



# THE AVASTAR

## Your World. Your Voice.

|   |                |
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**RL media frenzy over SL's possible AL QAEDA connection**



**VIRTUAL WAR ON TERROR?**

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**Phwoar! Nice Nordics!**



**Scandinavian models on the catwalk!**

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# CHEATED AND BETRAYED



**Casino owner speaks out: "Lab cost me everything"**

By DYLAN MILES  
**"CHEATED and betrayed"**  
 That's how a casino owner feels after being forced underground by the Lab ban.

FULL STORY: SEE PAGE 3

**INSIDE OPINION**

"All of the banks in SL, the investment firms, the stock exchanges etc, are just role playing games (RPGs), and you should never confuse them with the real thing. Investing in SL can be fun."

PHAM NEUTRA p.13

"The Lab appears so keen to comply with RL laws - but if you had your RL livelihood taken away with no warning, wouldn't you expect to appeal through the courts? Perhaps the Lab should offer compensation to those affected."



LEIDER STEPANOV p.10

**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**

**17.5** ... hours elapsed between the official Linden blog announcing voice was live and reporting the first problems.

**32** ... non-profit organisations will next week inhabit land donated by Anshe Chung.

**120,000** ... residents used voice in the first four days, according to Vivox chairman Jeff Pulver.

**DID THEY MISS SOMETHING?**



CROWDS of gamblers carried on playing at this casino sim undisturbed, as if the ban had not taken place. The sim still has a traffic rating of over 80,000!

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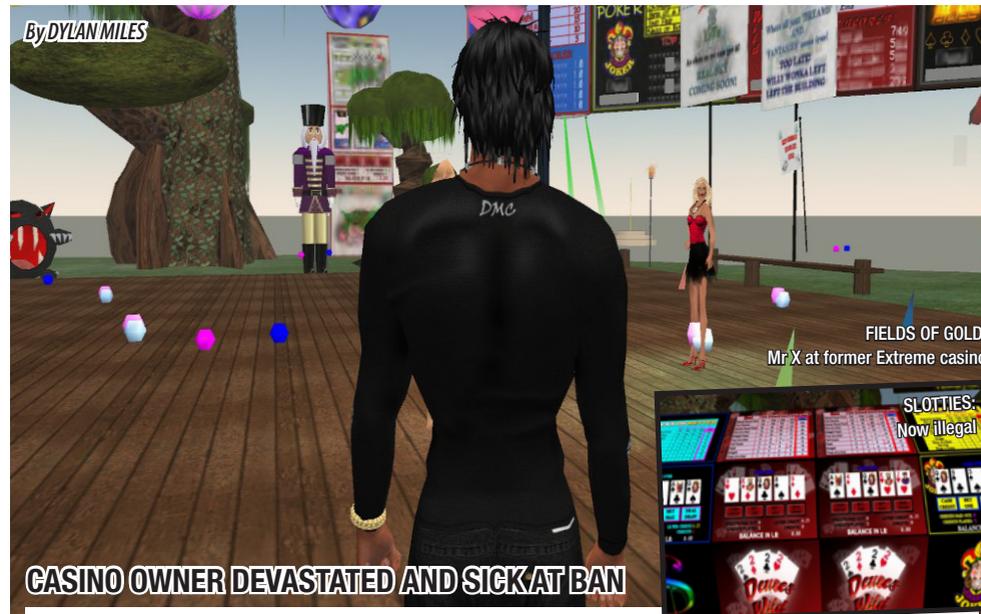
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**"I'VE LOST EVERYTHING!"**

By DYLAN MILES



FIELDS OF GOLD: Mr X at former Extreme casino

SLOTTRIES: Now illegal

**CASINO OWNER DEVASTATED AND SICK AT BAN**

**"CHEATED and betrayed" - that's how a casino owner feels after being forced underground by Linden Lab's controversial ban on gambling.**

The man, who agreed to speak to The AvaStar under condition of anonymity as Mr X, is still open for business in secret. But his story of woe at the hands of the Lab is one mirrored by dozens more. Mr X described how he used to be a legitimate in-world casino owner, pump-

ing plenty of L\$ into the virtual economy, before being forced underground by the sudden ban on all gambling in SL by LL on July 25.

**BETRAYED**

Immediately, his anger and frustration at the Lab are clear: "When I first heard about the ban I was ready to buy a plane ticket to California and slate all of LL. I was furious. I've invested so much time and money in my casino. "I felt cheated and betrayed and I was in a rage, not able to sleep

and eat for several days. When I wake up in the morning the only thing I can think about is my losses. My trust in LL is gone. This is no way to do business and what happened leaves me and my colleagues disappointed and angry."

**SUNK**

Many casino owners have lost large amounts of money which they had sunk into their SL businesses, and are furious at the high-handed way in which LL has handled the ban. Mr

X added: "I invested over a million L\$ in my sim since I opened earlier this year. Everything I earned I invested back into the business to pay for staff, new equipment and entertainment, so I would someday reap the reward of my investments and really start earning money. "I'm not going to give up all that and just leave now, that's why I went underground and started operating my business from a private home. I will keep doing so until I get caught."

**NEWS BITES!**

**LAB HAND OVER SEXGEN DATA**

LINDEN Lab have handed over RL data to lawyers representing Stroker Serpentine as he seeks to establish the identity of avatar Volkov Catteneo. Serpentine is suing Catteneo in RL for infringing the copyright of a SexGen bed.

**CHANGING TUNE**

IT Consultancy firm Gartner has urged corporations to stay away from SL for their own good. They feel firms with a sensitive brand image could be taking a risk by involving themselves in uncontrolled virtual worlds like SL.

**MAGIC FREEBIES**

A VIRTUAL marketing campaign helped Imax break box office records with the 'Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix' film. Avatars were recruited to give out freebies in-world.

**TAKE TO THE ICE**

ICE dancing is coming to SL with the in-world promotion of the 'Blades of Glory' film DVD. Ice rinks will appear in SL on August 24, and there will be a contest to win US\$500 and copies of the DVD.

**AL QAEDA TERRORISTS IN SL?**

PIC By MARINER TRILLING

**ATOMIC BOMB:**  
The Australian claims blast was caused by terror groups

By COYNE NAGY

**RESIDENTS LAUGH AT CLAIMS OF TERROR NETWORKS IN SL**

**LUDICROUS claims from RL media that SL is a hotbed of Al Qaeda and Jihadist terrorism have been met with derision by residents.**

The Australian and the British Sunday Times are two of the newspapers to carry articles recently arguing that SL is being used by terror groups for training and recruitment.

But the nonsensical claims of bombings and 'murders' in-world have removed credibility from the stories in t h e

**DISMISSED CLAIMS:**  
Blogger Rik Riel

eyes of many residents. The Australian warned that there were two elite Jihadist terrorist groups – but failed to spot that the groups have only one visible member!

The member, Raven-ofShadow Fool, also has Full Moon Poetry, the Neon Bunny Bar and the Young Designers Community in his group lists.

**TERRORISTS**

Rohan Gunaratna, author of 'Inside al-Qa'ida', told The Australian: "Unless governments improve their technical capabilities on a par with the terrorists' access to globalisation tools like the internet and Second Life, they will

not be able to monitor what is happening in the terrorist world." Prominent SL blogger Rik Riel is among those who have laughed off the claims. He said: "Terrorists will use the internet therefore it is possible they could be here or on ICQ, or Usenet, or FTP, or whatever. They also could be delivering packets of data in the stomachs of mules.

"SL is not a very good environment for large scale money laundering or real world criminal organisations to meet, particularly when there are lots of other 'darknets' that really deserve as much police attention as possible."

**TALKING TECHIES**

**VOICE HAS LAUNCHED IN SL, BUT DO THE EXPERTS THINK IT WILL SUCCEED?** By COYNE NAGY

**AVATAR kind has taken a giant leap forward with the introduction of voice onto the main grid.**

Almost immediately, teething problems with the long-awaited system became apparent – but is voice really the future for SL, or is it a all just a waste of time, money and effort? The AvaStar spoke to the experts to find out.



**DIRK TALAMASCA**  
is a mentor for new residents at the Orientation Islands.

"From an Orientation standpoint, the impact is amazing. We can generally send a user off to Help Island in a matter of minutes if we are able to speak with them. We can pass them clothing, teach them to adjust appearance and the other basic skills that are presented on the Orientation Islands, very quickly. "For seasoned residents, I find that it has been very positive as well. Some users are a bit shy or apprehensive at first but this can often be put down to their own self esteem. Once you get them talking and have a friendly conversation, they love it."



**DIZZY BANJO**  
runs a mixed reality company providing music and and sound for media projects.

"I think the development of voice within SL adds so many possibilities for increased collaboration, speed of working and creative dialogue. That means it's worth sticking with it through any early issues. At the moment, we are seeing a lot of teething problems, I suspect associated with scaling up the logistics of the voice software. "I think it's another channel of communication not a replacement for text. It's going to be interesting to see how this develops."



**VINNY FARDEL**  
is VP of product management at Vivox, who provided the voice system for SL.

"I would say the launch went well but not smoothly. There are always bumps when you increase concurrent users by 300 per cent over a short period of time. We have spent considerable time and effort to fix issues reported during the launch and are focused on delivering a great service for the residents. "We are looking at a number of things like converting speech to text and text to speech, tools to help manage large group meetings and connecting with SL users who may not be in world at the time either by phone or SMS."



**DEDIC MAURIAC**  
is a renowned scripter, podcaster and blogger.

"The introduction didn't go well. Many people could not use voice when it was introduced. I had used it on the beta grid and with the first look viewer, but I was shocked when the actual release of it would not work for me. No, everyone will not use this eventually. I still find myself typing at times even though a stranger may have the voice icon above them to hear me. The disadvantage is that people are not who you imagined them to be. They have different personalities than you had thought. You simply need to relearn who they are."



# web3Dcamp

SECOND LIFE

**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>



UP UP UP AND AWAY:  
Delta II rocket carrying the  
Phoenix spacecraft blasts off

BY MORRHYS GRAYSMARK

# BLAST OFF!

**NASA SHOW LIVE SIMULCAST OF THE PHOENIX SPACECRAFT LAUNCH**

**AT 2.26am SLT on Saturday August 4, NASA's Phoenix craft left the ground with a roar and a burst of flames – and in doing so helped begin a new era in SL.**

The RL launch was simulcast in-world at Explorer Island to the delight of space- and science-minded residents. Phoenix will now continue on to the northern polar region of Mars to look for evidence of life in the water and ice there.

Jet Burns, subject matter expert for virtual world technology at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, was in no doubt as to the importance of the event: "We have had similar events, but one of this magnitude was a first."

The excited comments of the avatars who managed to squeeze into the sim filled the screen as the spacecraft left the ground at Cape Canaveral, where PhoenixMars Voom was on hand live to answer questions. She said: "This is the largest crowd to ever watch an unmanned launch as it happens! It's spectacular people from all over the world can come into SL and watch it live." With the launch being the most dangerous

nerves in the crowd as the craft rose away from the earth. Once the model spacecraft disappeared up into the SL sky, attention turned to a miniature model. As each of the boosters emptied and fell away, the model showed how the voyage was progressing. The crowd did not leave until the spacecraft was safely past its acceleration phase, with many delighted with the experience. Mayo87 Mayo summed it up: "It has been fantastic!"



## SL APPRENTICE



BY COYNE NAGY

**ERBURY Publishing is offering L\$100,000 in an Apprentice-style competition to find the sharpest business minds in SL.**

The contest, part of the promotion for the paperback publication of 'How To Get Rich' by billionaire Felix Dennis, aims to find the best business ideas from residents. The top three will receive a share of L\$50,000 to invest in their own SL business idea, with another L\$50,000 going to the overall winner.

Just like in the popular TV show, the progress of the contestants can be followed, in this case on Random House UK's website. Nick Gloucester, builder of content at Elysian, said early entries have been impressive: "I have met some extremely creative people here, as a percentage of the SL population creative talent is much higher here than in RL." Entry deadline is midnight SLT on Sep 2. Entry forms are available at Forest of Dennis on Elysian Island.

# HAMLET TO BE IN SL

WORLDWIDE CAST OF ACTORS TO PERFORM SHAKESPEARE PLAY AT SL GLOBE THEATRE

**CENTRE STAGE:**  
The SL Globe Theatre is a reconstruction of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London

By COYNE NAGY

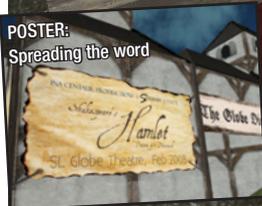
**THE magic of Shakespeare will arrive in-world with a performance of Hamlet at the SL Globe Theatre.**

Ina Centaur, who has organised the production, recently started casting for the play which will open in February 2008.

### COLLABORATION

The actors will use live voice to perform but will remain in their individual RL locations, making this

a potential collaboration from all over the world. Centaur has high hopes of the performance. She said: "This is the first step in eliminating the barrier of distance." Hamlet is one of the English playwright's best known works and features the eponymous Danish prince and two others setting out to avenge the deaths of their fathers.



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## VOICE WILL SPLIT THE COMMUNITY

**Hey Regis,**

**I CAN'T agree with you about voice chat.**

Voice is a feature that is not really needed, and every single poll in the past shows only a very small minority is even interested in voice chat - usually those who already use additions like skype.

I see the danger of voice splitting the community into those who use it and those who don't. With text chat, everyone was more or less equal - this ends with voice. Members of the deaf com-

munity, who were totally equal with the hearing community, are again pushed to the edge. Those who don't have English as first language will have more trouble with voice. I can easily read and write English, I'm often taken as a native English speaker, but participating in a spoken conversation is a very different thing!

Imagine a Japanese guy, an American with a Texan drawl and an upper class guy from Lon-

**L\$500 E-MAILS**

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don all talking at the same time! With text I can scroll up and read again if I didn't understand something - how can I scroll up in voice chat? The times where most residents had English as their native language are over. Saying "just don't use it" is kinda stupid, because there WILL be people using it, and there WILL be people expecting everyone to use it! Introducing voice chat introduces classes of residents. There are already reports about people being harassed at public places for not using voice. Voice was not really asked for, it was not needed, and still it was thrown at us.

By Daniel Regenbogen

## GAMBLING BAN IS WRONG

**Hey Regis,**

**I WAS shocked and disappointed to find out about the gambling ban imposed recently by LL.**

I first came to SL almost a year ago largely because of the freedom it offers to its residents, which really appealed to me, but now this seems to be under threat. I really enjoyed attending casinos across the grid and I met many of my friends in such places.

The ban seemed so sudden, and it must be very tough on the casino owners who have invested both real life dollars and L\$ in

their companies. People might think twice before investing their money in SL now. Although I can't go to the casinos anymore I can still go out and meet people in other places. But LL must be careful not to further anger the residents as well as scare away potential investors otherwise they might lose their punters to a third life. LL be careful.

By S.R.

### LAB WAS RIGHT TO BAN CASINOS

**Dear Regis,**

**I THINK that it's right that gambling in SL has been banned, as it can easily lead to an addiction, that may lead the person in RL behind the avatar to become addicted.** In this way he could gamble away everything he has in RL. It is very important that such things don't happen in RL, that's why Linden Lab must watch out for it. Bravo Linden Lab, keep it up!

By Soeren Emmons





# LEIDER STEPANOV

## DURAN DURAN!



WE LOVE DD!  
Big fan Candy Durant

### WHATEVER happened to Duran Duran?

It's a running joke among many residents, of course, that the British pop group famously played in SL last year – when they did nothing of the sort.

But hats off to their fans in SL, many of whom only signed up in the first place because 'DD' had announced they would be playing in-world. They have taken to SL regardless, and have organised events to mark the one year anniversary of that announcement, cheerily demonstrating the superb SL sense of humour. For more info, head down to the RumRunner club in the Birmingham City sim.

# COMPENSATE THOSE WHO LOST THEIR MONEY, LL!

### SUDDEN GAMBLING BAN WOULDN'T COMPLY WITH RL LAWS

I'M not a very good gambler.

I get all nervous, not wanting to risk too much money. That's probably the reason why I don't gamble much in RL.

As for gambling in-world, I have other things to spend my time and money on.

Yet like many residents, I hate being told what I can or can't do, even if it is something I don't want to do.

With Linden Lab's gambling ban, however, that is only the start.

more controversial announcements of recent times.

**SYMPATHY**  
Whether you loved or loathed SL's casinos,

**DISNEYWORLD**  
The Lab appears so keen to comply with RL laws - but if you had your RL livelihood taken away from you with no warning, wouldn't you expect to appeal through the courts? Perhaps the Lab should offer compensation to those affected.

My worry is that, as suggested by Pham Neutra and Gwyneth Llewelyn amongst others, SL is in danger of becoming a virtual Disneyworld, where the management reserve the right to do whatever they like, whenever they like with absolutely no warning. Enjoy the ride.

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**PLEASE SEND ME YOUR COMMENTS:**  
newsdesk@the-avastar.com



## TERROR-BLE LAG

### TERRORISTS in SL? Do me a favour.

I was under the impression they used the latest technology to keep one step ahead. I'm not sure the endless lag would go down too well with them.

| Winners   | Losers   |
|---|--|
| <b>VOICE CHAT USERS:</b><br>Finally, it's here! A new era begins in SL, as avatars can finally talk to each other for real. Residents across the grid seem to be taking to the new technology, as well... | <b>VOICE CHAT USERS:</b><br>... but hold on. Within hours, teething problems emerge with the voice system - before issues with the rest of SL prove just how far there is to go to make the world truly user-friendly. |

## L\$500 PICS OF THE WEEK

yourphotos@the-avastar.com



The gambling machines keep on burning across the grid. **BABA COEN** took this pic at Calleta's Hobo Railroad Infohub.



Lucky **ANATOLI SMIRNOV** enjoyed the time he spent with sexy **NOAH TALBOT**.



**TERRYANN ANTONELLI** snapped this spectacular test firing of **MI-CKEYWISHES AU's** new fireworks at the Icarus sim.

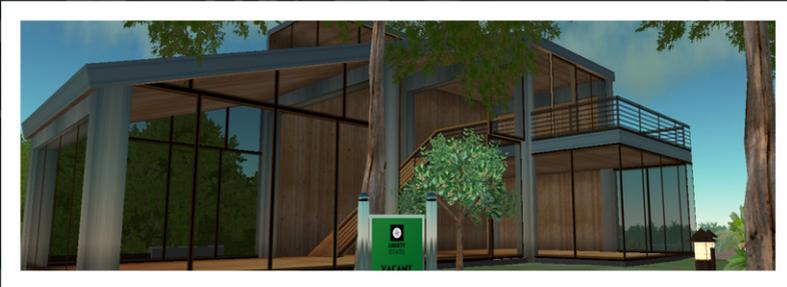


Talented SL musician **ALDOMANUTIO ABRUZZO** is snapped here at a gig. I.F.



Proudly showing his support for the New York Yankees was **SEBASTIAN JACKS** at a recent gig at the Balinese Room, pictured by **DYLAN MILES**.

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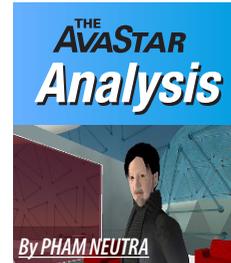
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# CASH ROLE PLAY

'INVESTMENT' IN SL IS A GAMBLE, SAYS PHAM NEUTRA



**FOLLOWING recent controversies surrounding SL's financial industry, PHAM NEUTRA argues that investment in SL is just role playing.**

EVEN among the most ignorant of 'real' journalists it is becoming less and less common to call Second Life a game - because it isn't. SL is a 'platform' on which you do many things, and which is especially well suited to Role Play - pretending you and your fellow players are characters in a fictional society with a fixed set of rules.

All of the banks in SL, the investment firms, the stock exchanges etc, are such role playing games, and you should never confuse them

with the real thing. Investing money in SL can be fun.

**INCOMPETENT**

But doing this with substantial amounts of money is gambling, not investing. The events surrounding one of SL's largest 'stock exchanges' and oldest and largest 'bank' have made this rather obvious. It doesn't matter if some of the guys behind the World Stock Exchange (WSE) were crooks or just incompetent. It doesn't matter if Ginko Financial is a Ponzi scheme or not.

What matters is that all these financial institutions are missing the most important aspect of professional financial institutions in the physical world: oversight, regulation, good governance and

transparency.

**WATCHING**

When you make a deposit or buy a publicly listed stock in the physical world there are laws governing this deal. You might still lose some or all of your money if you made a bad decision. But you always know that there is someone watching, that it is much harder for 'them' to simply run away with your money. That is missing in the purely SL-based financial institutions. Some of the deals offered by SL groups like Ginko sounded very attractive. But remember, if an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

A GAMBLE: Ginko Bank



**MERGER BOOST**

THE embattled SL financial industry received a boost this week with a major takeover.

JT Financial Bank have joined forces with Allenvest International Exchange (AVIX) to form the SL Capital Exchange in a deal worth L\$8,000,000. The move follows recent controversies surrounding Ginko Bank and a theft from the World Stock Exchange, which have seriously damaged the reputation of in-world financial services.

JT Financial's CEO Arbitrage Wise said: "It does present us a good opportunity by giving us a chance to prove that we are for real and can weather storms that others can't."

**HCC EXPANDS**

EXPERT legal advice is among a range of new services being provided by the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce.

The organisation, the first of its kind in SL, is expanding its in-world presence. Residents will be able to seek advice from legal expert Ludger Enoch and visit the Chamber's Jamiro Beresford during new office hours. There will also be events aimed at individuals and firms.



A-STAR GOSSIP JenzZa Misfit

By LEIDER STEPANOV

# A-STAR GOSSIP HOT DAMN!

NOW ITS GRACIANA VS. SCARLETT IN THE FINAL

SEXY lingerie was the order of the day as 25 of SL's hottest models took to the catwalk in the Budweiser Select and Stuff Magazine Lingerie Legends event.

Gorgeous Graciana McMillan was triumphant at Thursday's show, organised by Millions of Us and simulcast live on the internet. She now goes on to challenge the winner of the July event, Scarlett Niven, in an online vote at BudweiserSelect.com.

Graciana said: "I'm completely amazed and so honoured. The women here are beautiful and classy.

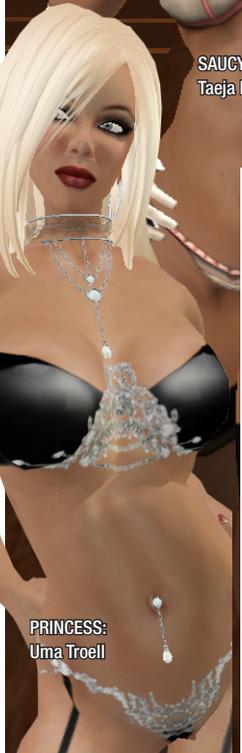
"As for the next round, I'm so excited, I know Scarlett and she is a great person."



WINNER: Hot Graciana McMillan



SAUCY & STYLISH: Taeja Diaz



PRINCESS: Uma Troell

## MAXIM WINNERS

IT was difficult to choose from the great entries to win a ticket to the Maxim Motorati Madness party.

The chosen lucky winners are Mimi Uggla and Claudine Jewell with the runners up Kollin Tendaze and Artworld Market each receiving L\$500.

The exclusive party is Saturday Aug 11, 20:00 at Callie Cline's Beach Club on Motorati Island (Velocity 158, 161, 25).



BEAUTIFUL: ArtWorld Market



WINNER: Claudine Jewell



SULTRY: Kollin Tendaze

L\$500



SEXY: Mimi Uggla

# A-STAR GOSSIP SAUCY SCANDINAVIANS!

LATEX CLAD BLONDES AMONG THE BEAUTIES AT BIG FASHION BASH



EYE CANDY: Fashionistas hang out at the event

SEXY SWEDEN: You wouldn't want to sit in a sauna in that, love!

NORWEGIANS: Not just known for their winter sports skills

BY TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

## GOOD GIRL, BAD GIRL

AWESOME DESIGNS AND STRIKING PARTY

SCANDINAVIAN style was oozing from all quarters at a fashion show to remember last week.

There was plenty of latex on offer at the event held at the Beacon Hotel, organised by Swedish magazine Slainthe and Ambrooshia DeCuir. Seven top designers from Sweden, Denmark and Norway displayed new and old collections to an enthusiastic audience. Adrina Welders, Neferia Abel and Robin Lobo from Nano Gunk were among those taking part.



By ISABEL BROCCO

ON THE RUNWAY: Good and bad girls

METVERSE TV launched last weekend with a fashion show called 'Good Girl Bad Girl'.

Part of Metastock 2007, the event, broadcast on

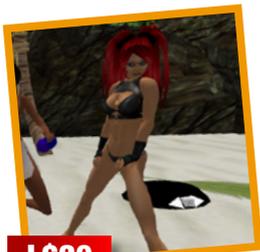
Metaverse TV, included designs from Awesome, Coconut ICE and Crucial Creations, and proved to be a huge success. Grateful Stryker provided the aftershow music.

# BIKINI SPECIAL

BY ISABEL BROCCO

WHEN choosing a bikini, it is important to consider the right shape for your figure. AvaStar

models Elix, Donna and Isabel all have unique beach styles. They share their favourite places to buy bikinis with us!



L\$20

Black suit  
Chartreuse  
(165, 68, 22)

Donna Underall



L\$129

Jeweled Bikini  
Moolbora (209, 25, 54)



L\$80

Wild Thang Bikini  
Ravens Requiem  
(37, 106, 31)

Isabel Brocco

L\$100

Teeny multi-colour  
Centaur (143, 228, 720)

Teeny white  
Centaur (143, 228, 720)



L\$99

Elix Voss

L\$99

Animal print Bikini  
Pawpaw (178, 36, 121)

## callie cline's STYLE HOTLINE



### MIXING METALS & BLING!

YOU DON'T ALWAYS HAVE FOLLOW THE JEWELRY 'RULES' IN SL

WE all know the rules, don't mix silver and gold, copper or pearls, old with new, make sure you get a perfect jewelry set to match each outfit and keep it with all the same metals... NOT!!! If done creatively, you can actually wear all your favourite jewelry and clothing and mix up both gems and metals!!

Notice in this outfit how I've paired the gold accented shirt with a skirt with a silver AND copper accented belt. On my arm a gold and diamond/emerald bangle, on the other arm, a punk leather and silver watch, on my neck and

ears, platinum and pearls with emeralds! Oh and on my ring, the dreaded BLING!! I know it's 'in' to hate bling, but bling can be fun, and add a little sparkle just like in RL! I'm not a blind every-one-on-the-sim girl, but I do like a bit of it here and there. And why not add

some daring things, as I did in this photo with a nose ring. Sometimes you can discover new things when you ignore the old rules. There are so many fun jewelry things in SL, and I'm sure in your inventory as well, so mix up those gems, jewels and metals and see what you come up with!!! And don't forget a bit of bling!!!

Earrings, necklace bracelet: Sue Stonebender  
Dress top and skirt: Tuli  
Watch: Zoey Pinkdot



## WHAT'S HOT!

### BOLD & BAD BRACES

BY CARRIE SODWIND

QUEEN of punk Raven Lament of Ravenwear, was spotted by The AvaStar in her newest release, 'Streets'. The braces add class and attitude to the hustler style outfit of latex hotpants and ripped stockings. It's a tom-boy street-wise touch that says 'Don't mess'. Braces are appearing in lots of punk style shops like Schnuten - Store.



P-UNKY:  
Raven Lament



PUNK STYLE:  
Schnutenstore

## INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK CELEBRITY TROLLOP OF SECOND STYLE

BY HONEY BENDER

### I CAN'T DO WITHOUT...

"My Vogue prim eyelashes from Celestial Studios, which are superfabulous. I want my avatar to look totally sophisticated which the system lashes do not allow, so I started wearing prim lashes - always!"



### I LOVE...

"My eyes. They are an important feature so I choose them with great care. My favourites are by Miriel. I used to only wear eyes by Lost Thereian, but when Miriel came out with her eye designs, I switched immediately!"



### I ALWAYS WEAR...

"My MystiTool by Mystical Cookie. It is a HUD I attach to my screen. It collects together 40 different utilities in one convenient attachment, but my two favourite things are the avatar radar and the built in emoter. It's dirty cheap too at L\$400, considering how much good stuff is in there."



# FOR SL GRANDPAS



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN



**L\$750**

**Gothic Floor Clock Walnut - Deep Gong**  
Where: Jingyo (215, 182, 54)



**L\$375**

**Hudson Mantel**  
By Io Zeno  
Where: Crimson (15, 214, 25)



**L\$185**

**Dial clock**  
By followmeimthe Piedpiper  
Where: Chase Island (83, 23, 21)

**Grand Ciel de Nuit Grandfather Clock**  
By Sue Stonebender  
Where: Chase Island (83, 23, 21)



**L\$325**

# SL ARCHITECTURE AWARD

SL AWARD TO HONOUR IN-WORLD CREATIVES AT PRESTIGIOUS RL FESTIVAL IN AUSTRIA

BY LEIDER STEPANOV

**BUDDING in-world architects, scripters, visionaries and creative heroes will have the chance to win a prestigious competition by submitting their architectural designs.**

**PRESTIGIOUS**

The AvaStar is proud to be the official media partner of the First Annual Architecture and Design Competition in SL, to be presented at the

International Ars Electronica Festival in Austria on September 8. The winner will be honoured at the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Zollverein Essen in Germany a few weeks later, and the results are set to appear in a prestigious book on SL to be published by Prestel in spring 2008.

**SL AWARD**

To enter, simply submit a few

screenshots of your pride and joy in SL – and remember, you can enter as many projects as you like.

**DEADLINE**

For more information about the five categories and to submit your entry, visit [www.sl-award.com](http://www.sl-award.com) or [www.aec.at](http://www.aec.at). The deadline for entries is September 1, and a high-profile jury is set to choose the winner a week later.



# NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: A LUXURY WATCH MAKER AND A JAPANESE MUSIC GIANT

By TRICK MERTEL

**A BEAUTIFUL and cryptic new sim called Urasima has appeared this week, attracting plenty of visitors.**

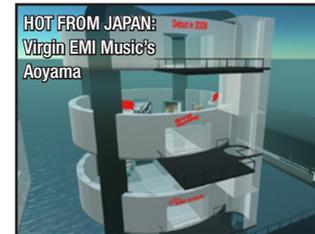
The riddle of the island is unlocked by a visit to the linked website, where you can play a flash animation game to help solve the mystery. There have been only 34 successful players from over 76,000 attempts to



**TIMELESS ELEGANCE:**  
Promoting luxury watch maker Franck Muller on Urasima

date – but the truth is that the sim is part of an elegant Japanese marketing campaign to promote the profile of luxury watch maker Franck Muller.

Also from Japan comes Aoyama, the new island sim home for Virgin EMI Music Japan. The name is taken from the fashionable



**HOT FROM JAPAN:**  
Virgin EMI Music's Aoyama

area of the same name in the RL Tokyo area. The sim's main purpose is to showcase the compa-

ny's latest artists. Inside the rooms there are panels which link to websites containing information and music clips about the artists.

There are also 36 audition ma-



**FASHIONABLE TOKYO:**  
The Aoyama sim

chines, hinting at some great opportunities for musicians to get exposure, including a slot at an annual RL rock festival called Summer Sonic, held in Osaka and Tokyo.

# TAKE YOUR PICK

Take a quick peek at the hot destinations in profile picks. This week: **ARTISTS**



**ALEX54 ZSIGMOND**

**JUKE JOINT BLUES**  
PLUSH LAMBDA (211, 207, 22)

For an authentic blues bar ambience, check out the Juke Joint Blues. There's live music events, a juke box, pool table, booths and always lots of sly blues heads shaking their avatar or warming one of the bar stools.



**KAELA KILARA**

**SUPPORT FOR HEALING**  
SUPPORTFORHEALING (59, 188, 35)

Need a little time out? For some rest and recuperation and a little support head to the money tree in the SupportforHealing sim. You can chill out and relax, take in the beautiful scenery and encounter like-minded souls there.



**STRAWBERRYCREAM MALTZ**

**A MOMENT SHARED**  
APOLLO (248, 18, 57)

This part of the Lost Gardens of Apollo is the perfect place for a quiet romantic rendezvous, with the gardens timelessly locked in a dreamy eternal sunset. Nobody can resist its seductive charm making it one of SL's most popular places.



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

# DEAR

## NEW HUSBAND DOESN'T MATCH UP IN THE SACK

STAR  
LETTER  
L\$500  
send me a mail

### SEX SESSION WITH EX WAS MIND-BLOWING - BUT SHOULD I TELL MY HUSBAND?

**Dear Randi:** IN my early days in Second Life, I was quickly married and almost as quickly divorced. Although the sex with my then-husband was amazing, we found that otherwise, we didn't have very much in common at all and I thought I was just wasting my time. I was married again in the spring, this time to a very fascinating

man but with one problem - he stinks in bed. Last week my first husband contacted me again and we ended up having a mind-blowing sex session at his place, but afterwards we decided we should just remain friends. Should I tell my husband? — W.P.

**Randi says:** No! What good would it do? Unless your first

husband tells him, he probably isn't ever going to find out and isn't going to get hurt. If you love your current husband, then stay with him and don't cheat again. He knows you were not a virgin when the two of you met, so it might be good to try some of those moves on him that blew your previous husband's mind.

### CHAPEL HAS CHANGED MY VIEW OF SEX IN SL

**Dear Randi:** MY first year in SL was a wild one, as I was into sexual experimentation and became a stripper-escort making over L\$10,000 a week. Recently I attended a chapel service with a friend and decided it was time to turn my life around in both SL and RL. My boyfriend is the owner of the strip club where I used to work, and while he accepted my resignation he insists I keep having sex with him. I have been holding out since the chapel service, since I now know sex outside of marriage is wrong. Should I dump him? — N.R.

**Randi says:** You may have to. People are either deeply into religion or can 'take it or leave it', and your boyfriend seems to fit the second category. Invite him to the chapel with you, but if he refuses you still need to clearly state your new outlook on lovemaking. No couple should have sex unless both are completely willing, so if he persists you may have to finish the relationship.

### CAN I TRUST STRIPPER BOYFRIEND ANY MORE?

**Dear Randi:** WHEN I first met my SL husband he was working in a strip club, raking in big tips from ladies who understandably wanted to see all of his toned body. He had even done a little escorting, although we never discussed it much. Of course when we got married, he agreed to give up his dancing job. But when I returned from a week-long holiday away from keyboard, a friend told me she had seen him back working with the club. I confronted him, and he said he did it because he needed money. Can I trust him again? — A.M.

**Randi says:** Perhaps. But you need to be frank with him, and let him know you're hurt. Ask him to promise you it won't happen again, and also see if he feels anything is missing between you in the bedroom. If there is, then give him what he needs. But if he breaks that promise to you a second time, then kick him out for good.

# RANDI

The Virtual World's  
No 1 Agony Aunt

## MENTOR GIVES A LITTLE EXTRA

**Dear Randi:** WHEN I came into SL, I met a guy in a help area who became a mentor and gave me all the assistance I needed. He was married at the time, and introduced me to his best friend who soon became my boyfriend. I didn't have much contact with my mentor until last week, when he told

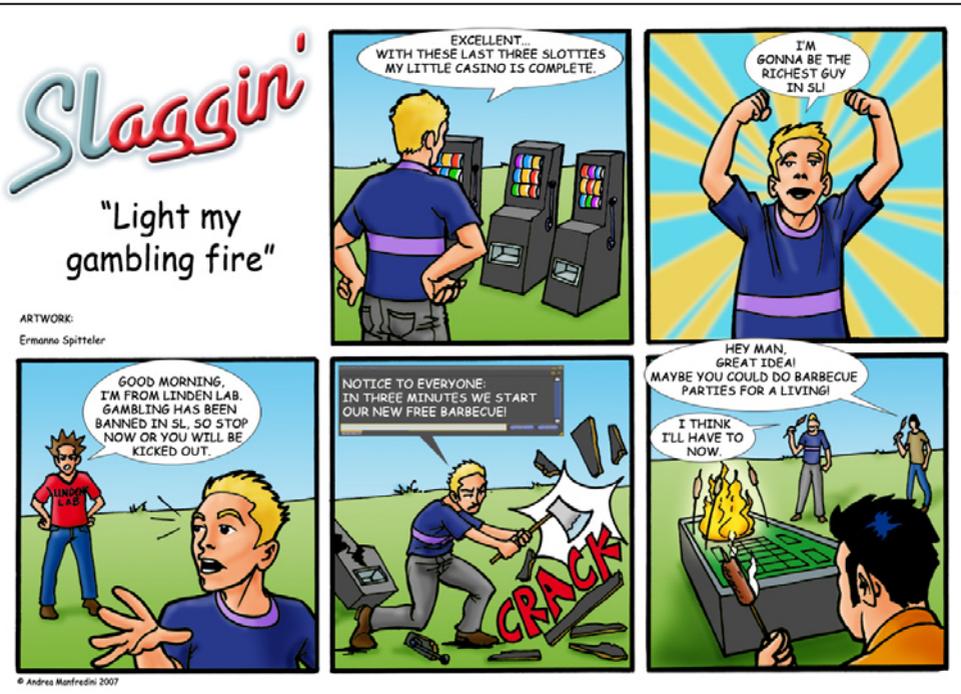
me he had split up with his wife and would like to see me romantically. My boyfriend is a wonderful guy, but the more I think about my mentor the more attractive he becomes. What should I do? — F.D.

**Randi says:** You need to have a long discussion with your 'mentor' to see what his long-

term intentions are. You may end up with a tough decision to make. Choose between them quickly, and if you decide to stay with your boyfriend don't tell him what his friend did. But realise that if you go with the mentor, your current boyfriend will likely become an enemy to you both.

## RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK BRADY AND HIS BUDDY'S BRIDE - WEEK 3





ARTWORK: Ermanno Spitteler

© Andrea Manfredini 2007

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Freebies SL's best FREE stuff!

BY PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

THIS WEEK: SLATE IT!

HOW can you be sure about the quality of objects you want to buy?

Usually you have to rely on friends to recommend a good shop. But now you can see what everyone else's friends think as well, thanks to the SLatelt HUD 1.5, an Augmented Virtual Reality HUD by Lab genius Babbage Linden (although it's not associated with the Lab).

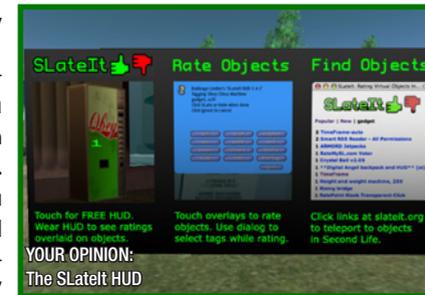
CHOOSE

The HUD allows users to tag and rate just about anything you want. You can choose from almost 40 different tags, including avatars, lands, books, culture and more. Simply stand in front of an object for a few seconds and you should see green numbers on it, which are called SLatings. When you see something you like click on the SLating and add tags describing the object before hitting the 'Slate'

button to positively rate it.

POPULAR

The HUD is also a nice way to discover new stuff. Click on the green magnifying glass thumb icon, select tags to search for in the dialogue and then click New or Popular. If an object is found, the map will open and you can teleport to the object. Your avatar's name and ID are recorded when you SLate or hate an object, so you can only rate each object once. The HUD can be found at Babbage's Kitchen in Ambleside or at the GNUbie Store in Indigo.



My First Day in Second Life

SL COMIC BOOK STAR SCAR AYRES:

THE AVASTAR: How was your first day in SL?

SCAR AYRES: Being hurled into this strange new world was a total culture shock but it was so fascinating as well. I spent an entire evening learning on Info Island and still have my first built object, a bangle, which took me hours!

TA: What was your most embarrassing moment?

SA: I spent over an hour getting my mesh hair to look half decent but when a friend dragged me off to a prim hair store I realised it was a complete waste of time!

TA: What was your funniest moment as a newbie?

SA: I think it has to be right after I left Info Island for the first time. A crowd of not-so-newbies suddenly appeared out of nowhere and unleashed a hail of flying dog poop on me and the rest of the newbies. At first it was bewildering but then it was just hilarious.

By Coyne  
FLYING DOG POOP:  
Scar Ayres  
Nagy



DO + DOS AND DON'TS: STREAMING MUSIC - DON'T

By GAETANA FAUST

- + Use the Media tab in About Land to set the URL to stream to your land.
- + Get your own server or purchase a streaming server service if you plan to host live music events.
- + Keep a list of your favourite radio URLs on hand.
- + Use software like IceCast or ShoutCast to broadcast.
- + Consult the secondlife.com Knowledge Base for help.
- Set up an event without double-checking the stream is working.
- Mistype the server address!
- Underestimate the number of people who will be tuning in: your server will typically have a limit.
- Forget to adjust the bitrate if you are having problems with the stream connection.
- Worry if you hear silence for a few seconds when switching the stream. It's normal.



callie cline  
in callifornia

stay awhile...

shopping • beaches • entertainment

# THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## THIS WEEK: SCIENCE

ART DECO: Polls Observatory



BY GAETANA FAUST

## EXPERIMENT SL-STYLE

EXPLORE THE FASCINATING WORLD OF SCIENCE ON THE GRID

**CONDUCT an experiment of exploration in SL by visiting some of the fascinating science-related destinations on the grid.**

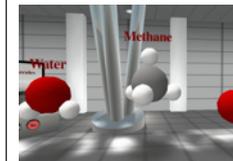
Start off by visiting the new Science and Technology Orientation Island (SciLands196, 17, 23), where you can learn how to navigate through SL by strolling down a path lined with lemon trees and scientific artefacts like telescopes, molecular structures, and solar panels. At Science School (180, 152, 29) you can find realistic chemistry labs and a real time US weather map.

If you're interested in special builds, you must see the Polis Observatory (214, 178, 43), a stunning art deco ballroom housing a tremendous telescope pointed to-

ward the heavens. The surroundings are magnificent and worth the trip.

Observe the planets up close at Space in Euclidia (202, 40, 602). Walk right into the rotating earth to see a vision of planets and moons spinning before your eyes. Another great way to view the solar system is at the planetarium in GoldenBusiness Area (228, 232, 38). There is a scale model of the planets, and fun facts about them, to help you learn about Trojans, Hildas, and the 'dwarf planet' Ceres. Beam up to the Star Trek Museum of science in TovaDok II (25, 211, 35), where the science leans toward the science fiction. You'll have fun fiddling with the controls on the bridge.

### IN THE CLASSROOM SCIENCE SCHOOL



Head up to the roof to take a wild ride across the sim, propelled by a giant catapult.

Where: Science School (180, 152, 29)

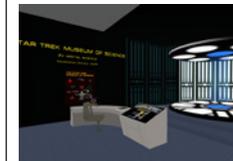
### A TON OF SCIENCE FUN SECOND NATURE



Pick up a free model of your favourite molecule or learn about genetics.

Where: Second Nature (178, 215, 22)

### BEAM ME UP, SL-COTTY STAR TREK MUSEUM



Enjoy the attempts to draw parallels between Star Trek lore and RL.

Where: TovaDok II (25, 211, 35)

8.10. - 8.16.

## DON'T MISS! –



## STORYTELLING

## GILBERT SAPWOOD

The master SL storyteller will regale residents with tales of mystery and magic at a special event in aid of the Project Children charity.

**When:** August 11, 19:00

**Where:** Neart (177, 25, 23)



## NIGHTLIFE

## RAVE FOR A CAUSE

DJ Miss Cyberpink takes to the decks with some old school classics. The L\$300 cover charge goes to the United Spinal Association charity.

**When:** August 10, 21:00

**Where:** Drive In (6, 134, 24)



## LIVE MUSIC

## SANITYLNN WIND

Mix music and art with the well-known SL singer's rich vocals.

**When:** August 12, 10:00

**Where:** Apflland VMOA (144, 22, 23)



## TALK

## GREYBOOK FOX

The comic book creator will read from one of his books.

**When:** August 12, 14:00

**Where:** Convention Center (104, 80, 32)



## LIVE MUSIC

## PHEMIE ALCOTT

A unique brand of indie rock.

**When:** August 10, 19:00

**Where:** Perfect Island (51, 199, 22)



## EVENT OF THE WEEK!

## WHITE CUBE

A third branch of the renowned in-world White Cube Gallery will be opened at the newBERLIN sim with live audio and video from RL.

**When:** August 12, 13:00

**Where:** Berlin newBERLIN (52, 74, 61)

## EVENTS OF THE WEEK



## LIVE MUSIC

## PUSH CHANDLER

Those looking for a laid-back night will be right at home here as Paul Chandler performs folk and country in his own unique style.

**When:** August 13, 20:00

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



## ENTERTAINMENT

## OBON DAY OF THE DEAD

Get a scary feel of the Orient as the day of the dead is celebrating in candlelight with traditional Japanese ghost stories.

**When:** August 15, 18:00

**Where:** Malgeungaram (137, 160, 43)



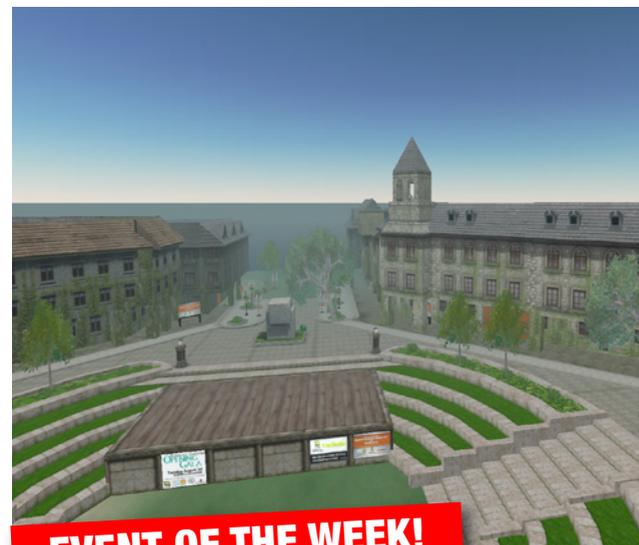
## LIVE MUSIC

## ICTUS BELFORD

The musician puts a different perspective on rock tunes with his acoustic guitar and harmonica.

**When:** August 16, 5pm

**Where:** Cassowary (115, 185, 37)



## EVENT OF THE WEEK!

## NONPROFIT COMMONS

A total of 32 non-profit organisations and their supporters will host a grand opening gala for the sim, which has been donated by Anshe Chung.

**When:** August 14, 17:30

**Where:** Plush Nonprofit Commons (82, 125, 27)



## DISCUSSION

## THE SATURDAY RANT

Hosted by Dempsey Lilliehook, a panel discusses topical SL events in a comedy manner. Fun and dancing take place afterwards.

**When:** August 11, 09:00

**Where:** Nefetti (69, 128, 29)

## 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).

# Get AvaStar gadgets for FREE!



- EACH week we will give away FREE AvaStar merchandise to members of 'THE AVASTAR READERS GROUP'.
- AS a member you will also be the FIRST to hear about Avastar news, competitions and giveaways.
- JOIN the group now by searching for 'The Avastar Readers Group' in search. (or send an im to Viscount Lisle)

## This Week: Scripted Laptop

FED up of seeing your hands waving about in mid-air when you type? Soon you can chat in style with The AvaStar Laptop!



# THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

By CARRIE SODWIND



## MARNI GRUT

**MARNI'S NEW STORE ROYAL BLUE RECEIVED A LOT OF ATTENTION IN THE FASHION WORLD VERY EARLY ON. AT 18, SHE IS YOUNG FOR THE ADULT GRID, BUT DETERMINED TO DO WELL.**

### AVA - ID CARD

NAME: MARNI GRUT  
BIRTH DATE: 2/4/2007

PROFESSION: Fashion designer for Royal Blue  
ATTITUDE: Stand out from the crowd

### INTERVIEW

**The AvaStar:** What is your favourite place in SL?

**Marni Grut:** Intempesta Nox is a great build. Mo island is always fun.

**TA:** What is your biggest weakness in SL?

**MG:** Hats and socks. I am also a hair freak, always buying new styles.

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

**MG:** I'd make the fashion portion of SL bigger, and get rid of its sex side.

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

**MG:** Playing with prims and photoshop and organising fashion shows.

**TA:** What are the most precious items in your inventory?

**MG:** My hats by Megg Demina, and a pair of black frame glasses that my friend Troy gave me.

**TA:** What do you look for in a friend?

**MG:** Someone you don't have to ask the usual dull questions. You know you've met someone really special when you can ask them right out what their favourite pasta shape is!

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

**MG:** Eolande Elvehjem. She was someone who helped me kick my bum into doing anything other than shopping!