HUSBAND IS JEALOUS OF SL

Dear Randi: I joined SL recently and love it! But my participation is causing me a RL problem. My husband doesn't like SL, and is jealous of my relationship with other men here. How do I explain to him that my interest is harmless? — C.W.

Randi says: Show him. Involve him in your life here so that he feels wanted. Introduce him to your SL friends so that he realizes that they are just friends and nothing more. And if that fails, then entice him with some passionate moments in romantic places in SL. Then he should change his mind quite quickly.

SL SEX IS JUST HARMLESS FUN

Dear Randi: I have a boyfriend in SL but still have sex with lots of other men. When my boyfriend recently found out, he was livid and won't stop moaning about it to me. Why can't he understand I'm just having some harmless fun?

Randi says: It may be a bit of fun to you, but it isn't to him. He obviously likes you far more than you do him. You must talk to him and be honest about your feelings. If you just like playing with his animation balls, then you have to tell him so. It's not fair in either world to string someone along.

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK

Isa cheats on her boyfriend



Swedish Quality Design



www.exakt.biz / Copy Dudes Bayer Artwork and Photo (PetGirl Bergman)



[EXAKT]

The household name for elegant, modern design. By Tina (PetGirl) Bergman.

[EXAKT]

currently features four product lines

**LAMPS
INDOOR FURNITURE
GARDEN FURNITURE
ACCESSOIRES**

(handbags, vases, scripted fans, rugs)

Bring some light (and modern elegance) to your (Second) life. Just visit my shop in:

EXAKT MAIN STORE,
Verloren (216, 30, 33)

If you can't find what you are looking for or you want one of my designs in a different color, texture, smaller, larger.... whatever... just send an IM to PetGirl Bergman.



Verloren 216, 30, 33.

THE GUIDE

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK!

THIS WEEK: MACHINIMA

Susi's Drive-in



LIGHTS, CAMERA AV-ACTION

By CARRIE SODWIND

FOR all film enthusiasts, this is a jewel of a sim. Philip Linden has listed it as his only pick for a long time. Started up by Susi Spinotti, the sim showcases the work of a dozen talented machinima artists in around thirty short movies. Some are funny, some utterly surreal, and others, like Robbie Dingo's 'Better Life', comment on how Second Life changes people. The surrounds are like being on a film set. There's a drive-in cinema with helicopters, and an auditorium

by the mountain-top pool with a slide. Susi also holds parties for all her film-maker and actor friends. Susi has designed the cinema plaza around the theme of surprise animation. You can sit at a blue circular sofa, discussing what you have just seen, and watching butterflies pass in and out of a mythical stone. The overall effect, with little touches like this, is that you begin to realise that you are not only watching animation stories, but are becoming part of one.

Susi, and all the artists are always looking for new machinimatographers. Her aim is to make the tools for Second Life film making easy and simple to use so that everyone will eventually be able to share their stories. At all events she goes to she keeps a keen eye out for new machinimatographers so that she can invite them back to her sim to build theatres for their work. There is expansion room for new artists, and monthly film festivals hosted by AltZoom.

THE HOLLYWOOD OF SL Studio Shores



A high-tech machinima studio island, where you can find out about film making or becoming an SL movie star. High-tech cinema downstairs.

Where: Studio Shores, (213, 80, 146)

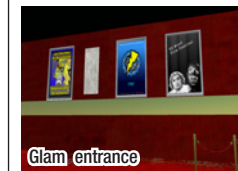
SKY HIGH Chalkmaze



Cinema at the top of SL's tallest sky scraper.

Where: Angelic (62, 26, 494)

TRADITIONAL THEATRE Lukanida



Alt-Zoom, a stylish old-fashioned movie theatre.

Where: Lukanida, (16, 5, 24)

1.5. - 1.12.

'DON'T MISS!' –



NIGHTLIFE

Snowflake Formal Ball in Historic Caledon

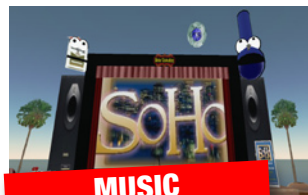
Dancing under the stars.
DJing by Duchess of Carntaigh
When: January 6, 18.30-21.30
Where: Caledon Loch Avie (189, 147, 23)



ART & DESIGN

Jeff Gibsoon's photography opening

Drink, listen to music and discuss this exciting new range of stimulating and colourful photography.
When: January 7, 18.00-20.00
Where: SoHo Citylights, SoHo (70,223)



MUSIC

Non-Stop Live Solo Artists

Talented musicians Song Clanger, Sebastian Jacks and Rich Desoto back-to-back - plus after-party!
When: January 5, 4:00-7:00
Where: SoHo (70, 223, 25)



NIGHTLIFE

Hat Happy

Wear your most original hat to this hat-party competition for a chance to win some Lindens.
When: January 6, 8:00-9:30
Where: Edge (128, 109, 101)



MUSIC

Uncle Seth rock band

Uncle Seth's band are back and they're rockin'. If you haven't seen it, check it out.
When: January 10, 17:00-19:00
Where: SoHo (136, 132, 26)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

Actress and activist Mia Farrow will be appearing in SL on Tuesday, January 9, to speak on the crisis in Darfur. Farrow will be accompanied by her son, Ronan Farrow; photojournalist Ron Haviv, and John Heffernan, director of the Genocide Prevention Initiative.

When: January 9, 11:00 a.m.
Where: Infinite Mind Sim

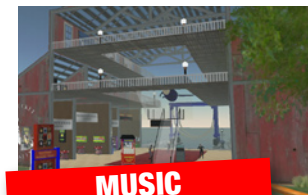
EVENTS OF THE WEEK



EDUCATION

Music & Meditation at Dublin Trinity College

11:00 - 12:00
Dublin (206, 122, 25)
Learn how music and meditation go together from a RL musician and psychiatrist, Kourosh Eusebio.
When: January 6, 11.00 - 12.00
Where: Dublin (206, 122, 25)



MUSIC

Louis Landon Live Concert

The wonderfully talented pianist has written and performed many genres from pop to classical and Latin. The concert marks the release of his latest CD, 'Unwind', jazzy and melodic.
When: January 8, 11.00 - 12.00
Where: Nantucket (25, 174, 22)

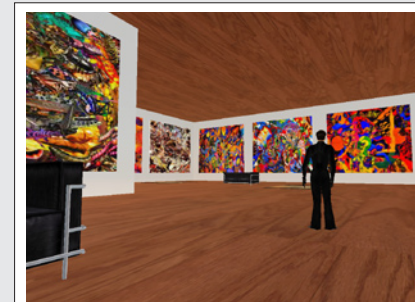
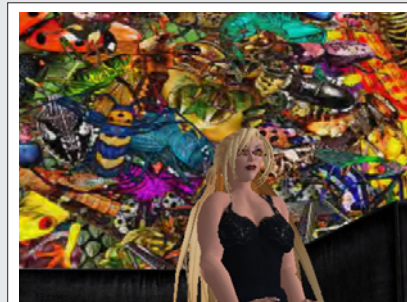


EDUCATION

Feminism in SL

Get down to Han Loso for a fiery debate led by Professor Desidera Stockton about female stereotypes in SL. Bring along your views to share.
When: January 8, 15:00-16:00
Where: Han Loso (103,60,61)

ADVERT



MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
The JJccc Art Gallery
3000 AD, 3000AD (77,169,500)

Sc Design Mall's BEST IN SHOPPING



Caribbean Pearl



Sc Design Reloaded



Sc Design Plaza

A BETTER WORLD

IN KENZO is a multi-talented bright spark of creativity - interactive designer, educator, machinimatographer, teacher and artist. She talks to the AvaStar about her SL:

The AvaStar: How was your first day in SL?

IN KENZO: I was shot at, had a SL job interview and my first SL date at the Sci Fi Museum watching movie trailers. Surreal!

TA: What was your most embarrassing moment as a newbie?

IK: Whilst building on Better World Island I stupidly set everything to share with the group. Grievers then threw everything in the air and over a month of work was destroyed. I felt terribly stupid!

TA: What is your advice to newbies?

IK: Take your time to explore what makes you happiest here. Take a few classes, pick up skills, make friends but most of all have fun with it! I hope more newbies will get REALLY OUTRAGEOUS with these possibilities.

TA: Where would you recommend a newbie to go?

IK: Better World Island for a great perspective on what SL can do to connect people around the world. I also love Susi's machinima gallery, Info Island libraries, the museums and artspace like 3000AD.

TA: When did you feel at home?

IK: I feel more at home with every new friend made here.



DIARY OF
A NEWBIE

NUDE BOOB

I AM a shy person - so getting naked in front of a crowd of people really isn't my thing!

Arriving in the welcome area with the other newbies I got chatting with a nice group of people. One offered me a pink jacket, which I gratefully accepted, although not sure how to use it. My new friend told me to click on remove jacket. Whether due to a slip of the mouse or an inner suppressed urge to bare myself in public, I clicked on remove all clothes.

Suddenly I was standing in the middle of a crowded area of total strangers completely naked!

If I could have gone bright red in SL, I would have! Still, it's another SL first for me, and I got a few wolf whistles too!

NOOB BOOB:
NAKED



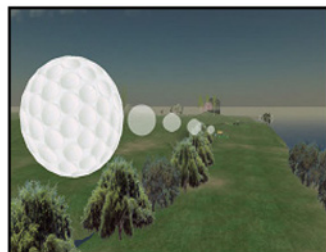
DO'S AND DON'TS: DRESSING

DO +

- + Pick up some freebie clothes as an alternative to the basic attire.
- + Use the Appearance menu to personalize your look.
- + Get yourself some stylish prim hair, which is attached as an object instead of part of your avatar.
- + Learn how to create a simple outfit or modify an article of clothing.
- + Experiment with different shapes, skins, and eyes to make the most of your avatar's appearance.

— **DON'T**

- Wear the flip-flop sandals that come free with your new avatar. More experienced residents will immediately peg you as a newbie if you do.
- Take off your pants before putting on new ones.
- Compete to see how much bling you can attach to your avatar.
- Wear Skirts. The ones with a flattering fit typically are prim or flexi-prim attachments with pants beneath.
- Keep the same clothes on for weeks.



THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

WEBGODDESS MARS

IS REPUTED TO BE ONE OF THE BEST MAKEOVER ARTISTS IN SL. THE BLONDE BEAUTY CUSTOM MAKES BEAUTIFUL SKIN, HAIR AND SHAPE.

BY INDIA OBVIATE



PROFILE

NAME:

Webgoddess Mars

BIRTH DATE:

10th April 2004

PROFESSION:

Makeover artist

ATTITUDE:

Fun, outgoing and talkative

THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?

WEBGODDESSMARS: My eyes. They were in fact a freebie I got a while ago. I like them as they are very close to my RL eye color.

TA: What is your favourite place in SL?

WM: For shopping it is RH Designs, Innovations, PrimAdonna, Whispers to name just

a few.

TA: What would you change in SL?

WM: I would change the way the Lindens interact with people in SL when there have been problems. I'd like to be more than just a number on the police blotter or another person with an issue due to another SL update. The people who play SL are what makes SL what it is.

TA: What do you

spend most time doing in SL?

WM: I currently divide my time between makeover, modeling and a new video advertising business my hubby AWM Mars, his daughter Wkd and I have started.

TA: What personal SL achievement are you very proud of?

WM: I'm proud that I can help people achieve the look they strive to have.

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

WM: My shape is my most precious item. I spent a year working with it to get it to where it is now.

TA: Who would you vote for president of SL if there was one?

WM: I would vote for Aces Spade. She tells it like it is and when she says she will do something, she does.