

THE AVASTAR

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COUPLE RUINED BY BANK SCAM

- PAIR LOSE LIFE SAVINGS IN SCANDAL
- CONMAN VANISHES WITH MILLIONS

By TRICK MERTEL

A COUPLE are facing financial ruin
after losing all in a bank scam.

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"I don't know what would make someone consult an SL doctor but I feel that small error of judgment is not deserving of some 18-year-old telling them how to get better."

YOUR MAIL
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"Why would you ever put money into a SL bank? While the SL financial industry struggles to gain credibility, there will always be those unscrupulous operators out there who know one thing - some people never learn."



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THE AVASTAR

THE AVASTAR is published by Bild.T-Online AG & Co. KG. Check out the website at:
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HAVE YOUR SAY

VOTE NOW AT WWW.THE-AVASTAR.COM

- 72%** ... believe that furries should be allowed to enter the replica of Cologne Cathedral in SL, following their ban from the premises
- 67%** ... of AvaStar readers think that Second Life will be the largest virtual world in five years time
- 44%** ... declared that they will not verify themselves after Linden Lab revealed its age verification plans for the grid

AVAST AVASTAR READERS!



ARRRGH! Residents celebrated 'International talk like a pirate day' in-world this week - and Corbett Howard put together this great pic to commemorate it.

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By TRICK MERTEL



YET ANOTHER SL BANKER RUNS OFF WITH UNWITTING RESIDENTS' FORTUNE

A COUPLE are facing financial ruin after they lost all of their RL savings in the latest bank collapse scandal to hit SL.

Lexus Daviau and Xavier Hathaway invested more than L\$3,000,000 - over US\$11,000 - in Atlas Venture Capital (AVC), only to see its shares frozen last Friday in events reminiscent of the Ginko Bank collapse in August.



SCARED:
Chess Kubrick faces
losing L\$750,000

The unwitting pair were sweet-talked into handing the cash over by AVC's CEO Jasper Tizzy, who sparked the crisis by disappearing from the grid. He had offered to buy their assets and float them on the stock exchange, telling them: "With all the mess of Ginko we can come out the leader now with all this."

FRAUD

Unfortunately for Daviau and Hathaway, the VSTEX virtual stock exchange closed all trading on Tizzy's investment companies and announced that "Jasper Tizzy is leaving SL and is selling out his business". A search for the name Jasper Tizzy no longer returns any results. Hathaway said: "I can't believe we were taken advantage of. This is bank fraud." Daviau, who also invested L\$1,000,000 of her mother's retirement

money, added: "We have Jasper's home phone number, but he won't return our phone calls. He is a crook and will rip off everyone in SL if he can."

SCARED

Others have fallen prey to the shameless conman. The Bank, owned by AVC, manages millions of L\$ deposited by residents. Cash deposits are still being accepted, but withdrawals are now unavailable. Customer Chess Kubrick said: "I have L\$750,000 in this bank and I am scared."

The Bank also took orders and payment from a reported 214 customers for credit cards which were never delivered. A note from The Bank's ATM this week said: "This is not a real bank. SL is a game."

IBM STRIKE ON

By MORRHY'S GRAYSMARK

MORE than 500 people have declared their support for the first ever strike in SL on Sep 25.

They have all signed up to a mailing list at UNI, the global union behind the strike against IBM Italy which has been delayed from last week. Supporters include IBM employees from more than 18 countries, trade unionists, SL groups and workers from other companies.

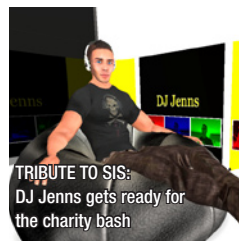
"It's what we call global solidarity," said the in-world union representative, UNIGlobalunion Oh.

CHARITY BASH

By KITTY OTOOLE

SL dancefloor favourite DJ Jenns will perform a 24-hours set starting on September 24 in memory of his RL sister - who died exactly a year ago on that date.

Money raised will be donated to a charity in Scotland which helped treat Jenns' sister. See the Events section on pages 34 and 35 for details.



TRIBUTE TO SIS:
DJ Jenns gets ready for
the charity bash

SHAMEFUL ATTACK
ON MUSLIM SIM

MINDLESS GRIEFING MAY SPARK RISE IN RELIGIOUS TENSIONS

ISLAMOPHOBIC grieving at a Ramadan tent and a controversial new Sharia law sim are in danger of bringing religious tensions in SL to boiling point.

Reports of two naked male avatars who stormed into the Ramadan tent on the Chebi sim and sexually harassed female Arab avatars, shouting "we will control the tent and remove all Muslims from it", have deeply angered the Muslim community. Worshippers at the sim, which had only been opened by Is-

lam Online (IOL) two days previously to celebrate the annual Muslim festival of Ramadan, were shocked by the insulting intrusion. IOL member Frozenfire Fride, who witnessed the attacks, said: "The Ramadan tent is to introduce ourselves into SL, before we make our own island. We aim to show people here that tolerance is accepted in Islam... that we accept

difference. It's disappointing to see a bad reaction."

Khawla Masala, an IOL committee member who helped build the tent, revealed her an-



EXPERIMENTING WITH SHARIA LAW:
Michel Manen



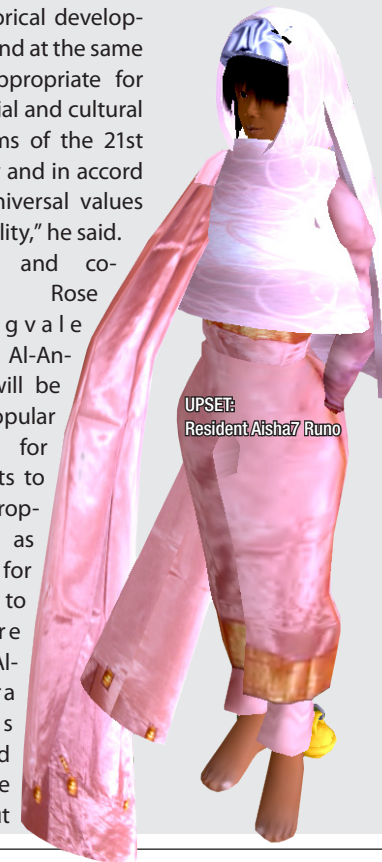
ger at the intolerance. "Having people insulting us is not acceptable, we are behaving so peacefully, we're so friendly to others we just don't deserve to be hated," she said.

The attacks happened just a day after 200 guests turned up last Friday at the private opening ceremony of the controversial two-sim Al-Andalus island, which will operate under rules based on RL Islamic Sharia law. News of the plan caused uproar among many residents, with criticism that Sharia law - known for discrimination against women and harsh punishments including stoning for adultery - would not fit in with the ethos of SL. But Michel Manen, co-owner of Al-Andalus and a Christian in RL, said the more controversial parts of Sharia

law would not be included on the sim, which he said would be a social laboratory. "The idea is to develop a legitimate version of Islamic law, based on its historical development, and at the same time appropriate for the social and cultural problems of the 21st century and in accord with universal values of equality," he said. Manen and co-owner Rose Springvale hope Al-Andalus will be a popular place for residents to buy property, as well as for visitors to explore the Al-hambra Palaces and mosque - but

there have already been claims of the sim adding to rising religious tensions before it has even been opened. Blogger SqueezeOne Pow said: "There'll be plenty of terrorist-themed griefing there."

Despite the warnings, Manen is not concerned: "The disadvantages of griefers are minor in comparison with all the advantages of setting up such a project in SL."



UPSET:
Resident Aisha7 Runo

SUING THE LAB

By COYNE NAGY

DISPUTES between Linden Lab and residents could soon be solved by in-world arbitration.

Claims for less than US\$10,000 will now be decided by a process carried out online, by telephone or in writing.

EXCITED

The online option means Linden Lab seem to be starting down the path of legally binding proceedings taking place in-world. Speaking to Reuters, Catherine Linden said: "We're extremely excited about arbitration centres coming to SL. If the arbitrator selected can conduct arbitration in SL, we're very much open to using SL to resolve disputes between residents and Linden Lab."

BLOW

The maximum cost to the resident will be US\$185, opening the door to many new potential claimants. Some may have been put off by the previous terms insisting they travel to San Francisco to present the case in person.

But while small claims have been made easier, those wishing to go to court have been dealt a blow as lawsuits against the Lab must now be filed in San Francisco.

STOP TEXTURE THEFT OR WE QUIT!

REAL OR FAKE?
Texture theft is common

By CARRIE SODWIND

OUTRAGE AT LINDEN LAB OVER FAILURE TO STOP TEXTURE THEFT

DESIGNERS could leave SL in droves if nothing is done to protect them from thieves, according to a copyright agent.

Satir DeCuir has predicted that if the Lindens continue to do nothing about callous residents copying and re-selling the work of professional designers, there will be a mass exodus of creativity from SL.

QUIT

Among the first to leave could be the skin designers behind popular store Naughty, who told DeCuir they are thinking of quitting SL due to the

problem. Last week, The AvaStar revealed Lost Thereian and Ambyance2 Anubis were furious a copy of their L\$3,200 skin was on sale for just L\$200.

BLOW

But designers are now facing a more serious blow, as skin textures are not only being copied and resold at slashed rates, but they are also marked 'Full perm' so they can be transferred to countless other avatars. DeCuir, copyright specialist for Textures R Us, tracks down texture and design thieves so that she can report them to LL.

She said the Lab claim they already have too many complaints of this sort and will not deal with them any more, but when they do act they merely remove reported items from the store - without banning or suspending the thief.

"3D skins need the hardest work to do here in SL. People who steal and resell are laughing. LL are a bunch of spoiled kids - it would take one

second to just return all this crap to the owner, and ban the avatars for good."

DeCuir is currently tackling an alleged hotspot for stolen and fake items at Holy-moly, the 'FULL PERM L\$10 & FREEBIE SHOP' mall. Its owner Koyote Foden was unavailable for comment this week, but one skin seller there, Nikita Fride, freely admitted to The AvaStar to buying and re-selling 'Full perm' skins.

PREDICTS AN EXODUS:
Copyright specialist
Satir DeCuir

Contest turns into catfight!

MODELS SHAMELESSLY FIGHT FOR A SPOT IN A RL CALENDAR

By CARRIE SODWIND

A MODEL contest to find the 12 most beautiful avatars for a RL calendar has descended into chaos amid accusations of cheating.

According to some of the 611 entrants in the 12avastars competition, many of the models are bribing and harassing people for votes. One model described the contest, organised by US interactive agency Apollo and in-world media company Centric, as a

"horror story".

Jada Hoyer said the competition is unfair: "You've got girls paying for votes, and parking hundreds of alts to top up their scores."

EXPELLED

The winning 12 models, to be announced on September 25, will see their picture in a calendar to be printed in RL, and runners up will also receive prizes. So far, it has been reported that at least two models have already been caught for cheating and expelled from the competition.

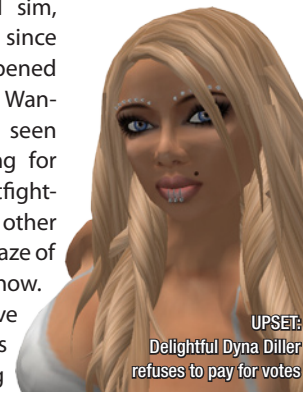
The voting site at Tellus Convention Centre on the Tellus III sim, has been overrun since the contest opened on September 3. Wannabes can be seen bickering, calling for votes and catfighting with each other among the maze of pictures on show. Even aggressive virtual fights are taking

place, and many of the models are upset and angry after all the hard work they put into their avatars. Stunner Reean Frost said "I can tell you one thing for sure, the hottest avatars in SL are not who are going to win. When I saw the lengths to which people were willing to go to get votes I decided to throw in the towel."

Another model, Dyna Diller said: "I'm giving up. I'm upset as I did work hard but I can't compete for votes any more because I'm sure as hell not paying newbs to get them."



FED UP:
Gorgeous Reean Frost
can't bear the cheating



UPSET:
Delightful Dyna Diller
refuses to pay for votes

NEWS BITES!

ANSHE ATTACKS

A SENIOR assistant to Anshe Chung has launched a scathing attack on Linden Lab for failing to tackle grieving. In a notecard to Dreamland customers, Master Quatro said: "Unfortunately there is no leadership evident at Linden Lab. They won't address the issue on a blog even."

SECURITY FEARS

RESIDENTS who use Internet Explorer could be leaving themselves open to attack. A flaw in the URL handler means malicious websites can exploit SLURLs to obtain passwords and account details.

WAR MEMORIAL

AMERICANS killed during the Vietnam War are to be honoured in-world. Online firm Meme Science will build a reconstruction of the Vietnam War Memorial featuring a wall with the names of all 58,253 US personnel who didn't return from the conflict.

NEWT IN-WORLD

US presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich will host discussion workshops in-world. He joins Hillary Clinton and John Edwards in setting up a presence to promote himself in SL.



natural skin

elim island

PLAYING IN SL

By TRICK MERTEL



BODYCHECK:
The SL Hockey League
in full swing

WHY AREN'T MORE RESIDENTS TAKING UP SPORTS IN-WORLD?

FROM shooting hoops and riding bulls to powerplays on ice and catching waves, SL has nearly every sport there is - yet few residents join in.

Ice hockey is among the more popular in-world sports, with a competitive six-team league with live radio commentary for fans. The regular season finished last Sunday, with the Moose and the Whales heading for the postseason in the North American division, and the Ravens finishing on top in the European Division.

More social sports include sailing and golf, while the monthly SL Surfing Association (SLSA) competitions have reached cult sta-

tus and even received RL media attention.

LAGGY

But compared to the number of active users in SL and their other pastimes, participation rates for sports are tiny. Yet those residents who take part in sport do love it. DJSnuggles Divine won a bullriding contest and is co-owner of the Legends bar. She said: "Sports in SL are just amazing. I love talking smack to the bulls, like 'gimme a good ride or you're going on the grill', which always makes the crowd laugh."

But in-world sports enthusiasts

admit it's not as popular as it could be, and some blame the Lab's laggy technology: "SL is not the best environment for racing," said current FormulaSL championship leader Jafo Tendaze. "If and when LL updates the current physical engine we may very well see an increase in popularity of the sport."

There is hope for the future of sport in SL, despite its problems. DeVinna Toll is the top ranked surfer in the SLSA, and thinks

surfing can even compete with sex in SL. She said: "Even when I'm not getting any, I'm still in the water getting wet."

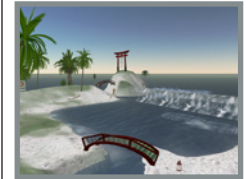


DIVINE INSPIRATION:
DJSnuggles Divine

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

By TRICK MERTEL

SL's top sport venues:



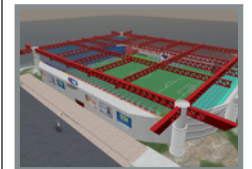
CHI BEACH: Popular SLSA surfing event venue.



HOLLY KAI: Hit the fairways for a perfect round.



JERICO HILL: Home to the SL Hockey League.



SAN SIRO: Working replica of the Italian stadium.



YANKEE STADIUM: SL's version of the famous 'House that Ruth built'.

BLO7 - UP IN FLAMES?

VANISHED LIKE SMOKE:
Vicero Lambert's entry, now removed

By TRICK MERTEL

BURNING LIFE FESTIVAL IN CHAOS AS BOSS QUILTS POST

QUIT: Vicero Lambert

A DIRECTOR of the Burning Life Festival dramatically quit this week in protest at decisions by the organising council.

Vicero Lambert, founder and director of the Burning Life group, tore down his builds at the festival site on September 19 and announced his immediate resignation. He said: "They are

trying to take credit for all the hard work, for making the event as it is. They didn't like the way I do things, so I quit."

Tensions have been building at the festival recently. Council member Hans Baldwin, said: "Vicero was doing things for personal fame and glory. He wanted to control it all."

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BIGGER SL FISH TO FRY

Dear Regis,

I LAUGHED (yes, out loud) last week when I read your article about Scientology entering SL.

With all the twisted activities and information now available in SL, Scientology should be the least of residents' worries.

I understand that in RL, Scientology needs to be observed because of the manipulative capabilities it has developed. But

its high media profile helps regulate it somehow. The SL landscape however, has a totally different ideological topography.

In just a couple of minutes of research I discovered some rather provocative names of people, groups and places. Resident F*ckstick Lockjaw might raise an-

eyebrow, while the Super Slut and Sex Slave group members would probably turn heads also, and visitors to places such as the Pornplay Fetish Farm and Kinky Sex Store I'm guessing aren't born-again Christians. Scientology seems quite tame when compared to this lot. Before the SL media points its finger,

it should clean up its own backyard first.

By Justin3
Humphreys

**L\$500
E-MAILS**

WRITE TO:
YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Hey Regis,

I WAS deeply moved by the 9/11 anniversary commemorations in SL, which you featured in The AvaStar last week.

I felt they really caught the mood of a lot of people in-world, especially those who, like me, are from the US IRL. But no matter where people are from, we are all citizens of the same virtual world, and it was wonderful to see everyone coming

together to mark this tragic occasion.

It also filled me with hope, hope that SL and other global phenomena like it which are making the world a smaller place than ever before, can bring people closer and help us all realise who we really

are. I genuinely believe that through projects such as SL, problems we have with each other can be solved simply through contact with other cultures.

It may sound like a crazy dream, but surely if we are talking to each other, we are not fighting each other?

Anyway, it was an extraordinary occasion in SL, and my thanks go to those who helped make it special.

By W.S.



SL IN NEED OF LAB MEDICINE

Dear Regis,

COMPLIMENTS on a great edition of The AvaStar last week but your article on page 9 gave me great cause for concern.

Anyone who plays at being a doctor in-world isn't just having fun but could be putting others in real danger.

SL is a super platform to be whatever you want and for 99 per cent of people that is fine. Even those who want to indulge in strange sexual fetishes aren't doing harm to anyone. However, those who pretend to be medically qualified and give out advice are taking things too far. I don't know what would make someone consult an SL doctor in the first place but I feel a small error of judgement in that regard is not deserving of some 18-year-old telling them how to get better. Sadly it seems that the longer SL exists the more problems emerge. Sooner or later Linden Lab will have to abandon their non-interventionist policy.

By A.R.



LEIDER STEPANOV

CLEAR AS MUD

WHAT is going to happen to owners of land with adult content who don't flag it?

That was one of the questions which immediately sprang to my mind when I read the initial post on age verification on the official blog last month. After all, it is a 'voluntary' system.

This week Linden Lab were only too happy to clear up any misunderstandings there might have been from their wonderfully vague, dismissive announcement. Everett Linden wrote on Tuesday: "We strongly encourage estate owners and parcel owners to flag any restricted content and restrict their parcels to avoid minors inadvertently accessing it."

CLEAR

"If residents and businesses choose not to do this, land containing adult content that is not clearly marked will be easily identifiable by the community. Resident can raise concerns directly with the landowner or with Linden Lab via the Abuse channel."

There, hope that's cleared everything up for you.

IS YOUR MONEY SAFE? I WOULDN'T BANK ON IT

INVESTING IN SL BANKS RIGHT NOW IS AN ABSOLUTELY CRAZY IDEA

PLEASE SEND ME YOUR COMMENTS:

newsdesk@the-avastar.com

I'M extremely irritated with my RL bank.

The customer service is rubbish, and they seem to spend most of their time and money trying to persuade me to have more credit cards.

But one thing I am not worried about is be-

ing able to take out my money whenever I like.

TEMPTING

So why, in the name of everything that is virtual, would you ever put money into a SL bank? Weeks after the system was shown to be flawed by the Ginko collapse? The returns on offer may be very tempting, but here is a small tip - if you do invest, **DON'T**

Daviau and Xavier Hathaway, who have lost millions of L\$ in the AVC collapse (see page three). I really feel for them. But I do wonder why on earth they would give money to a guy like Jasper Tizzy.

While the SL financial industry struggles to gain credibility, there will always be those unscrupulous operators out there who know one thing - some people never learn.

PUT IN ALL OF YOUR !? @ \$ I N G LIFE SAVINGS!

That may sound a little harsh on Lexus

VICTIMS:
Lexus Daviau and
Xavier Hathaway



SL NOT SHIPSHAPE YET

NICE to see Joshua Linden entering into the spirit of International Talk Like a Pirate Day on Wednesday with his blog entry entitled 'We be pullin' in to drydock!'. If you haven't read it, have a look, it's a chuckle. Not sure about the amount of time spent on it though - perhaps Josh should have been, you know, fixing problems instead? Time to walk the plank, me hearties.



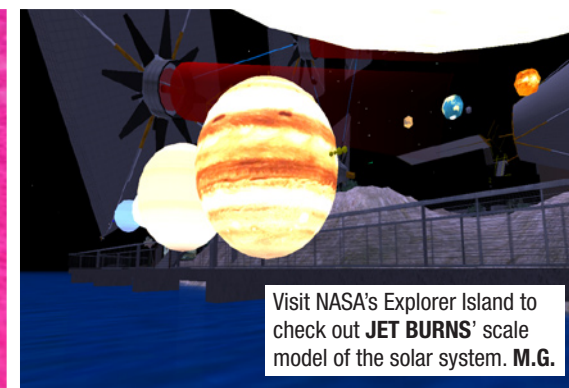
L\$500
PICS
OF THE WEEK
yourphotos@the-avastar.com



This greenie invaded a posh party at Haven's Paradise recently - but it didn't bother photographer **SAMANTHA LA-MONT** who said at least he was cute and shared a dance!



KRYPTONIA PAPERDOLL took this pic of herself reflecting on life as a bunny.



Visit NASA's Explorer Island to check out **JET BURNS'** scale model of the solar system. **M.G.**



BAD SKJELLERUP took this pic of a nasty-looking plane wreck at Grelod, which was created by **KENNIF HAX**.

META BITES:

THE AVASTAR KEEPS YOU UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE METAVERSE

HOME: IT'S SONY A GAME

SONY have delayed the launch of the Home virtual world for their PlayStation 3 console until early in 2008 due to technical problems. Originally scheduled to be released this autumn, the highly anticipated and hyped VW now has no firm date for its launch.

GO WORLD TO WORLD

INTERACTION between virtual worlds could take place in as little as three years if a new project to set global standards is successful. Metaverse 1.0 was devised by Israeli scholar Yesha Sivan and now has the backing of Philips, Siemens and many European universities.

METAPLACE LAUNCH

AREAE unveiled their new platform, Metaplace, on September 18. Users can create their own worlds based on shooting, puzzles or chatting and invite others to join. Each world is run as a web server enabling simple creation of high score tables and player profiles.

INTEL CAUSING HAVOC

COMPUTING giant Intel has announced it has bought software company Havoc for an undisclosed fee. Havoc, which provides interactive software and other services for game and film companies, presently supplies physics, animation and character behaviour for SL.

BOOST FOR PLAYSPAN

PLAYSPAN, an in-game commerce network, has secured US\$6.5m of investment from financiers led by Easton Capital. PlaySpan works with seven MMOG publishers and was founded by Arjun Mehta, a sixth grader, in his garage in Silicon Valley in 2006.

ONLINE GAME DEATH

ANTI-GAMING lobbies have been given further ammunition after an apparently healthy 30-year-old Chinese man died after playing an unnamed online game for three straight days. Conflicting reports said he died at an internet cafe or after being rushed to hospital.

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GET RICH QUICK

FINALISTS GO HEAD TO HEAD AS ENTREPRENEUR CONTEST HOTS UP

BY COYNE NAGY

THE finalists of the 'How to Get Rich' contest were announced this week - but the competition is only just heating up.

Three wannabe SL entrepreneurs will go head to head over the next two months to try and win the L\$50,000 top prize. Bianca Zanetti, Angel Slocombe and Lillith Anatine fought off stiff com-

petition after submitting their business ideas for the contest, and will now try to make the most profit out of their schemes.

BATTLE

The competition is being run by Ebury Publishing from the Elysian Isle sim to help promote the launch of Felix Dennis' book 'How to Get Rich'. First round winner Zanetti has already picked up L\$25,000, and Slocombe and Anatine L\$10,000 and L\$5,000 respectively. All that is forgotten now, however, as they battle it out for the top prize.

Zanetti's winning idea was a sales reporting tool which helps shop

owners determine prices. She said the contest was a big step for her: "I will get publicity and a real incentive to get the product up and running ASAP. Even if I don't 'win' I've really already won as I will end up with a product that I can hopefully continue to market and sell."

MONEY

Slocombe's entry was the Angel Grace School of Emoting, which helps residents with public speaking, hosting, customer service and communication through the medium of text chat, while Anatine created a chain of vendors which map optimal sales traffic across the mainland, allowing subscribers to see which areas are best for making money.

Nick Gloucester, manager of Elysian Isle, said he was delighted: "We had lots of good entries and the overall standard was very high. Selecting the three winners was quite a challenge."



POLE POSITION: Bianca Zanetti

ORGANISER: Nick Gloucester

BIZ BITES:

STUDENT APPEAL

THE Princeton University sim has so far failed to sustain high traffic. Despite an excellently constructed build, visitors to the sim remain sparse. The lack of traffic has been blamed on the mass of other educational sims and campuses on offer - and a lack of marketing.

BRAND WARNING

LEGAL firm Eversheds have told retailers they cannot afford to ignore forgeries in SL. The company's Antony Gold said: "If a replica product underperforms and is badly designed, this can be damaging to that brand's reputation."

THE REAL THING

THE California Association of Realtors opened its SL headquarters this week. The base features information about real estate and an interactive plasma TV capable of streaming five different video clips.

LAGGING BEHIND

SECURITY software firm Symantec has warned in a report that SL could be used for money laundering, months after other media outlets picked up the issue.

a-stars

A-STARs gossip with Dylan Miles and Babu Writer

A CLASSY NIGHT OUT

By TRICK MERTEL

LOOKING GLASSY:
Hermia LindenTUNEFUL:
Avatars take in the RLPO

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA BRINGS SOME CULTURE TO SL'S MUSIC SCENE

THE classiest party in town last week was undoubtedly the classical music concert performed by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

Up to 100 VIP guests enjoyed the soothing classical sounds

of the one hour set, with only minimal video lag reported.

SOPHISTICATED

Residents at Menorca made sure they got in on the act by dressing up in their Sunday best for a streaming of the concert, making it a wonderfully

sophisticated event for those in attendance.

Lab bigwigs **Hermia** and **Torley Linden**, spotted in the crowd, also seemed to have found the time to drop by and take in the beautiful sounds of the orchestra.

AOM-azing

THE Avatar Orchestra Meta-verse animated Amsterdam on Saturday with an impromptu concert. Bingo Onomatopeia, Wirxli Flimflam, Paco Mariani, Maxxo Klaar, Nnoiz Papp, Lizsola Mathilde, Bluewave Ogee, Gumnosophistai Nurmi and Maximillian Nakamura, who founded AOM, were directed by composer Miulew Takahe.

gossip

THE Hedrons have landed their first-ever award nomination for the BT Digital Music Awards - having gained popularity by performing in SL in October 2006!

check it out!

SOME of SL's finest jewellery is on display at the Jewelry Expo 2007 at the On Rez sim. Showcasing nearly 90 jewellery makers, the event is expected to raise up to US\$800 for the American Red Cross. The expo ends September 22.

B.W.

Sweet as candy

By TRICK MERTEL, PICS By WISEGUY CAPRA

SL'S serious partygoers rocked the sandbar at the Hed Kandi secret raft party.

Held on a raft drifting around Sands Island, the location was

kept secret until an hour before the event to avoid overcrowding. Kandi DJ Dame warmed the dancefloor up, before DJ Deeve Voom kept everyone grooving until well after the official closing time.

PARTY TIME:
The event in full swing

STUNNER:
Kitkat Skondi struts her stuff

ON THE DECKS:
DJ Dame spins the tunes

ON THE DANCEFLOOR:
Partygoer Jolinja Mills



SPOTTED!

THESE two avatars may look completely different - but peer closer and you'll see the trademark watermelon colours of Lab favourite **Torley Linden**! The ever-active mentor Torley was spotted changing persona between the Liverpool Philharmonic performance and an appearance on the SLCN Tonight Live show.

ORGANISERS:
Giada Viscounti
(pictured) and
Pompo Bombacci

SLAB Designs celebrated their first birthday in style on their ocean dock. DJ Bubbs spun the tunes, while Tasty Tiramisu won the 'last avatar standing' comp.



GLAMOUFLAGE

IF you want to look exceptionally well-dressed take note of your environment and make an effort to match it. Make a statement by using fashion and colour to blend into your surroundings.

L\$70

PVC ROSES HAT
by Bianca F.
Knightsbridge (220, 95, 22)

L\$400

DRESS
by Kitter's
Knightsbridge (220, 95, 22)

SHOES

by X3D Mistress
Dacham (62, 122, 48)

L\$400

BY BIANCA FOULON

L\$195

BONNIE SEQUIN HAT
Ivalde (92, 148, 35)

L\$250

DRESS
by Neferia Abel
Alebi (172, 210, 21)

SOCKS
by Bianca F.
Knightsbridge (220, 95, 22)

L\$30

SHOES *SM*
by Marabou
Sylfie (54, 40, 23)

L\$250

callie cline's

STYLE HOTLINE

TIME TO DRESS UP, GUYS!

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE FELLAS - HERE'S SOME TOP TIPS



FUN WITH FASHION:
Forseti Svarog

HEY guys - you're not forgotten!

I know it seems that way at times in SL, but it's not entirely true! Covering any sort of fashion in SL can be a challenge in an environment that is so

fluid, creative and no RL rules apply. As for men... well, most of you like a little help and advice when going out, and here's a look most of you probably won't try, but I think many of us gals would LOVE it if some of you were more creative in your dress. Haha, do I sound like a RL mom or wife?

MASHED

Anyway, fellas, there's more out there for you than ripped jeans and t-shirts! I had fun with my friend Forseti helping him with his little get up here. He wanted to have fun with fash-

ion, and is wearing a mix-up of some cool finds including an old pair of pants from 2005, some new shoes and a new shirt. The rain-bowa is by yours truly and ties his 'pimped out mashed up' look, and the ciggy, well, ya know... it's those little touches that can really make something stand out.

Normally he wears a conservative sweater and vest, so this was fun! He topped off the outfit with some cool shades, but I used this photo so you could see it's really him!



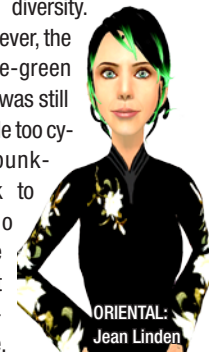
WHAT'S HOT! EASTERN STYLE

By CARRIE SODWIND

JUDGING from this delicious Japanese shirt-dress, Jean Linden had been inspired by the Asian fashion show at the Second Life Community Convention.

Spotted in an art gallery, Jean wore a light-weight kimono style set with a white blossom design. The clothes were feminine, and a fitting tribute to SL's cultural diversity.

However, the slime-green hair was still a little too cyberpunk-geek to do the shirt justice.



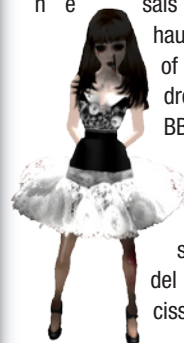
ORIENTAL:
Jean Linden

HIT OR MISS

Successes and disasters from this week's new fashion releases.

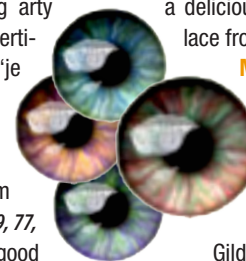
By CARRIE SODWIND

HIT: The latest trend among arty designers is alternative advertising that gives the brand its 'je ne sais quoi'. The haunting image of this week's dress from BBBM (*Envy 109, 77, 22*) is a good example. If you can stomach the scrawny pale model from hell, Adoucissement (*L\$150*) is



a delicious high-waisted lace frock.

MISS: On the theme of nightmares, Mirel's (*Nouveau 114, 201, 23*) new eyes



Gilded Plum (*L\$50*) are a terrifying and surprisingly realistic mixture of yellow and purple. The Marine ones are on the good side of exotic though.

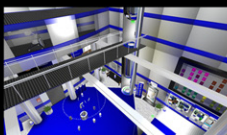
HIT: Thank you Total Betty (*Son 175,*

208, 27) for reminding us that it is important to rest our eyes and pamper ourselves from time to time. After a busy week, it is hard to resist putting this wonderfully cosy bathrobe, which comes in a set with the cucumber (*L\$125*), on the shopping list.



Dedric Mauriac's Gadgets

Located in Woodbridge



Offering a wide variety of scripted gadgets. Products to suite many different types of residents including educators, businesses, residents, explorers, land owners, bloggers, podcasters, and machinima vloggers. With over 100 items, you are bound to find something that interests you.

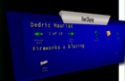
Visitor
Notifier



Victorian
Dunking Booth



Comment
Drop Box



Feed
Display



Message
Board



Work
Requests



Web
Browser



Visitor
Counter



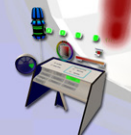
X-Ray
Glasses



Password
Generator



Sim Land
Owner Scanner



Particle Lab



Item
Dispenser



USA Timezone
Clock

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

By ISOLDE FLAMAND

JORDAN MORGENROTE OF JORDAN'S

I AM CRAZY ABOUT...

"...these jeans made by Kaysha Sion of WRONG, in black splattered. I tend to wear low cut jeans with my tribal tattoo from Jesseitui Petion of Aitui, to give me that bit of sexy naughtiness."

I ALWAYS WEAR...

"...these classy stilettos made by Nikki Clayton of Minx. I love them - the design is well done and well constructed. This line has every colour under the sun. I can wear them with anything, from gowns to jeans, plus they make me look long and leggy."

MY SIGNATURE IS...

"...my red hair from ETD! Erika Tiramisu makes so many great hair designs - long, short, curly, straight. Although I have changed hair quite a bit, I love this one called The Razor Cut in Rust from her Couture Collection."



PUT THE BOOT IN



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

L\$400

Dark Eden Ballet Boots

All eight colours included in price
By Etain Peregrine
Indigo (160, 185, 501)



GiGi Ballet Heels

In seven different colours
By Gia Gibbons
Germania Prime (57, 116, 25)

L\$199



Fairlight Black Knee

high Ballet Boots - visible locking script
By Julia Faulkland
Fairlight Matron (59, 240, 22)

L\$250

Ballet boots by AB
By Augustina Babii
Damsel (246, 235, 36)



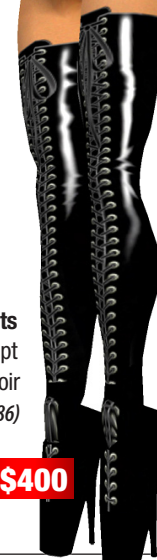
L\$450



KDC Black Ballet boots

Includes a walk script
By Kyrath Abattoir
Fetish VooDoo (118, 114, 86)

L\$400



MY TRAVEL TIPS

By **TRICK MERTEL**

SEIFERT SURFACE is a prolific SL artist who uses mathematical principles in his art.

THE AVASTAR: Which sims have you explored recently?

SEIFERT SURFACE: I'm exploring the SciLands continent right now, centred on Spaceport Al-

pha. I also really like Keystone Bouchard's current exhibition at the Gallery of Reflexive Architecture.

SS: Where do you hang out and relax?

TA: I love spending time in my sculpture garden on my home sim. I also like the Crooked House and

various other geometry/architecture experiments, such as The Transport System.

TA: Where do you party?

SS: I don't generally hang out or party, I make stuff, usually in my home sim The Future.

TA: What sims do you find the most creative?

SS: I am most interested in the technically challenging builds, for example Q, Clock Island and Suffugium to name a few off the top of my head.

TA: What are your top tips for exploring SL?

SS: The best way to learn is to talk to other people doing interesting things.

CHALLENGING: Suffugium



TECHNICAL: Q

ADVERT

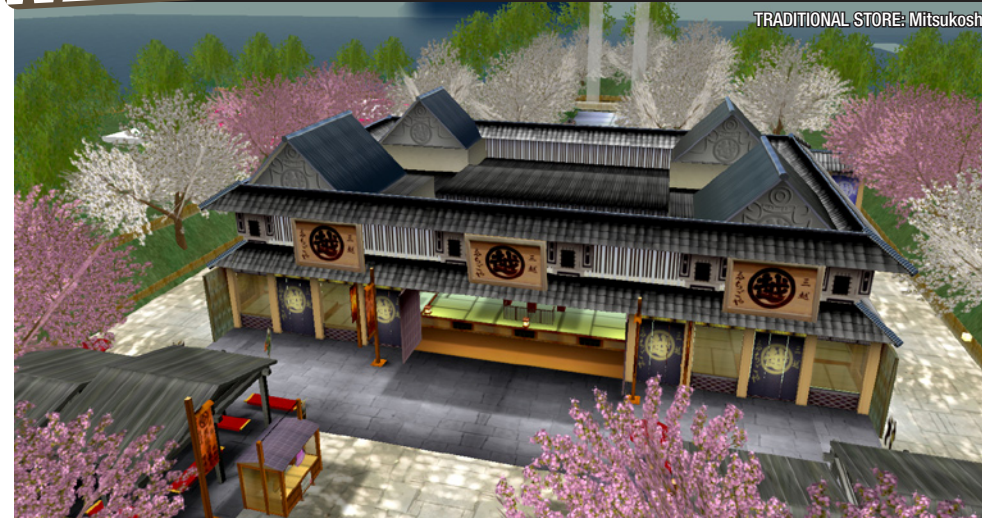
Visit
Lumière Fetish Mall

with some of SL finest Designers
of Goth, Fetish, Punk &
conventional fashion
Webworm (221,78,80)
Lutra (16, 43, 88)

NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: A JAPANESE STORE, ROLEPLAY CENTRE, RL CARMAKER LAUNCH AND STEAMPUNK REVIVAL

TRADITIONAL STORE: Mitsukoshi



By **TRICK MERTEL**

THE oldest department store in Japan has become the latest RL retail giant to appear in SL.

From humble origins selling kimonos in Tokyo in 1673, Mitsukoshi now has a virtual incarnation combining old world design on the ground floor with a modern sky mall level, reachable by teleport or lift. Picture panels of products link the sim with the company's website, where

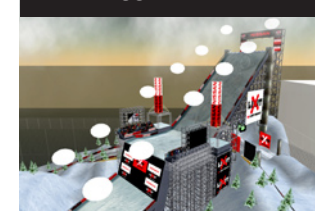
hats to complete the outfit.

Cut your fellow residents up at Splintered Rock, the new home of in-world roleplay carnage.

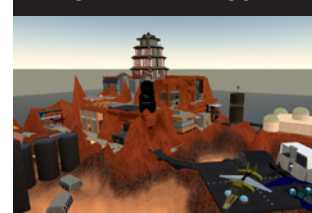
WELCOME

Taking over the reigns from Carnage Island, the same team of developers brings this new 'roleplayground' in a setting inspired by Frank Herbert's Dune.

NISSAN XTRAIL



SPLINTERED ROCK



the goods are available for purchase. Some great freebies are available, including kimonos for ladies and yukatas for men, with

maker. Opening in October, it's a marketing drive for the new Xtrail model. The sim offers two activities for its members - test driving the car around an icy track or going for distance on the snowboard jump.

The steampunk revival contin-

BABBAGE CANALS



ues with the opening of the Babbage Canals sim. A continuation of Babbage Square, the sim features all the genre's elements, from Victorian costumes and customs to steam driven transport and industry. Rumour has it that a port and an underwater sim will follow shortly.

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

DEAR



HOW DO I TELL GIRL SHE IS BUGGING ME?



GIRL IS COMPLETELY INFATUATED WITH ME SO HOW DO I LET HER DOWN GENTLY?

Dear Randi: RECENTLY I was involved in a long-term SL relationship. During that time I met a young lady who went out of her way to befriend me. Early on I made it very clear to her that I was committed to my partner, and told her point blank that I had no romantic interest in her. But she continues to message me and tells me she

loves me. I've told her that she is just infatuated, and that the attention makes me uncomfortable. She's 18 (I'm 27) and seems emotionally fragile, and I don't want to ruin her self-esteem. What should I do? — R.R.

Randi says: It sounds as if her self-esteem was already in shambles before she ever met you. She clearly has a fantasy no-

tion of your relationship which I hope you have done nothing to encourage. She has become a stalker with no sense of shame or pride.

You are going to upset her, but it seems the only reasonable course of action is to tell her that you're going to have to mute her and then take it from there.

I DIDN'T FANCY FRIEND UNTIL HE BECAME BUFF

Dear Randi: FOR about a year now I have had a male friend here, knowing most of that time he had a crush on me. Although he never pressured me sexually, he has given me several lavish gifts for which I have thanked him profusely. I never had any romantic interest in him until last week, when in a chance encounter I noticed his buff new avatar. Suddenly my curiosity is up! If I wasn't interested when he had a weak avatar and am now that he's a hunk, does that make me shallow? — S.B.

Randi says: Probably, but in SL you can be as shallow as you like. Although there are exceptions, my sense is that most SL residents' avatars represent their ideal selves. SL people are generally prettier than people in RL. It sounds as if your friend was reluctant to play the game early on and is now looking to attract the ladies. Proceed however you like, as long as you keep it in SL.

DANCING THE FOXTROT AT 52 WITH A TEENAGER

Dear Randi: SOON after I joined SL, I discovered the fun of the formal dance clubs here. I have bought about a dozen beautiful gowns and am always looking for classy freebies as well. Almost every night I go to one of the clubs and am invariably asked to dance. Last week I met a fascinating man who is a wonderful conversationalist. We agreed to meet and dance again. I looked at his profile and it said he was 19 years old. I told him truthfully that I am over 30, and in reality I am 52. Do you see a problem? — C.U.

Randi says: There's no problem at all unless he wants to take the relationship offline, so if you're both single and the relationship is just in SL, it is up to you and the age difference is no one else's business. With no social diseases to worry about and no children involved, in SL you're free to love whomever you want without hurting anybody. Enjoy the boy!

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

MUM LOVES LIFE AS AN ESCORT

Dear Randi: WHEN I first came to SL, I learned that the most lucrative employment for women without outstanding computer skills is as a dancer/escort. After my RL mother's husband left her six months ago, I suggested she join SL to avoid loneliness. Soon afterwards she got a job at the same

club where I worked, saying it was just a lark. I eventually tired of the business and quit, but now she is the highest-paid babe in the club. Since she is a pensioner, she has at least 10 hours a day to escort. Did I do the wrong thing? — I.M.

Randi says: Not at all. It sounds as if mum is having a great time

and earning a little spending money on the side. She's living out a secret fantasy and probably not hurting anyone, especially since she has no job, no husband and no small children in RL. If she is getting pleasure out of the work itself and making money instead of spending it, then more power to her.

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK RAFA'S RL DILEMMA: WEEK 4



"But listen — this doesn't have to mean we split up in SL! Please!"



Randi says: Go for it... in SL. There is clearly no future for your relationship in RL, but if you can get over the knowledge that she is 76, then there is no reason why you can't continue your in-world bliss together.

By
Deeep Witte

How to...

Everything a newbie needs to know!

CREATE YOUR OWN SHIRT

MAKING your own clothes in SL is a lot easier than you might think.

For example, making a shirt is really quite simple. First, take off the shirt you are wearing, then press Edit followed by Appearance. Find the button that says shirt, click on it and then select another button which will create a new shirt.

EXPERIMENT

Ta-da! You have just made a simple white shirt. Next, there is a texture and colour box showing. Click on either or both of them to find a texture in your library that would look good as

a shirt, or a colour for this plain white one.

You could stop there and have a nice long-sleeved shirt. If you want to experiment a bit more, stay in appearance mode and play with the shirt controls. Try sliding them both directions and see how the shirt changes appearance. When you find one you really like, simply click on save.

It would not take much more effort or expertise to make matching pants, skirts or shorts the same way - so you have all you need to create your own unique look!



EASY PEASY: A shirt in seconds

ADVERT

Chess Island

@ Webmatch 162,125,23

supported by
Webmatch



Freebies

SL's best
FREE stuff!

THIS WEEK: 360 FLOOR MAT

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

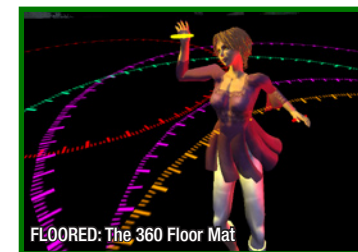
IF you're hosting friends for a party or even running a little club, you want your pad to look its best.

A simple but effective way to decorate your floor while saving money is the 360 floor mat by Dedric Mauriac (Woodbridge 110, 106, 25). When rezzed, it takes the form of a big round mat, transparent inside, with a coloured frame. When you touch it, the mat changes colour, size, rotation direction, and location randomly, within five meters from your position.

SUCCESSFUL

You can change the texture by touching it, and with several mats, you can create a nice composition - and each one uses only one prim. The only thing you need is an empty dark floor, and you can

easily build it with the BuilderSky-box featured here previously. What else do you need for a successful party? Try giving out glowsticks, which you can find for free in a pack by Abyssine Otoro at Ufeus (51, 45, 34). Wear the one you like on either hand and click on it. A menu will allow you to choose your favourite colour from a choice of nine, and an amazing light glow will enlighten your body. If you wear two, you can create a striking mixed effect.



FLOORED: The 360 Floor Mat

DO

DOS AND DON'TS OF SOUND VOLUME

By GAETANA FAUST

DON'T

- Click the Volume menu in the lower right of your viewer to adjust your sound levels.
- Use Preferences to set the volume levels to your liking if you prefer, and to access some advanced sound features like Doppler effect.
- Turn off unnecessary sounds at a live music or video performance to maximise your enjoyment.
- Switch music and media on and off via a control next to Volume.
- Adjust the Master volume switch to increase or decrease the overall sound level.
- Click Mute if you just want to shut off one type of sound. The controls now work separately.
- Leave music, media and other sounds on if you want to use voice.
- Keep Voice turned on if you are at a live music event.
- Enable the music and media streaming preferences unless you're prepared to use the higher bandwidth required.
- Despair if the typing noise is bothering you. Turn down Sounds to ditch it. Ambient lets you get rid of the wind noise, too.

My First Day in Second Life

PASSION FOR SL

By TRICK MERTEL

LOGGER SEWELL owns two SL clubs and manages four newbie stores during his daily 12 hours plus in-world, but his biggest passion is being a DJ.

THE AVASTAR: How was your first day?

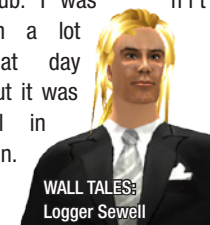
LOGGER SEWELL: I remember doing the tour like everyone and ended up at a club where I met a charming girl from Brazil. She took me under her wing and showed me the ropes. I was very lucky.

TA: What was your most embarrassing moment?

LS: On my first day I fell into a wall for awhile and could not get out. I was half in, half out and plenty of people laughed at me. I finally had to relog because no one would help me.

TA: What was your funniest moment?

LS: I was at a club and it didn't take long before I realised that it was a gay club. I was hit on a lot that day but it was all in fun.

WALL TALES:
Logger Sewell



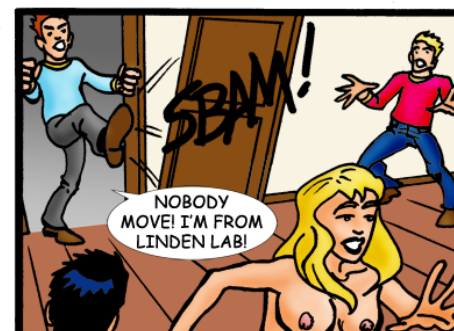
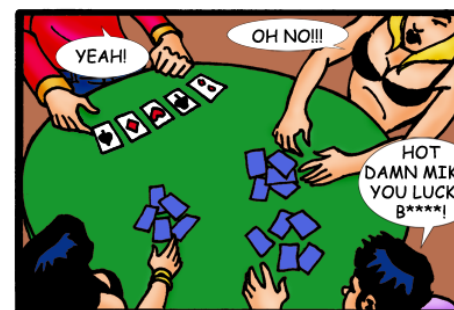
HOT Slaggin'

"LINDEN BUSTED!"

ARTWORK:

Ermanno Spitteler

TEXT:

Regis Braathens
& Ermanno Spitteler

© Andrea Manfredini 2007



Purple Rose Jewelry

Model

Of The Month

Competition

For Info Contact: Aliyeh Yifu
or Visit @ Babeli (180,178,23)

THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: DISCOS

By GAETANA FAUST

WE GOT NIGHT FEVER!

BOOGIE: Sushi
Roller Disco

HIT THE DANCEFLOOR IN SOME OF SL'S HOTTEST NIGHTSPOTS

GET your groove on this week by slipping on your boogie shoes and shaking your booty at a disco.

The most fabulous nightspot in SL has to be the **Sushi Roller Disco** in Tableau (76, 208, 59). High up in a water tower, huge disco balls rotate over the hot red room as spicy Latin music plays. Strap on your skates and take a spin around the floor or nestle into a cushion and enjoy a nice plate of sushi and a glass of sake while you soak up the music and the party atmosphere. **The Garden of Da Vinci** in Apfelland Strand (18, 79, 23) is certainly not traditional, but the open-air dance space surrounded by stately columns and climbing vines is a beautiful place to boogie the night away. When your feet need a rest, use the romantic pool and picnic area to relax and

recuperate. Be transported back to 1978 at **Second Life Fever** in Minna (9, 25, 26) where time has stood still since the height of the disco era.

EDGY

The über-cool bar at the **Lift** in Alvargi Sound South (118, 227, 351) is a gigantic structure in front of an impressive glass wall through which you can see towering snow-covered mountains off in the distance. It's a great place to kick up your heels after a day at the ski slopes at the snowy sim. Jump on the ski lift to be transported to the upper floor of the club, where there's an ice skating rink. If your style leads in the direction of Goth, try the **Blood City Disco** in Farstone (89, 140, 90). The dungeon-like stone walls and grated dance floor are edgy and industrial.

TRENDY HANG OUT CARLTON PALACE



Belly up to the bar and check out the groovy lounge areas before getting down on the dancefloor. Where: Metropole East Coast (207, 174, 23)

PUT ON THOSE FLARES SECOND LIFE FEVER



Head back to 1978 and remember the flares, impossibly tight jeans and sideburns at the height of the disco era. Where: Minna (9, 25, 26)

COOLEST PLACE IN SL TOSCANA



An icy glass lion statue greets you to the hip, modern dance club. Where: Toscana (98, 133, 652)

9.21. - 9.27.

DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in SL Time**NIGHTLIFE****THE BEATLES**

Relive the magic of John, Paul, George and Ringo as DJane Calippo works through their greatest hits.

When: September 22, 11:00

Where: Commerce City West (68, 207, 23)

**SPORT****ECOMAN TRIATHLON**

Dust off your sport gear for the first full virtual triathlon, including swimming, running and cycling. Visit SL Triathlon at Kona to register.

When: September 23, 11:00

Where: Etopia (128, 128)

**LIVE MUSIC****NACOPUNK HIRD**

Nacopunk performs his Latino ballads at the Lily Pad for the first time.

When: September 25, 20:00

Where: Clyde (124, 165, 32)

**ENTERTAINMENT****FASHION FIGHTS BACK**

The fashion show marks the arrival of the American Cancer Society into SL.

When: September 23, 14:00

Where: American Cancer Society Island (128, 128)

**SEMINAR****MEDIA ECOLOGY**

An introduction to media ecology with Kenny Hubble to study the cultural effects of virtual worlds.

When: September 24, 17:00-19:00

Where: We The Living (102, 129, 22)

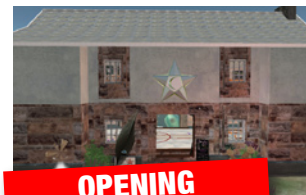
**EVENT OF THE WEEK!****OKTOBERFEST**

The legendary German beer festival opens with drinking, polka dancing and strange leather shorts.

When: September 22, 10:00

Where: Neufreistadt (187, 191, 173)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time**OPENING****CRESCENT MOON**

SL's oldest museum celebrates its relocation with a big bash over the weekend, kicking off with a performance by saxophone player Anakin Gallacher.

When: September 22, 17:00

Where: FairChang Village (220, 201, 30)

**FESTIVAL****EUROPEAN LANGUAGES**

The centrepiece of the festival, which celebrates cultural diversity, is a huge map of Europe giving visitors landmarks to interesting cultural and linguistic sites around the grid.

When: Sep. 26, 08:00-14:00

Where: Belle Isle (128, 128, 25)

**LIVE MUSIC****DJ JENNS**

Join the popular SL DJ as he spins the decks for 24 hours non-stop, to raise money for the RL National Spinal Injuries Centre charity in Scotland in memory of his sister.

When: From Sep. 24, 12:00

Where: Havens Paradise (1, 251)

ADVERT

The Aroha Tahi Night of Romance
September 29 3:00pm

Private sims, romance, dancing and beautiful tropical sunsets

Click to teleport

Aroha Tahi

a private lovers retreat

High Heels
==Merlin==



☆ ☆ ☆
Angel
☆ ☆ ☆
Lingerie and more
Dessous

High Heels
==Merlin==



Angel-Dessous & High Heels Merlin
presents



Prag



Angel Whitestars



Prag II

Come to visit our Mainstores
at
Blue Moon Bay
&
Volsland Beach

Volsland Beach : <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Volsland%20Beach/99/79/21>

Blue Moon Bay: <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Blue%20Moon%20Bay/164/156/22>

THE AVA★STAR OF THE WEEK

By COYNE NAGY



ROLA HYKOVA

ROLA HYKOVA IS THE LEAD SINGER OF POPULAR IN-WORLD
SOUL BAND THE UKD PROJECT

INTERVIEW

The AvaStar: What is your best feature?

Rola Hykova: I love being polite to everyone and I want to be the first to say thank you when someone says a kind word to me. Money can never be as important as sweet and sincere words so I love talking to everyone.

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

RH: I used to search for new places to play in but now I work on my look and talk to people. I have plenty to organise between managers and venue owners!

TA: What would you change in SL?

RH: The people are perfect but not those looking for sex. How can we talk about sex when we talk about avatars?

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

RH: The snapshots from the fans, moments during the gig they take and send to me. Those are the most precious things I have, moments.

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

RH: I hope that politics never enters SL. So long as the politics are out we are safe just being the president of ourselves.

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: ROLA HYKOVA

PROFESSION: Singer

BIRTH DATE: 7/5/2007

ATTITUDE: Make people smile