



# THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

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## LAB BANS GAMBLING



### STARS GALORE!

SL celebs turn out for Meltemi Editore party. P.13



VICTIM: WSE's Vandevanre

### ROBBED!

A DISGRUNTLED former employee has been accused of stealing L\$3.2m from the World Stock Exchange.

Thurston Hallard, who used to work for WSE's Hope Capital, apparently used insider knowledge to steal the money. P 4

R.I.P.

SL FREEDOM

DIED

JULY 2007

AGED 4

ANGRY gamblers have held demonstrations across the grid to protest against the shock ban on all gaming in SL.

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INSIDE  
OPINION

"OK, a RL love could end if one concentrates too much on the SL partner. But can't that happen everywhere? Can't I get out of the bus and bump into someone, where I say 'wow' that person's the one for me!"

ANNAL SHEPHERD  
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"What started out as an utopia, where our world was formed by our imagination, is rapidly descending into Linden Lab's world determined by their narrow-minded and cowardly adherence to the strictest of RL laws."



REGIS  
BRAATHENS  
p.8

WRITE FOR  
THE AVASTAR

HAVE a story? Want to work for The AvaStar and earn big L\$? Send an email to [newsdesk@the-avastar.com](mailto:newsdesk@the-avastar.com).

NUMBERS  
OF THE WEEK

100,000

... L\$ were raised at a 'Bid for a date' party at Laguna Nude Beach. The money will go to charity: [www.saveourseas.com](http://www.saveourseas.com).

29

... prims go into each new realistic motorbike by Motor Loon, which were launched this week.

38.2

... per cent of residents in SL are between the ages of 25 and 34, more than any other age group.

## RAGE OF THE SLOT MACHINE



SEAN Linden looks on defiantly as resident Arcadia Asylum burns slot machines in protest at the Linden Lab ban on gambling. Photo by Daedalus Young.

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SL'S FUTURE

## FURIOUS RESIDENTS SLAM LAB OVER BAN

By COYNE NAGY &amp; JENZZA MISFIT

**ANGRY gamblers have held demonstrations across the grid to protest against the shock ban on all gaming in SL.**

The highly controversial move was revealed by Linden Lab in a blog post on July 25, apparently in an attempt to adhere to the needs of countries with the strictest RL anti-gambling laws. It has caused outrage amongst casino owners and punters alike, with anti-Lab demos taking place at closed-down casinos all week.

## FURY

There was also a mass protest at the Pooley Stage. Neplu-sultra Coage said: "We have been stripped of freedoms that should be here for us to enjoy." Amid the fury at the demo, Alicia Roeth, who also pointed out that she could gamble on any website in the world, shouted: "I am aggrieved that as a British citizen I am being forced to live my SL under US legislation!" Graciella Princess, meanwhile, shouted: "Find a compromise Linden Lab!"

Forty residents also protested at Governor Linden's mansion. Prominent gaming houses such as Four Deuces and PalmVegas

have now shut their doors. Azno Simons, a spokesman for RL firm Giddyup Holdings which owns the PalmVegas casino, said: "There will be a huge impact on money changing hands in both direct gambling and also land prices as the market will become flooded with casino land."

## FREEDOM

A debate in the AvaStar Readers Group provided a glimpse into the depth of feeling surrounding the ban. Success Soon said: "I'm no fan of gambling but I am a fan of freedom. I don't think people should be forbidden from gambling if they really want to waste their money on it." Huge Homewood, however, applauded LL for protecting residents: "There are too many betrayals with it. There are too many people that set the winning rate to zero just to make money."

Linden Lab supremo Robin Linden called for calm by telling Arwed Rasmuson of the Keep Casinos Legal in SL Group: "When the day comes that the laws change, or that servers are hosted by other people in other places, then the policy can be changed."



STICK IT UP YOUR  
PUNTER:  
A resident makes his  
feelings clear

NEWS BITES!

EMERGENCY SL

EMERGENCY service personnel can now practice responding to RL disasters in SL. Play2Train, created by Idaho State University, allows staff to practice dealing with incidents and emergencies in a realistic but safe way.

PICTURE COMP

ANTHROPOLOGIST Tom Bukowski is offering residents the chance to create the front cover of his new RL book about SL. The contest is open until August 7.

THIRST PLACE!

TALENTED Emerie May has won the Virtual Thirst competition to design an in-world vending machine for Coca-Cola. She scoops L\$500,000 as well as a RL trip to San Francisco, where she will see her design become reality.

SL LOSES OUT

JOHN Edwards will not be heading to Second Life as part of his campaign tour. Second Life made it into the top 30 in a voting system set up on the Eventful website to determine where the US presidential candidate would speak. However it didn't make the top ten.

THE GREAT EXCHANGE ROBBERY!

L\$3.2 MILLION STOLEN FROM WSE

By COYNE NAGY



ROBBED: WSE CEO Vandeverre

A DISGRUNTLED former employee has been accused of stealing L\$3.2m from the World Stock Exchange.

Thurston Hallard, who used to work for WSE's parent company Hope Capital before becoming chairman of MDS Investments, apparently used insider knowledge to steal the money. Mystik Boucher, a former partner of Hallard's at MDS, said he was unhappy with the way Hope Capital CEO Luke-Connell Vandeverre had handled his personal investment.

Boucher, who claims Hallard admitted carrying out the theft to her, said: "I do know that he was displeased with how Luke ruined his Hope Capital investment." Linden Lab has taken action by banning Hallard.

In a statement on the WSE website, Vandeverre said: "It appears that a past employee of Hope Capital,

who assisted in fixing previous bugs in our ATM, had decided to try and use their inside knowledge of our ATM communication channel to their advantage. The WSE is financially stable and there is no foreseen security related risk to the WSE in future."

LOST

The WSE, SL's biggest exchange, was taken offline after the theft, and confidence among some investors has been lost. Boucher added: "As soon as the WSE comes online, I'll be removing my assets. All of the companies I'm investing in will also be moving to a new exchange with me."

At a meeting of the SL Exchange Commission, Vandeverre said: "There is no scandal, it's a simple case of a RL person controlling multiple avatars who abused their knowledge of the employer's system." The SLEC later urged investors not to panic.



CLAIMS: Thief admitted robbery to Mystik Boucher



IN THE DOCK: An alternative for SL

JUSTICE IN SL - AT LONG LAST!

By GWYNETH LLEWELYN

JUSTICE has come to SL at last with the launch of a new arbitration project backed by the Portuguese government.

The eJustice Centre will hear cases in-world involving disputes among residents, something Linden Lab has always refused to do. The centre has been

created by the Portuguese Ministry of Justice and will be staffed by RL mediators and trained judges. Residents of all RL nationalities will be allowed to use the free service, and privacy will be maintained as only SL names will be used. The centre will focus mainly on consumer issues and contracts. Both parties will

have now a neutral environment to discuss their issues with a trained professional who will encourage them to find a compromise. Up until now, suing in RL courts has been the only course of action when SL's trust-based system breaks down and residents feel they have been ripped off.

BARNARDOS SL DAY OUT

RL CHARITY TURNS TO SECOND LIFE TO RAISE FUNDS AND AWARENESS FOR ITS CAUSE

By LEIDER STEPANOV

A WASHING machine which sells t-shirts has been set up to help needy children in RL.

The project is part of the Barnardos Day Out event on August 1, launched by the British charity in SL in conjunction with BBH and Rivers Run Red.

Residents can buy a set of t-shirts from the BBH sim (125, 141, 48), with the promise of extra

special items to be added at a later date. There is also a limited edition t-shirt by Airside up for grabs. All of the money will go to the appeal, after everyone involved gave up their time for free.

Pete Rogers from BBH said: "Last time I looked there

were eight million plus Second Life accounts, and if we can get even a

fraction of them to buy a Barnardos t-shirt that would be fantastic."



STYLISH: Resident shows off her t-shirt

NOT YOUR NORMAL LOAD: Buy these t-shirts to help a good cause

WANTS TO SUE: Club owner Bongo Oldbull

By CARRIE SODWIND

# ONLY LAW COURTS CAN HELP

## "A VIRTUAL SLAP ON THE WRIST IS A JOKE"

### CONCERNS GROWING AS RESIDENTS INCREASINGLY TURN TO RL COURT ACTION

**THREATS to take SL disputes to RL law courts are causing panic in-world, as the lack of regulation is increasingly forcing residents to turn to legal action.**

In the latest argument, a club owner has said he would sue "in a heartbeat" after losing thousands of US\$ when his landowner returned his entire club to his inventory during an event. Bongo Oldbull, owner of Hooters and Shooters, estimates he lost L\$155,400 when he was unexpectedly kicked out of his land

on the Gioja sim in the middle of a party.

#### EVICTED

He claims that landowner Steve Mahfonz unfairly evicted him after pressure from Cadillac, a neighbouring casino: "Cadillac Casino has chased all other businesses off the sim and bought the whole thing. Steve profited in a big way. I have filed a support ticket and

talked to Linden Lab on the phone - I would sue in a heartbeat but I have health issues."

#### LAWSUIT

The dispute follows the recent news that well-known SL entrepreneur Stroker Serpentine is filing a John Doe lawsuit against Volkov Catteneo for copying and selling his SexGen bed, which Stroker claims as intellectual property.

Stroker said: "Many do not take SL seriously and think that it is an opportunity to make a fast buck with little or no consequence. SL is about real entrepreneurial enterprises. Why shouldn't the violators of real laws be subject to real discipline? I think a virtual slap on the wrist is a joke."

#### CHEATING

The most high-profile ongoing court case involving SL has seen former resident Marc Woebegone, Marc Bragg in RL, suing Linden Lab after having his account cancelled over allegations of cheating the land auction system.



COURT ACTION: Stroker Serpentine

# your mail @ YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

## FORGET GAMBLING, TALK!

Hey Regis,

**I CANNOT believe the outrage over the decision to ban gaming in SL.**

As soon as Linden Lab began co-operating with American authorities it was inevitable that this course of action would eventually be taken. Casino owners and gamblers should be grateful they got away with it for so long. It may be unfair that American law is enforced on resi-

dents regardless of location but with Linden Lab being based in California what did people expect to happen?

All you Europeans out there have plenty of other opportunities to gamble, especially on the internet.

On top of that, if this move prompts residents to forget about money and

forces them to simply talk to people and have fun again then it is definitely a good thing. SL is not RL, it doesn't need an economy, no one needs to be fed, housed or cared for and most of all nobody should be relying on SL for RL income.

In my opinion, this is a game to pass a few hours of spare time - that is a fact which should never be forgotten.

By G.R.

**L\$500 E-MAILS**

WRITE TO:

[YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM](mailto:YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM)

## I LOVE YOU AND THAT'S OK!

Hey Regis,

**I WAS surprised to read the scientist's comment in The AvaStar, Issue 28, regarding sex in SL.**

Is it really so bad and different? OK, a RL love could end if one concentrates too much on the SL partner. But can't that happen everywhere? Can't I get out of the bus and bump into someone, where I say 'wow', that person's the one for me even though I'm taken in RL

or even married? Can't I just meet someone in a chat room?

It always takes two to tango. They have to find and then get to know each other, love and understand each other, and only then can a real relationship grow.

#### FINISHED

You can also develop these relationships in SL, as it's our second world. If more comes out of it and you leave your RL partner, then

your RL relationship was already finished. We live in a real world of more than six billion people. We live in a virtual world of more than eight million. That's why I want to end this email with the following message:

"AT, I love you with all my heart, but I could also have bumped into you in the bus to get to know you!" These things can happen and they are normal.

By Anna Shepherd

## GOOD LANDLORD BAD LANDLORD

Dear Regis,

**I've read a lot in your paper - but not about landlords.** They generally have a bad name. Recently I was on the receiving end of a bad one, who like many didn't keep his promises, wasn't on time, demanded more money and so on.

#### KICKED OUT

He lost me half of my club interior and cost me L\$12,000 forcing me to find another landlord. Another one kicked me off the land with no reason, and replaced me with a freebie store.

#### FAIR

But then I finally came across a good one - CarlosJ Xeno of the Global city region. If I can't pay one week, he'll wait till I pay later. And if there is a fight between neighbours, the one that started it will get moved off. So it goes to show that not all landlords are bad - but you've got to make sure you pick the right one.

By Huge Homewood



# REGIS BRAATHENS

## LIND-O-METER

DELAYS in stipend payments, supposed power outages causing grid issues and tp problems may have all caused a fuss among residents this week... had it not been for the bombshell the Lab dropped on SL casinos.

## YOUR VERDICT

"Regis, why is it that LL think they can just rule us all based on US law and subject us all to their rules, like we are a flock of sheep. It's unacceptable." P.B.

"I'm not American. No one should force me to abide by their laws." T.B.

# YOUR WORLD. OUR RULES.

## LATEST LAB BAN POINTS TO A DANGEROUS SLIPPERY SLOPE FOR SL

**THE latest protest to sweep the grid is not about gambling - it's about freedom.**

Freedom to live and enjoy your Second Life. Freedom to run your SL business.

Freedom from the shackles of an authoritarian state.

What started out as an utopia, where our world was formed by our imagination, is rapidly descending into the Lab's world determined by their narrow-minded and cowardly adherence to the strictest of RL laws.

There are cases where laws have to be enforced, such as rightly banning Age Play and child pornography. But

enforcing the strictest laws on all users from around the world without any regard is robbing them of their freedom.

### POLICE STATE

It's a slippery slope from here to a sterile Sony Home world, where users conform to set rules and play within given boundaries.

It's a slippery slope from banning anyone who enjoys a flutter to a world that resembles a police state.

I echo comments from residents sent to me and made at the demonstrations that I, as a European, should not be forced to comply to all US laws.

Could LL have compromised? Of course. They could have been bold enough to stand up for Second Life and its residents.

But the Lab decided to cover their own backs at the expense of us all.

### EBAY WATCH WEEK THREE

Still no reply as to whether L\$ on eBay are illegal.

No wonder perhaps as Lindens work through their inboxes full of complaints about gambling. But then, they've had three weeks already!

**PLEASE SEND ME YOUR COMMENTS:**  
[regis@the-avastar.com](mailto:regis@the-avastar.com)

# QUAKER CLERK MIRACLE?

**WORSHIPPERS at the weekly meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Quaker were astonished by what appeared to be an SL miracle.**

AvaStar reporter and Quaker group clerk Mor-

rhys Graysmark suddenly found herself levitated off her seat. "One moment I was sitting, the next my eyes were closed and I was floating in mid air!" she said.

A miracle in our virtual midst?



WONDER: Quaker clerk floats

# L\$500 PICS OF THE WEEK

[yourphotos@the-avastar.com](mailto:yourphotos@the-avastar.com)



RL Italian minister **ANTONIO DI PIETRO** gave an in-world press conference at the Neverland sim. Pic by **MARIO BUCCHICH**.

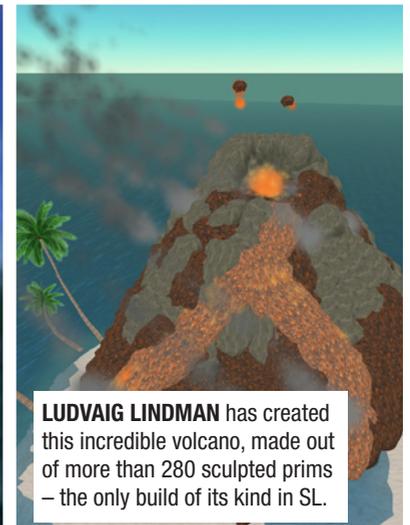


This greenie looks miserable despite finding his new home in SL. Pic by **MORRIS VIG**.



**SAMANTHA LAMONT** enjoyed hearing **DJAI SKJELLERUP** perform his mix of original music and covers.

**ROBBIE DINGO's** incredible Van Gogh inspired machinima continues to wow residents. Check it out: <http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=LxVDVggLqsA>



**LUDVAIG LINDMAN** has created this incredible volcano, made out of more than 280 sculpted prims - the only build of its kind in SL.

Lab-solutely awful!

Phil-ing blue!

Lagging behind!

IMproving

Sim-ply the best!





**8th - 9th september 2007**

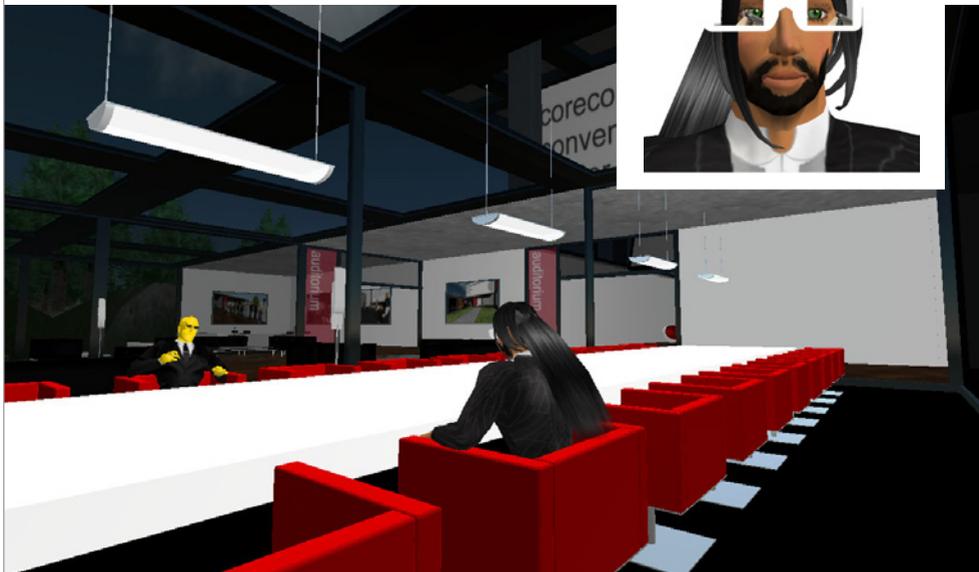
share and discuss ideas about the 3D web

"The web3Dcamp is a free of charge and open un-conference for every resident, who wants to talk about the 3D web. You are invited to do presentations, participate in discussions or to just listen what other residents are thinking."

Sebastian Otaared, Initiator web3Dcamp

**Join now:**

<http://web3Dcamp.org>



## BIZ BITES:

### FUTURE OF VOICE

JESKA Linden was among the residents who took part in a conference on the future of voice marketing in SL. The consensus was that there are still many issues to overcome before it becomes workable on a large scale.

### IBM BEHAVIOUR

IBM are the first RL company to establish official guidelines for the behaviour of their 5,000 employees who are in SL. They are requested to be considerate to others and remember they are representing the company.

### NEW METAHUD

THE metaHUD search engine will soon be released, allowing users to look up items and landmarks. Favourite landmarks can also be posted in public thanks to the HUD, by Meta Mart.

### WIRE YOU HERE?

WIRED magazine has questioned whether big RL firms should be in SL. An article this week argued that the likes of American Apparel have spent substantial amounts in-world for little gain.



### INFLUX OF NEW PROPERTY WILL NOT HURT LAND PRICES

**AN influx of desirable waterfront property on a proposed new continent will not have a negative effect on prices elsewhere, according to landowners.**

Corsica, recently announced by Linden Lab, will be the fifth continent on the grid, but despite predictions of a subsequent drop in the value of property, landowners remain unconcerned.

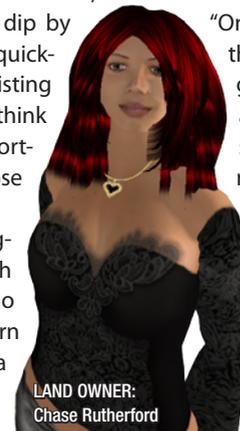
Chase Rutherford, owner of Chase's Manhattan on the Hawthorne sim, believes land prices might dip by ten to 15 per cent but will quickly rally back to their existing levels. She said: "I don't think there will be more than short-term price drops. Even those won't be very large."

Any predictions of long-term change are met with caution by Rutherford, who added: "The meta-pattern of this is LL announces a change. Some people fear the change. And it turns

out not to be so bad. I've seen that over and over since 2003."

### SURPLUS

Other landowners appear similarly unconcerned by the plans for Corsica. Marcuss Mitchell, who owns nine mainland sims, said there would only be a short-term price dip: "It will mostly impact waterfront prices - those are going currently for between L\$20 and L\$30 per square meter for good locations. I think that will drop to L\$15 to L\$25."



LAND OWNER:  
Chase Rutherford

"One condition is of course that the population keeps growing at a similar rate as it is doing now. If that stops, there will be less new buyers so there will be a risk of a market surplus then." The previous continent released, Nautilus, went on sale in April and has already sold out with more than 740 regions.



A-STAR GOSSIP  
Jenzza Misfit

A REPLICa of the renowned Hamburg Planetarium hosted the grand opening of the Hamburg North Beach sim this week. The textures on the planetarium, one of the most famous in Europe, have been copied precisely from the original by architect **Ole Carlberg**, aided by builder **Zaphod Weir**. The site

## A-STAR GOSSIP PLANETARIUM PARTY

By DYLAN MILES LAUNCH GALA FOR IMPRESSIVE HAMBURG NORTH SIM

is now home to a multimedia project called 'TRIP - Remix Your Experience'. A huge audiovisual project, TRIP brings together movie directors, technicians and camera teams to create four films which are linked through music. The sim also includes the Hamburg Culture Club and Party Zone, where **DJ Ivo** played at the launch party.



PLANETARIUM ARCHITECT: Ole Carlberg

HAMBURG: Ollie Kubrick

SWEET: Chocolate Runway



## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

CUTTING EDGE FASHION SHOW ATTRACTS STARS

MAJOR in-world designers came together for a cutting edge fashion show this week. The event was held at the chic and intimate Chocolate Runway venue, and saw First Impressions showcase select pieces



Pic by Jenzza Misfit

## LONG BLONDES

BRITISH RL indie band **The Long Blondes** were the subject of a new build launched at a low-key event this week. Cruxy were responsible for the build, which includes a big-screen video by the band.

PICS BY UNA EWING

BEAUTIFUL: Organiser Una Ewing

## A-STAR GOSSIP CREATIVE MINDS GATHER!

A WHO'S WHO OF CREATIVES AND DESIGNERS ATTENDED THE MELTEMI WINNERS CEREMONY

By REGIS BRAATHENS

A STAR-studded crowd attended the unveiling of the 'Second Architecture For Meltemi Editore' winner.

Renowned SL personalities such as builder **Scope Cleaver**, blogger **Lordfly Digeridoo**, writer **Gwyneth Llewelyn** and designer **Aimee Weber** turned up at Myrsine Island to see which design was to scoop the 5,000 Euro top prize.

**Arco Rossa** was the surprise winner with his design for the Italian company's publishing house featuring a holodeck interior.



WINNING DESIGN: Visitors admire the changing scenery of the interior, above, and Artist Sysperia Poppy, right.

TALKING BUSINESS: (Left to right) Scope Cleaver, Cezary Fish, Erther Halasy, Alfredo Desideri and Marco Manray

WINNER: Arco Rossa scooped the 5000 Euro prize

STAR GUEST: Celeb builder Aimee Weber

## NAKED AMBITION TO WIN!

By BABA COEN

DESPITE the real life problems blighting the Cofidis team during the current Tour de France, the atmosphere at Cofidis Island in SL is very relaxed.

Cofidis team rider **David Moncoutié** turned up to take on residents in a series of races this week. "It's a lot harder in SL - I find it difficult to stay on the track - but cycling naked here helps me go faster!" said David's avatar, **Pierre2006 Bonetto**.

One lucky resident also scooped a Cofidis race bike after winning the time trials.



STREAMLINE: Organiser Lauren Savon and RL Cofidis star Pierre2006 Bonetto strip down to get more speed on the track

# THE TREASURE SEEKERS

By CARRIE SODWIND



Err...that's Harmony Linden!

ALL ABOARD THE LINDEN PIRATE SHIP! AT THE CONCIERGE PARTY LAST SATURDAY NOT ONE OF THE LINDENS NEEDED TO WALK THE PLANK, OR EVEN BURY THEIR HEAD IN THE SAND, BECAUSE THE CAPTAINS OF SL DRESSED TO IMPRESS. SOME 600 GUESTS SIGNED UP FOR THE CELEBRATION THAT TOOK PLACE OVER EIGHT DIFFERENT ISLANDS, WITH AN UNDERWATER AND PIRATE THEME.

IZZY LINDEN the moss covered sloth definitely didn't pull in that outfit. Oh well, Izzy gets a mention for most original.



LEO LINDEN had some fantastic full-body tatoos for his striking 'mer-man' costume.



Ahhhh. JACK LINDEN isn't quite a cut-throat villain. The clean-shaved blue-eyed boy would have been the pirate that gave his riches to the poor.



Aye aye Cap'ain! ETHAN LINDEN makes a rugged Pirate. He proclaimed his authority with plumes of feathers and a big weapon at hand.



CYN LINDEN was all in cannon ball black, and had a raven instead of a parrot. She definitely came in on the death ship.



## callie cline's STYLE HOTLINE



### SIZZLING SUMMER SALES

PEEL YOUR EYES FOR THE LATEST BARGAINS IN SL'S STORES

I JUST had to write about the hot sizzling summer sales going on right now!

It seems like every-day a new sale pops up. From inventory clearances to plain old fun sales, you can easily find 50 per cent off - so it's the perfect time to pick up things you couldn't afford before and things which will be disappearing forever.

Either way, the customer wins! Some of the most talked about sales

include Canimal, Dazle, Vitamin Ci - there's too many to name them all here. I'm having one at California too, of course! Just look in search to find them all.

#### ADVICE

Now one word of advice. In the 'buybecause they are about to disappear forever' category, just remember that your emotions are being played upon - if you know it's going

to be gone forever, it may signal an "I need it" reaction in many people. So before you go out and buy a bunch of stuff you may never wear simply because it is going to disappear, make sure you keep your wits about you and ask yourself, "will I really wear this?" As nice as it is to have a sale, and I personally love them, if you never wear the stuff you buy, perhaps it's better to spend a little more on the one special outfit you've been wanting for ages. Enough of that now. Go get out there, and find those bargains!



HOT! Get some bargains now!

### WHAT'S HOT! NOT OH LORDFLY!

By CARRIE SODWIND

DRESSING "eccentric" is like walking a tight-rope. If you miss that delicate balance, then it can look very clumsy.

Lordfly Digeridoo has mastered the world of blogging, but when he tried his hand at fashion acrobatics this week, he just looked like the circus clown.

He sported a happy-face hat, and cheery red bowtie, aiming somewhere

at the image of the jolly village sweet-shop owner. But the tight striped shirt, purple shades and neatly trimmed facial hair missed horribly. Maybe he should stick to blogging!



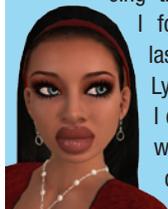
NOT SO FLY! Famous for blogging, not fashion!

## INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK ECO BROCCO OF LIPS DESIGNS

By HONEY BENDER

#### I love...

"My lashes! Well, I'm an eye person, I looove eyes, even in RL, so I'm all for enhancing them. When I found these lashes by Lynnix I think I cleaned her whole vendor out."



#### I like showing off...

"My Sunday dresses. They are dresses you can actually wear to church. This is designed by Ketzal Frankfurte of Radical Wook designs. I like to support other designers so every Saturday or Sunday morning I go out and buy a new dress."



#### I can't live without...

"My skin. It's a custom job from Naughty Designs, so nobody else has it. I had it made to establish myself as an individual since far too many people look alike. Worn like this with my fav hoop earrings - another must have - it's my signature look."



# VRRRRROOOOM!



By **TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN**



**L\$2,368**

**Dominus Shadow v.2.0.42h**

By Francis Chung  
*Chartreuse (68, 26, 29)*

**Mercedes-Benz C-Class**

By Mercedes Beaumont and Developer Team

*Mercedes Benz Island (124, 165, 41)*



**L\$1500**

**1957 Plymouth Delray convertible**

With paint script By Ahkenatan  
*Grommet Plymouth (61, 197,33)*



**1937 Jaguar SS-100**

By Karl Reisman  
*Blacktail Ridge (111, 97, 155)*

**L\$700**



**L\$1,000**

## SL'S BEST CULTURE HAS A PARTY

By **BABU WRITER**

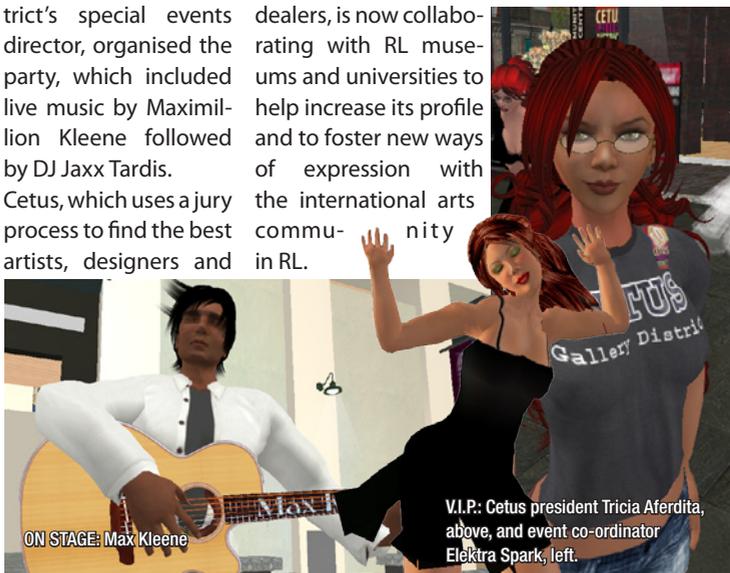
A **BIG party was thrown by the owners of the Cetus Gallery after the sim was named as one of SL's best cultural sites.**

The sim was chosen by residents in a popular vote, and emerged in the top 50 sites in the recent Corsa Guide competition. Xander Ruttan, who built most of the sim, said it was a great honour to be singled out by fellow residents.

Elektra Spark, the dis-

trict's special events director, organised the party, which included live music by Maximillion Kleene followed by DJ Jaxx Tardis. Cetus, which uses a jury process to find the best artists, designers and

dealers, is now collaborating with RL museums and universities to help increase its profile and to foster new ways of expression with the international arts community in RL.



ON STAGE: Max Kleene

V.I.P.: Cetus president Tricia Aferdita, above, and event co-ordinator Elektra Spark, left.

# NEW SIMS

AN ITALIAN THEME: A FAMOUS STADIUM, AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ZONE AND A FASHION MAGAZINE.

By **COYNE NAGY**

A REPLICA of one of the world's most famous football stadia has been built in SL.

The Stadio Giuseppe Meazza in Milan, more commonly called the San Siro and home to the champions of Italy and Europe,

games there using scripting and HUDs. Another Italian company, energy firm Enel, have launched a sim highlighting concern for the environment. At EnelPark 4, cars run on hydrogen, energy comes from

about the future of RL energy. Another, Italian job is the Style Magazine sim, launched by the Corriere della Sera newspaper.



**CORRIERE DELLA SERA**



**ENEL**



**TELECOM ITALIA**

has been recreated at the Telecom Italia 2 sim. There will be an opportunity to take part in

renewable sources and power stations don't have chimneys. The park will be home to staff who will help educate residents

The trendy square contains high quality freebies, with boxes dedicated to 'I Simpsons' amongst other things. There is also a stage for concerts and offices.

## FLYING SHOE TOUR

GET OUT OF THE HOUSE AND SOAR AMONG THE SL CLOUDS OVER HOLLAND IN A FLYING SHOE

By **BABU WRITER**

ENJOY a spectacular view of the windmills of Our Virtual Holland thanks to a free, self-guided tour - from a giant wooden shoe.

The tour, called Marvin's Flying Shoe, cruises along Holland's

picturesque canals. It is the creation of Marvin Benelli, a RL employee of Dutch bank ING, and there is an automated English text which will guide your travels. Visitors will be introduced to ING's sandcastle building, the

famous Erasmus bridge and a host of other sights. The shoe can be paused for photos to be taken.

Afterwards, travellers can explore the paths by bike, which only cost L\$5.



CLASSIC: A Dutch windmill



PICTURESQUE: A bird's eye view



HIGH LIVING: Houses along the canal



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

# DEAR

## WHEN VIRTUAL IRISH EYES ARE SMILING



**I WANT TO TAKE MY SL RELATIONSHIP INTO RL - BUT HE IS 36 AND HAS TWO DAUGHTERS**

*Dear Randi:* IN RL I will be 20 in the fall and a junior at a university in the US. Three months ago at an in-world masquerade party I met the sweetest guy I have ever known. He has asked me to marry him in SL, and the wedding is in three weeks. He says he would like to take our relationship to RL someday, and here's the problem: he is a

36-year-old widower who lives in Ireland with his two small daughters. I'm optimistic about our future, but my parents are going to flip! What should I do? — J.B.

*Randi says:* I don't think that you should be in such a rush to develop this relationship, as you are still very young. Ask him to travel to your university town

next summer and bring his children with him. You need to see the reality of what life would be like as a young stepmother. If you're still interested after the visit, then tell your parents about the relationship and see how they react. Finish your degree, and if you're still into him after two years then you should proceed.

## POLITICS IS GETTING IN THE WAY OF TRUE LOVE

*Dear Randi:* I THOUGHT I had found my soul mate when I met my SL fiancé six months ago. We like the same kind of music, love to participate in sports together, and never seem to run out of things to talk about. But then last week we had a long talk, and it was the first time we had ever discussed RL politics, and I found out he is at the other end of the political spectrum from me. We had one big row and actually stopped speaking for three days. Should I drop him, or can we get over our different politics? — L.I.

*Randi says:* That is indeed a hard situation to deal with – it would prove a deal-breaker for many people. If your political beliefs are important to you, and it is not a bad thing if they are, then you should have a long discussion with him and find some common ground. Perhaps you can agree to disagree, or maybe you had better part and try to simply remain friends.

## I'M A LESBIAN - I CAN'T BE 'TURNED' STRAIGHT!

*Dear Randi:* RECENTLY, I have been taking this class to make myself a better builder. It is good fun, and the people there are nice, but there is this one guy who keeps telling me how I'm one of the most beautiful women he has ever met in SL. He has asked me several times for a date, and each time I have politely declined. I'm a lesbian, and told him so, but he seems to think that he can 'turn me around' if I'd just go out with him once. I'm not bisexual, and I'm just not interested in men that way at all. How can I convince him he doesn't have a shot? — O.R

*Randi says:* Tell him once, and tell him very firmly. Make it clear that you can either be 'just friends' or have no relationship at all. Your sexuality is your own business, and hopefully this guy will get the message. If he does persist, however, mute him and find new places to spend your time.

# RANDI

The Virtual World's  
No 1 Agony Aunt

## FRIEND CHEATED ON MY RL BRO

*Dear Randi:*

I HAVE known my best friend in SL for over a year now, and we share all of each other's gossip and secrets. A few months ago she married a guy in-world who I had introduced her to, with me as her maid of honour. Recently, though, she confided in me that she cheated on her

husband with a guy she had just met. The big problem is that, unbeknownst to her, her SL husband is my RL brother. Now I am trying to decide whether family trumps friendship. Should I tell him about her unfaithfulness? — F.H.

*Randi says:*

Family usually trumps friend-

ship, but this is a bit different. If she didn't think of you as her very best friend, you wouldn't have the information about her cheating. If you do tell him, you would almost certainly lose your best friend. Even worse, you could make enemies of them both. Keep your lips sealed!

## RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK BRADY AND HIS BUDDY'S BRIDE - WEEK 1





By Deeep Witte

# How to...

Everything a newbie needs to know!

## LOSE THAT NEWBIE LOOK YOUR AVATAR IS STUCK WITH

**ANYONE new to SL quickly realises there are a lot of people who look just like them.**

So how do you stop looking like such a 'noob'? Some improvements are simple, like changing hair style, eye and skin colour, basic body shapes and bone structure and clothes. You don't

have to stop there, however – you can even change species, so have a go at being a robot, dragon, mammal plant, glowing ball of light or anything else you can think of.

### ADVICE

The shops of SL are packed with all kinds of items, and with enough L\$ you can create a new and more sophisticated style for yourself. Too lazy to shop for it all? Hire a makeover artist by searching in the SL index. It won't be cheap, but it is easy and quick.

For the majority of newbies who don't have much money,

check out some of the new orientation islands opening up like Orientation Station on the Scholar sim. You should be able to find freebies such as clothes, skins and shapes, and you can also ask advice from mentors.

Freebies are not limited to orientation islands, either – check large clothing stores, which are often giving away stuff. There are even dedicated freebies centres, like Yadni's Junkyard. To find all these places, click on 'Search' and look under 'All Tabs'.

You'll have lost that 'noob' look in no time!

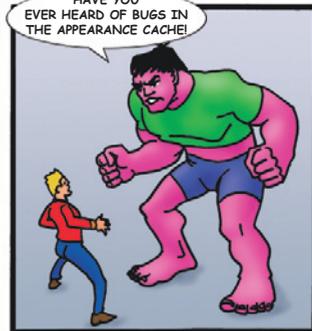
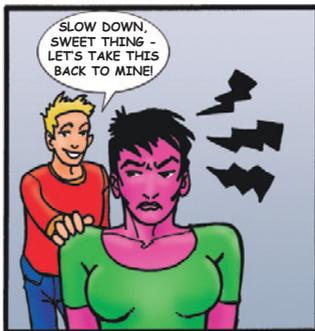


NEWBIE: Get rid of that look!

# Slaggin'

"Big Bugs"

ARTWORK:  
Ermanno Spitteler



# Freebies

SL's best FREE stuff!

## THIS WEEK: BEAT THE BUMPS

**LAG can often have a huge effect on the Second Life experience.**

Residents simply trying to walk across a room end up darting all over the place, bumping into others as they go. This can often happen in a large, crowded mall – one minute you're peacefully looking at that skirt you've had your eye on for some time, and the next you're half-way across the room.

The lag itself may be impossible to fix, but an anti-push system can help you avoid the consequences.

### GUILTY

One of the best known is Shield-Anti-Push-Psyke by Psyke Phaeton (Shipley 53, 226, 44) – wear it and you will stay as still as a rock. If the one who bumps into you has bad intentions, you can scare them off with the Power Shield by Hopalong Digeridoo, which creates a big black bubble. Or you can make them

feel guilty with the Super Collider by Rickard Roentgen, which causes your avatar to fall down in a natural way if someone hits into you.

The Power Shield and the Super Collider can be found in freebies boxes across SL, but if you can't find one for yourself, head to Paperdoll's (Shepherd 239, 172, 82).



ON THE FLOOR: The effect of the Super Collider



SAFE HAVEN: The Power Shield

## DO + DOS AND DON'TS: PERMISSIONS - DON'T

By GAETANA FAUST

- + Be conscious of what permissions you assign to objects you create.
- + Check the edit menu to determine the permissions assigned to an object.
- + If objects require significant modifications, consider making them copyable in case of mistakes.
- + Click Other/Take Copy to get a copy of an object if possible.
- + Save L\$ by looking for copyable objects like plants, lamps, and doors if you will need several.
- Purchase an object without checking the permissions and ensuring they meet your needs.
- Make your object No Modify unless you have a good reason to.
- Buy gifts for others that are not transferable.
- Modify objects that are copy/modify before you take a 'safe' copy.
- Sell objects that can be both copied and transferred, because you'll probably sell exactly one!

## My First Day in Second Life

By COYNE NAGY

### SKIN AND CLOTHES DESIGNER SACHI VIXEN:

**THE AVASTAR:** How was your first day in SL?

**SACHI VIXEN:** I had used another 3D program and people there were migrating to SL so I thought I'd check it out. Orientation Island was very confusing but I was able to contact someone I knew who was here. He introduced me to some ladies he knew who were terribly kind and took me shopping!

**TA:** What was your most embarrassing moment?

**SV:** It would have been box head. I think that was like an SL initiation for newbies! Strangely I think it is sad that it now attaches to your hand instead.

**TA:** What was your funniest moment?

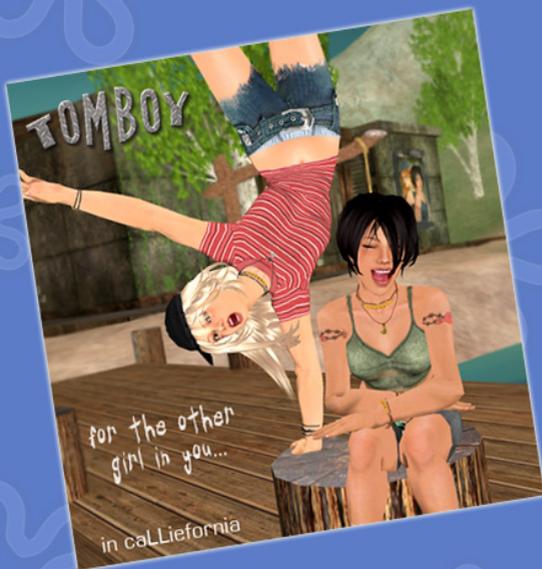
**SV:** People were appearing with their face up their bottom. I thought at first this was some sort of greeting ritual but there was actually a bug in SL around this time. It gave a whole new meaning to the term kissing my own ass!



KMOA: Sachi Vixen

# "caLLiefornia" now open !!!

enjoy our beaches, shopping, rock club, and more



home of:  
caLLie cLine  
tOmbOy  
mainLine  
hatchie wear  
"caffeine au  
go-go"  
maLiboo cove

# THE GUIDE TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## THIS WEEK: TRAINS

# ALL ABOARD!



**RIDE the rails in SL and see a new take on a classic form of travel – trains.**

You'll find a grand old station at the Great Second Life Railway in Olive (237, 188, 41). This is the main hub for the GSLR, and its impressively vaulted stone arches set the tone for turn-of-the-century luxury train travel. Heading down the line to the east, you will end up at the Ferry in Purple. A lighthouse guards the dock, where train passengers will someday connect with the ferry to head across the sea at Cyclops. Residents down on their luck might enjoy seeing the Hobo Railroad Infohub in Calleta (99, 207, 26). You can camp out amid a ramshackle collection of make-

shift shacks or have a drink or a nap in a defunct boxcar. Minatomirai (160, 242, 21) is the location for the terminus of the Yokohama Railways Line. Wait until the green train comes rumbling up the track, then hop aboard and take a ride along the rails. Gothburgh Village in Gaenari (67, 167, 42) has a fun train line that runs around the sim. Steaming up hills and down into valleys, you'll take the scenic route around the little circuit. For a taste of futuristic travel, try out the sophisticated monorail system at FairChang Del Sol (128, 128, 0). Check out the U-Bahn Club in Frankfurt Ost (125, 188, 20), cleverly designed to resemble a German subway station.

### TRAIN TRACKS

#### PRIMWORX STORE



Enjoy the extensive line of working scripted trains which respond to the owner's commands. Where: Orwood (69, 159, 30)

#### CENTRAL STATION GRAND CALLETA



The Grand Calleta Terminal and Rail Museum provides a worthy space to wait for your train. Where: Calleta (99, 207, 26)

#### TUBE FUN UNDERGROUND



The tiny green engine makes trips around an oval in a damp cavern. Where: Celerio (166, 249, 97)

7.27. - 8.3.

## DON'T MISS! –



## ART &amp; CULTURE

## SOUTHERN FRANCE

The 'Colors of Southern France' exhibition at Elektra's includes oil paintings by Pandore Jarvis and Provencale furniture by Doug Massey.

**When:** July 28, 14:00-16:30

**Where:** The Endless (106, 235, 28)



## DISCUSSION

## FACES OF FAITH

The final event of the 'Faces of Faith in America' project involving UC Berkeley journalists sees a panel discussion featuring SL worshippers and theologians.

**When:** July 29, 12:00-14:30

**Where:** Nowhereville (113, 81, 26)



## LIVE MUSIC

## ELMO BALDERDASH

The romantic crooner belts out some 80s covers as well as his own material.

**When:** August 2, 19:00

**Where:** Torch (116, 113, 103)



## CLASS

## FLOWER ARRANGING

Learn how to craft clear textures into flowers and 3D vases.

**When:** July 31, 15:00

**Where:** Colorado Tech (33, 157, 37)



## LIVE MUSIC

## LOVESONGS WRITER

LoveSongs Writer sings love songs in Spanish.

**When:** July 30 11am

**Where:** Clyde (124, 165, 32)



## EVENT OF THE WEEK!

## AMO ACTION DANCE

Come along to this weekly mixer for non-profit leaders, educators and digital media types, with a featured non-profit organisation each week.

**When:** August 2, 18:00-21:00

**Where:** AMO (215, 136, 23)

## EVENTS OF THE WEEK



## NIGHTLIFE

## HOUSE OF FLAMES

Join Tone Uriza and his band for the grand opening of the House of Flames Concert Ballroom, which holds up to 150 avatars.

**When:** July 28, 19:00

**Where:** House of Flames (234, 162, 21)



## TALK

## JON ERICKSON

Listen to the long-time editor of Dr Dobb's Journal talk about new media projects and business developments in SL and global collaboration.

**When:** July 29, 16:00

**Where:** Microsoft (101, 123, 30)



## ENTERTAINMENT

## VMOA PARTY

Celebrate the Virtual Museum of Art's move to its new home in Apfeland at this party, with live music from Natalie Moody.

**When:** July 29, 09:00

**Where:** Apfeland VMOA (142, 13, 22)



## EVENT OF THE WEEK!

## SECOND RADIO PARTY

Star German house DJ Rick Tale will be on the turntables for what promises to be a fantastic evening at the headquarters of Second Radio.

**When:** August 2, 10:00

**Where:** Second Radio Island (128, 128, 0)



## DISCUSSION

## RISK TAKING

Whether you want to talk about risks you have taken which set the pulse racing or just hear about those who have, this is the perfect place to be.

**When:** August 1, 20:00

**Where:** Benicia (194, 75, 80)

## WANT TO SEE YOUR EVENT HERE?

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

# THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

## CELEBRITY TROLLOP

IS A FASHIONISTA AND THE OWNER AND PUBLISHER OF SECOND STYLE MAGAZINE.



By *COYNE NAGY*

### PROFILE

NAME:

CELEBRITY TROLLOP

BIRTH DATE:

1/17/2006

PROFESSION:

Magazine publisher

ATTITUDE:

Funny and optimistic

**THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?**

**CELEBRITY TROLLOP:**

Miriell Enfield makes amazing eyes and I think they look gorgeous on any avatar. Especially - since I'm biased - mine.

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

**CT:** Most of the time I'm working - acquiring content for the

magazine or a blog post, interviewing someone, all the things we need to do to keep things running smoothly.

**TA: What would you change in SL?**

**CT:** I would love to see SL's avatar mesh brought up to date. It's pretty old - there's been an annoying skirt gap since almost day one.

**TA: Which personal SL achievements are you most proud of?**

**CT:** Working with the

Hair Fair group was especially rewarding - we raised US\$2,200 for Locks of Love [an American charity for children] which is really incredible. Writing that cheque felt really good.

**TA: What is the worst clothing combo you have seen?**

**CT:** What cracks me up most is the overwhelming number of pregnant women tottering around in sky high heels. Good thing their baby is just

pixels.

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

**CT:** I'd say it's my MystiTool. I change skins, clothing, shoes, hair and jewellery like once every hour, but I never take off my MystiTool.

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

**CT:** TheDiva Rockin. Because she's so righteous. And she has pictures of my avatar on a stripper pole.