

THE
AVASTAR
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NEWS p.2-14

New SL search engine to spell end for shops, say owners

BUSINESS p.15

Philip Linden slams his critics

A-STARS p.16-17

All the best pics and gossip

STYLE p.19-23

Hubble bubble fashion trouble

TRAVEL p.24-25

A look at the new CSI: NY sim

GUIDE p.33-35

Where to enjoy winter sports from skiing to ice fishing



HALLOWEEN SPECIAL!
 PAGAN RITUALS
 SEXY WITCHES
 MONSTROUS MUST-HAVES
 FRIGHTENING FASHIONS
 FREAKY FREEBIES
 See inside, if you dare...

ANGER AT LINDEN INACTION

WHY WON'T LAB REMOVE PORN?

AVASTAR INVESTIGATION REVEALS HARD-CORE PORN STILL RIFE DESPITE LAB BAN

By TRICK MERTEL
 HARDCORE porn is still freely available in SL - but the Lab refuses to act.
 Full story - Page Three

INSIDE OPINION

"SL highlights the compassion and the friendship that are an essential part of RL. It's not all about romance and cybersex. It is possible to forge lifelong friendships too."

YOUR MAIL
p.9

"The warning signs were always there. One bank scam after another has been uncovered in this paper. You were blinded by the chance to make a quick buck. But just like in RL, there is no such thing as free money."



REGIS BRAATHENS
p.10

THE AVASTAR

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NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

5

... hours of grid closure have been planned for maintenance for Halloween at 6am SLT - spookily inconvenient!

600

... entries have been received for the US\$20,000 Cisco Systems 'Connected Life' competition.

137,005

... in L\$ was raised for breast cancer research at the Pink Gala charity event last weekend.

PERFECT PUMPKINS



GORGEOUS witch Harajuku Oh will no doubt cast a spell on AvaStar readers with those fabulous pumpkins! For more sexy witches, see page 11.

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BY TRICK MERTEL

HARDCORE pornography is still freely available in SL - but Linden Lab refuses to act on its own ban on 'adult content'.

An investigation by The AvaStar revealed that even seemingly innocuous requests using the in-world search function can turn up dozens of x-rated results.

But when we sent the results to the Lab, Jeska Linden insisted it was up to residents to deal with the problem - and nothing was done.

A search for 'water sports' reveals '!Orgy Island' as its top result, complete with a RL picture of explicit sex. Search-

ing for 'free movie' returns a top result containing the nude picture of a spread-eagled woman, while even looking up 'no porn' produces lots of sexual content.

ABUSE
After The AvaStar asked Jeska Linden to take action over the problem she refused, and said: "The current search system depends on residents to tell the truth about the descriptions in their listings. I encourage anyone who sees something which does not fall within those boundaries to please



file an abuse report." She refused to comment on any proposed LL action.

CRITICAL

Even William Horovitz, a RL pornography producer and avid fan, was critical of the Lab's stance. He said: "I see many adult/sex/porn-related results, even with 'mature audiences' unchecked.

"This is irresponsible by every person who does this to attain more traffic and it's irresponsible of LL to let this happen. They do nothing."

NEWS BITES!

FACEBOOK TO SL

AN application has been created which links Facebook friends to avatar names. When using Facebook it is possible to see which friends are in-world and teleport directly to their location. The application is presently in the beta stage of development.

CSI: SECOND LIFE

THE expected flood of newbies onto the grid following the airing of an episode of American TV crime drama CSI: NY episode featuring SL failed to materialise. Many residents did appear on the CSI sims but not enough to cause problems.

VOLKOV UNVEILED

LAWYERS have named Texas resident Robert Leatherwood, 19, as the typist behind avatar Volkov Catteneo, being sued for copyright infringements in SL. Leatherwood denies the claims.

LAND OF LINCOLN

ALLIANCE Libraries will produce a 'Land of Lincoln' sim which focuses on the life of Abraham Lincoln. There will be a replica of his birthplace and features on his time as American President.



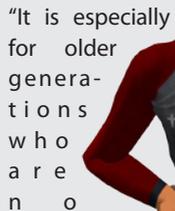
LADIES WHO LUNCH: The Red Hat Society

BY GARRIE SODWIND

THEY DON'T MAKE SL LIKE THEY USED TO...

THE GRID IS SET FOR A GREY INVASION AS OLD TIMERS DISCOVER SL GROOVY grannies flock to SL thanks to the first RL classes for the over 55s on how to live a virtual life.

Geronaute, a RL club for old people in Germany, and in-world training experts SLTalk and Partner will provide tuition and advice on how to get started from November 8. Patrick Wunderland is in charge of the project, and said he wants to make being creative in SL more accessible to older people: "It is especially for older generations who are not used to SL."



GREY HAIR: Steward Drumbeat

longer as physically agile, to find interesting people or kindred spirits in SL."

OLD SACK

Some of the members have already ventured in-world. Steward Drumbeat didn't divulge his real age, but did admit being an "old sack". He said he spent his time in SL staying young, and said he had tried virtual sex out of curiosity. The project's art director Frank Saiman is enthusiastic about the future for older residents. He said: "Most over 55s are using the internet and new technologies as hobbies. "I think the over 55s will soon take over SL."

According to statistics, the over 45s are the fastest growing age group in SL, although they make up only 14 per cent of residents. But the group has been beaten to the SL punch by the famous Red Hat Society for women over 50, who are already in-world. Member avatars indulge in a spot of virtual shopping as well as international tea parties and outings. Group owner Chelsea Chandler said: "We meet and get to know people in our own age group from around the world. We are a kind of support group for women. "But, of course, I don't like to tell everybody in SL my real age."



CONTROVERSY: LukeConnell Vandeverre, left, and Tyrian Camilo, below.

BY COYNE NAGY

NO END YET TO GINKO FARCE

FORMER GINKO CEO RUMOURED TO HAVE POKETED US\$700,000

THE controversy surrounding the Ginko Financial collapse turned farcical this week as confusion reigned over plans to liquidate the ill-fated bank.

Nicholas Portocarrero, the disgraced former CEO of Ginko, announced he was unable to meet interest payments on bonds and was therefore transferring the remaining Ginko assets to LukeConnell Vandeverre of the World Stock Exchange (WSE). They will be held in a fraud compensation package called the WSE Traders Fund (WTF). But Shaun Altman claims he, as Ginko's majority bondholder, should take responsibility for collecting and liquidising the assets of the company with a view to giving the proceeds to the WTF for distribution amongst the bondholders.

The farcical nature of Ginko's slow death was summed up by Tyrian Camilo, the third largest bondholder. He told The AvaStar he had no trust in either Vandeverre or Altman and was angry about Portocarrero possibly retaining RL assets, rumoured to be worth around US\$700,000, obtained from Ginko cash: "Ginko was a ponzi scheme from the get-go, and Nicholas was totally incompetent. Someone should pay a visit, someone big and wearing a black Armani suit, and ask Nicholas, 'are there any assets?' or 'how did you acquire this luxury car?'"

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INCOMPETENT

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POLLS FOR POLES

By Trick Mertel

A VIRTUAL vote mirrored those in RL as thousands of Poles headed to the polls in parliamentary elections this week.

Avatars flocked to the Polska sim to take part in a vote count as part of the in-world activities on Sunday, with 340 registering their preferences. The results matched those in RL, with Platforma Obywatelska to be the preferred candidate for the leadership. The party gaining 63.5 per cent of the vote in SL compared with 45 per cent in RL.

Tahani Petrov, Centrum Polska group member, said: "It was exciting. We had a party, but there was only one topic of discussion, the election." Blanca Carter, co-owner of Polska and Centrum Polska, said: "People are happy that they can express themselves freely in SL. We are happy the people are interested and feel the same emotions about the future of their country, like in RL."



HYPER-POLE: Beyonce Weatherwax votes in SL



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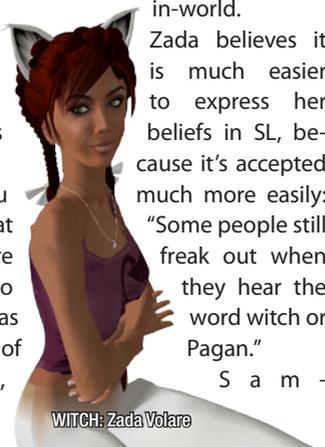
By KITTY OTOOLE

RL WITCH KITTY OTOOLE DESCRIBES A PAGAN HALLOWEEN IN SL

WITH Halloween fast approaching, residents across the grid will put on a witch's outfit to celebrate. But for RL witch Kitty Otoole, the sensation is a familiar one. GHOSTS, Ghouls and Goblins will be causing chaos across the grid during Halloween, one of the most eagerly anticipated festivals of the year. But did you know that there's a more serious side to All Hallows Eve as well? Instead of trick or treating, SL witches and Pagans from

across the grid will be coming together to celebrate Samhain, the most important festival in the witch's calendar. **FREAKED OUT** Zada Volare, one of my fellow SL witches, told me she was really excited about the prospect of celebrating Samhain in-world. Zada believes it is much easier to express her beliefs in SL, because it's accepted much more easily: "Some people still freak out when they hear the word witch or Pagan." S a m -

hain is important because it is considered a time when the veil between the spirit and real world is lifted, thus enabling easier contact with the deceased. It's a time to remember with love your relatives and friends who have passed, hence its association with spooky goings on. If you want to explore further, there's a beautiful stone circle which features ritual details and information about Paganism located at Spiritwood (28, 188, 21) and there is also a megalithic, Stonehenge-style stone circle to be found in the public gardens at Pitcairn (151, 100, 34).



THE INSIDER

LILLANI LOWELL DOOMSAYERS ARE DUNCES

Every couple of months we hear of the next big thing which will "kill the economy" - but a few weeks later it's all forgotten. It's a never ending cycle perpetuated by the digital doomsayers. Over the last year, SL has seen a ton of issues which some people hysterically claimed were going to destroy the economy: lag, landbots, copybots, land price increases, open sourcing, the ban on gambling, financial scams and VAT. These disasters were meant to drive people away, destroy the economy and end SL forever. Cynics say the economy is unstable and will collapse. But if this last year has proven them wrong. The economy may keep taking a pounding, but it keeps on going and has proved its resilience. Despite the cynical predictions, the population continues to grow and new businesses keep opening. After all, at the heart of SL are the residents - and we are not so easily discouraged.



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LAB SEARCH TO RUIN STORES?

NEW SEARCH ENGINE COULD SPELL THE END OF MALLS, SAYS SHOP OWNER *By CARRIE SODWIND*

SL'S new search engine could provide a windfall for virtual shoppers as prices plummet - but it has left store owners worried about their future.

The tool, which will be powered by internet giant Google when it is introduced in a few months, will allow residents to browse everything on offer rather than having to trudge round the grid, sparking fears there will be a price war.

Some are even predicting the end of shops in SL. Montana Corleone, the designer behind Mode Provençal and owner of

two shops, believes the new search system will negate the need for a smart SL retail space.

PRESSURE

She said that as long as the vendors show up in search, it won't matter where they are stored: "That will mean less shops required, less land demand, the death of malls, and land prices dropping even further. That will drive yet more out of SL. People are going to lose a lot of money.

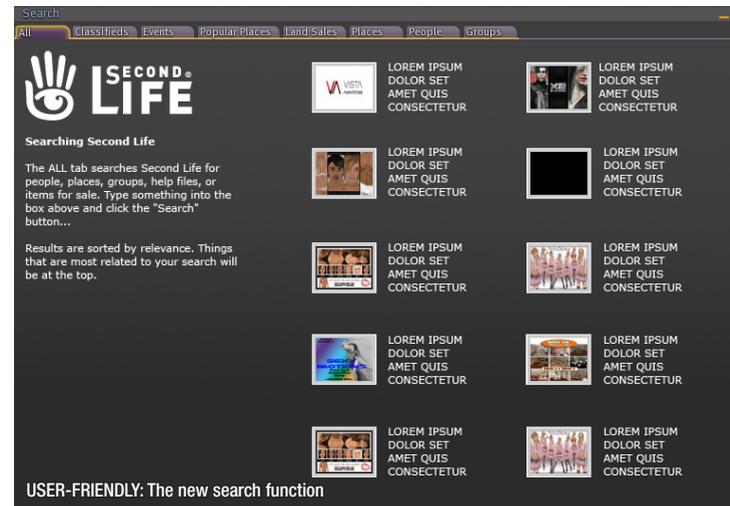
"Like everything else, I wish [the Lindens] would talk to more people first, rather than just the

ten or so with vested interests." The recent decision by Anshe Chung Studios to sell goods at L\$10 on SL Exchange is seen by many as an example of how the new search engine will put pressure on merchants to reduce prices as market forces take hold.

Exchange owner Apotheus Silverman said: "There has been an ongoing trend of average sale prices at SL Exchange steadily declining over the past nine months or so."

But compulsive shopper Alexe Slade was excited by the prospect:

"It would save lots of time spent hopping from sim to sim - right now looking for stuff is a time killer. If you look for specific things, the search engine gives slots of shops but not with what you're looking for."



USER-FRIENDLY: The new search function

UPSET: Montana Corleone

AVS: THE MASTER PLAN

HIGH-PROFILE RESIDENTS HEAR GINSU OUTLINE UNIVERSAL AVATAR PLANS

BY COYNE NAGY

THE great and good of SL gathered to discuss plans by IBM and Linden Lab to allow avatars to move between virtual worlds.

Dozens of residents, including Tao Takashi and Stephane Zugzwang, heard Ginsu Linden and IBM representatives explain the project at Dr Dobbs Island on Tuesday.

GROWTH

Any attempt to move between worlds would need to resolve differences between the systems by standardising avatar and inventory characteristics,

according to Ginsu. He said: "We think the key to growth to internet scale is in interoperability. In order to be involved in an internet scale phenomenon, you really have to be comfortable that you will end up with a small piece of an enormous pie, at best."



MOVING SPEECH: Ginsu Linden

IBM's Zha Ewry said: "Anyone who has friends in multiple virtual worlds wants to stop trying to map six sets of names. They want to be able to build assets once and share them across a broader set of users."

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SIERRA IS PROOF OF SL'S GOOD SIDE

Hey Regis, AFTER reading last week's Avastar, I just had to write to you concerning the story about the late Thor Bishop and his SL widow Sierra Sugar.

I read The Avastar every single week, and amongst all the stories of Landbots and VAT charges, the story about Thor and Sierra and all the support that Sierra recieved from fellow SLers after Thor's death really warmed my heart - as I am sure it did many readers. Reading Sierra's account of how she logged on the morning after she heard of Thor's passing and finding emails

and donations from well wishers - money that helped her attend his RL funeral and organise flowers - moved me to tears and gave me food for thought on what SL is really all about. Some people say that SL cannot be a positive thing - "It's not living in the real world" blah blah etc etc, but I firmly believe that Second Life compliments the first lives that we all have. It has helped people who are seriously ill or infirm be

able to have some distraction from their real lives, and I think it can also help those who have confidence issues. I do believe underlying issues should be dealt with in RL - but unfortunately it's not always possible. SL also highlights the compassion and the friendship that is an essential part of RL. It's not all about romance and cybersex. It is possible to forge life-long friendships too.

I would like to pass my deepest condolences to anyone who knew Thor Bishop - especially Sierra. To everyone else who is reading this... fancy a group hug? *By Hiraani Heartsdale*

L\$500 E-MAILS

WRITE TO:
YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

CSI HELPING OUR CAUSE

Hey Regis, I'M happy to confess that I watched the CSI:NY episode on Wednesday with great excitement.

I have recently started to celebrate my interest and even passion for SL, instead of hiding it in RL like I used to. So I threw a RL party and we all sat around with our laptops and logged into SL while the television episode aired. We saw that we weren't alone in our

excitement, as the sims were brimming with budding avatar investigators, or 'invavators' as we were calling ourselves at the party. This episode is important to the development of the reputation of SL and virtual worlds in general. Most people will be using some kind of virtual reality on a daily basis in the future, whether they realise it or not. I think this transition will be made more easily when the

reputation of us SLers improves. Speaking for the SL community, although some avatar drivers perhaps tend towards the eccentric end of the scale, we aren't all complete freaks. And bringing less geeky people in-world through things like CSI:NY is the perfect way to dispel this myth. Then we can all work together to improve both these worlds and the next. *By M.C.*

THANK YOU FOR THE AVASTAR!

Hi Regis, JUST wanted to say thank you soooo much for bringing The Avastar to Second Life.

I have read a lot of the the newspapers and magazine in SL, and yours in the only one that I keep coming back to time and time again!

Well done guys and girls... and please, please keep up the good work!!

By Hydee Georgette
• Don't forget that we pay L\$500 for every letter we publish in The AvaStar!



REGIS BRAATHENS

IS THAT YOU DAD?

AS the paper is packed full of Halloween goodies, I couldn't resist throwing in a little something I found while browsing through Flickr. My prize for the Halloween caption of the week goes to Jazss Saiman, who hilariously tagged Hitomi Mokusei's pic of a evil looking pumpkin-headed rider with - "Dad?".



I DON'T WANT TO READ ANY MORE SOB STORIES

SURELY NO ONE IS STUPID ENOUGH TO INVEST IN SL BANKS AGAIN?

Dear investor,
No doubt you are feeling rather glum right now. The news that your investments in the once prestigious SL bank, Ginko, have no hope of ever being paid back, must be devastating. What's more, it looks like the man who cheated you has run off with nearly three quarters of a million US dollars. Your hard-earned dollars. Undoubtedly, your trust in human kind has taken a blow - how could someone cheat you and rob you like that? His promises

sounded so real. The warning signs were always there. One bank scam after another has been uncovered in this paper. But you were blinded by the chance to make a quick buck. Now you realise that, just like in RL, there is no such thing as free money. Those who promise ridiculously high rates of interest are crooks and scammers. I really hope that this serves as a lesson. I for one don't wish to read any more financial sob stories in this paper.
Yours, Regis

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

EAR WE GO AGAIN

HAS the big man finally got the message? "We've got to set our priorities right. We must get SL working better and make our customers happy," said Philip Linden. But does anyone buy into his PR talk? I'd love to believe Phil is finally using his ears and listening to the residents. But I'd also love to believe Everton can win the UEFA cup this year.

THE GRIEFER-LITMUS TEST

IF a company is looking for feedback about their virtual presence, then perhaps they should look no further than griefing attacks. Whilst I spotted AvaStar Island tastefully being 'griefed' with flying crows, one of the new CSI: NY sims was attacked with something so untasteful, I can't show it here!



TASTEFUL GRIEFING: AvaStar Island



NAUGHTY GRIEFING: CSI: NY

L\$500 PICS OF THE WEEK

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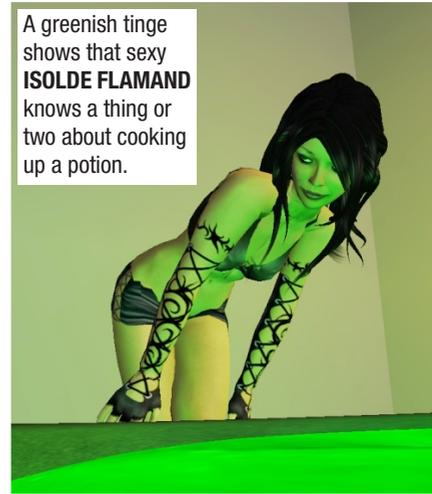


WINNER

Well done to **KENDRA LUNASEA**, who wins L\$1,000 for being the sexiest witch in SL!



Only a fool would mess with **HEAVENLY HOLLWOOD** by the look of her - but she sure is one devilishly fine witch!



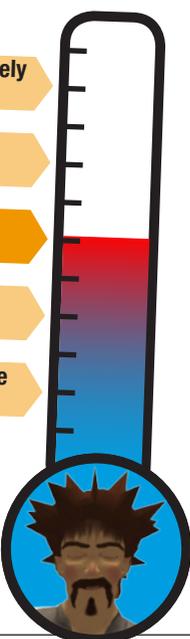
A greenish tinge shows that sexy **ISOLDE FLAMAND** knows a thing or two about cooking up a potion.



GRID CAM WINNER!

Talk about losing one's head - this unfortunate guitarist found his had been replaced with a pumpkin. **M.M.**

- Lab-solutely awful!
- Phil-ing blue!
- Lagging behind!
- IMproving
- Sim-ply the best!



META-NEWS!

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

SL-UPERBOWL!

THE National Football League is planning to launch its own virtual world. The NFL Rush Zone world will bring features together in a land featuring custom avatars and an area for each of the 32 franchises in the league.

PRIVATE WORLD

AMBIENT Performance released Private Virtual World in Europe, aimed at financial businesses. Its features include business conferencing, and the ability to host and run a world from private servers will also appeal to firms.

SL IS JUST THE BEGINNING

BY COYNE NAGY

COMPANIES looking to invest in virtual worlds should ignore the hype and look beyond SL, according to a senior figure at Omnicom.

The firm recently bought a large stake in content creator Millions of Us and Jonathan Nelson, special advisor to CEO John Wren, told the Wall Street Journal that SL wasn't everything: "People have been ignoring the fact that there are 12 other vir-



GLOBAL HQ: Millions of Us in SL

tual worlds out there that have hundreds of thousands of visitors." In the month of September, SL managed just 235,000 unique visitors compared to rivals Zwinktopia and Webkinz, which recorded 4.4 million

and 6 million respectively. Millions of Us CEO Reuben Steiger claimed companies must consider all options: "This is now a category rather than a single phenomenon... We've moved beyond just SL."

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PHIL HITS BACK

By REGIS BRAATHENS



LAB CEO HITS BACK AT SL'S CRITICS - "SL WILL BE BIGGER THAN WWW"

PHILIP ROSEDALE has slammed Linden Lab's critics - and claimed he is doing his best to improve Second Life.

The Lab supremo hit out this week at the continuing negative hype surrounding SL: "It's ridiculous to say Second Life is old news. We are just at the beginning of something which I believe will be bigger than the World Wide Web."

RUBBISH

Speaking to German magazine WirtschaftsWoche, Philip Linden also rubbished the recent report by Yankee Group consultancy firm which claimed that users only spend 12 minutes a month in-world. "I have no idea where they got those figures from. We couldn't understand it," he said.

Much of the bad press has focused on the inability of SL to retain its steady flow of new users. But the

task at hand is clear for the Lab CEO, who hopes that its new search engine will go some way to keeping hold of new customers: "I think that the problem lies in the complexity of the software for the user... a lot depends on whether you meet the right people in SL, and therefore decide to spend more time there. That's what we're testing at the moment.

"I have big expectations for the new search engine that will make things easier."

PLAGUE

Some cynics have pointed to the drop in relative growth in SL in recent months - but Philip remains unconcerned pointing to a "plague of internal problems" such as unexpected VAT charges and problems with credit cards. "It by no means implies SL is no longer interesting," he added.

SL SET FOR SECOND WAVE

A 'SECOND wave' of businesses will enter SL in the near future, according to research by Dutch electrical giant Philips.

The company asked residents and firms for their thoughts on the future of the virtual

world as part of its 'Co-Creation Experience' project. A spokesman said: "Feedback from companies and stakeholders shows an increased interest from businesses to enter these worlds for a multitude of reasons. This

can be characterised as a Second Wave of business involvement. The focus is shifting to engagement, internal business collaboration, more enhanced brand experiences, and more interest from a B2B perspective."

BIZ BITES!

LACK OF CLARITY

A CORPORATE oversight has led to the removal of the Smirnoff Venezuela island, an ice covered sim which featured giant vodka bottles and cocktail recipes. The Smirnoff head office are planning their own launch in-world and removed the build to ensure maximum publicity.

DOING BUSINESS

THE World Bank and International Finance Corporation will present their 'Doing Business 2008' report to a mixed reality event in SL on October 26, discussing economic issues with residents.

STATE CAPITAL

AN SL presence has been launched by the American state of Missouri on Infoisland3. Officials intend to recruit IT professionals to work in the state capital, Jefferson City.

RENSBURG IN SL

THE Rendsburger Centre for Energy and Technology will launch their SL presence, WOB Kielcanal, on October 30. A presentation on SL involvement will precede the RL mayor of Rendsburg declaring the sim open.

a-stars

A-STARS gossip with Isabel Brocco, Babu Writer and Kitty Otoole

SAVVY LOOKING AVATARS



WINNER: Keanu DeSantis

SMOKIN': Mick Goldblatt

CATWALK KING: Thoren Dagger

By HONEY BENDER

IT was the guys' turn to hit the catwalk at the Savvy Avvys modelling competition final on Saturday.

The boys took part in three categories - street, VIP and Halloween. **Keanu DeSantis** eventually nailed the competition with his sexy walk and appearance, winning L\$15,000 and a modelling contract with Savvy Avvy menswear in the process.

WEIRD rocker Marilyn Manson was spotted at Dark Secrets last Saturday, drawing a big crowd for his concert. But while Manson, actually avatar Tarrie March, was performing, the gig was grieved - by zombies!

By ISABEL BROCCO

STRANGE: Marilyn Manson

MANSON MADNESS



Medieval style

By ISABEL BROCCO

THE medieval-themed **Lovers Escape Island** opened on Saturday with a special catwalk show. There were outfits on display from stores including Rebel Hope and DE Designs, meaning the sim was bursting at the seams.



MEDIEVAL: Delaney Renoir, above, and Callie Cline in the crowd, left

YE OLDE STYLE: Anastase Rosewood

CHARM: A lovely maiden

CHECKMATES

By KITTY OTOOLE

STARS of the RL chess scene hit SL last week for a tournament at a recreation of a picturesque Loire Valley castle. The tournament, simulcast by sponsors BNP Paribas, featured players like **Alexandra Kosteniuk** and **Almira Skripchenko**.

CHESS NUTS: Debian User, Eymereich Lane and Roselinda Mayo



TASTY: Daiseze Dahlstrom

GREAT TUNES: DJ Deevee Voom

EFA's hot party

By ISABEL BROCCO

STYLE fans rocked out at the invite-only EFA Fashion Week after party at the Ischia sim. Stars of the show including **Ansor Hoorenbeek** and **Cadence Juran** partied hard to tunes from DJs **Anton Mills** and **Deevee Voom**.



By BABU WRITER

GLAMOROUS gowns named after desserts they resembled were on display at the Red Carpet Runway show on Sunday.

Chocolate Mousse and Ice Cream Strawberry were among the creations making an appearance on the catwalk at the Rutha sim which made the event, organised by **Grace Winnfield**, look more like a night at the Oscars than a typical SL fashion event.



Purple Rose
JEWELRY & FASHION

Miss October
Bonny Bunyip



Purple Rose
Model of the Month Competition
For Info Contact: Aliyeh Yifu
or Visit Purple Rose Jewelry

HUBBLE BUBBLE TOIL AND TROUBLE

BY BIANCA FOULON

WITCHES don't all wear black, ride brooms and have a cat. Two AvaStar models show how it can be done with a bit of colour, a lot of attitude and some magic... but which witch is the wickedest?



ABYGALE CARTER IS WEARING:

Eyes: Calamity Gore. Flawed Perfect @ *Winged Isle* (101, 149, 48), L\$140, **Hair:** Emmy Black Orchid, Diversity Hair, *Dacham* (62, 122, 48), L\$175, **New Release:** Teschio Tshirt, Bianca F., *Envy* (79, 42, 22), Free for one week only
Victorian skirt, Calico Creations, *Calico Kitty* (129, 120, 38)
Free, **Gloves:** From outfit *Dokuro Ou*, :: BareRose :: HQ, *Bare Rose* (146, 12, 30), L\$150 (outfit)

DILETTA CLAYMORE IS WEARING:

Eyes: Vibrant Purple, Flawed Perfect @ *Winged Isle* (101, 149, 48), L\$140, **Hair:** Emmy - Moonlit Night, Diversity hair, *Dacham* (62, 122, 48) L\$175, **L outfit** PDL-October Dream Set. Sangi Phateton, *Desires Island* (171, 18, 24), L\$175. **Shoes:** Halloween Pumpkin Shoe, *Yeolmae* (220, 149, 91), L\$320, **Wand of Green Glow**, Blair Carson, *Lupulinus* (186, 81, 291), Free



biancaF
designstyleart



NEW main store ENVY (79, 42, 22)

callie cline's
STYLE HOTLINE



IS IT WITCHING HOUR YET?

WHO CARES IF IT ISN'T HALLOWEEN YET - LET'S GET DRESSED UP!

I JUST couldn't resist writing more on Halloween fashion - after all, the choices are endless in SL, from extravagant costumes to funny camp outfits.

Bianca Darling and I had a bit of fun with our 'mash-ups' in these photos. I went for a spider witch number and I think she's a scary devil doll... with angel's wings!

All I know is that we laughed our heads off as we got dressed for these photos. Neither of us wore a costume 'out of the box' but rather mixed different pieces. I have on parts

of my 'witchy baby' and nocturnal threads 'kiss me deadly' and some spider jewels I love, along with some Gurl Six hair. Bianca has on a nice red latex body suit, some old horns and some pretty wings. She also tinted her new 'armidi' hair

red, and there you go! Two very scary girls ready to say "booooo!" to anyone!

SCARY

We had so much fun we wore these things again - it's SL, so why wait for October 31 to be a spook or an angel? Go crazy for the next two weeks, unless

of course you are always a scary person in SL. In that case, go buy a normal outfit, you might scare your friends that way!



BLOODTHIRSTY: Callie and Bianca

WHAT'S HOT!
CLASSIC ANSOR

BY ISABEL BROCCO AND CARRIE SODWIND
BROWN suede boots, tight white t-shirt, aviator glasses and denim - it doesn't come more classic than that.

Trendy Ansor Hoorenbeek, the man behind the [hoorenbeek] vintage menswear line, likes to keep his image simple. The designer was expected to make a statement and strut with a touch of star quality at the EFA fashion show last week as his company was the show sponsor. However, never far from the catwalk, he kept himself quietly understated.



UNDERSTATED: Ansor Hoorenbeek

HIT OR MISS Successes and flops from this week's new fashion releases.
By CARRIE SODWIND



HIT: Shoes

HIT: THESE shoes are far from just another pair of plain old platforms. Venom Quine's shoes, her first release since re-opening, are beautifully proportioned, not too bulky, and go with anything. L\$175 at -V- (Wall 52, 245, 84).

MISS: Talented skin designers will be abusing their abilities to take them to frightening and even distasteful lengths this Halloween. This realistic freebie Halloween skin by Minnu Model Skins, (Glam World 95, 132, 23), looks like a beaten-up wife.



MISS: Skin

HIT: For that special Halloween outfit, head over to Quixotic Trance (Urbane 125, 152, 21). Disguised as a simple pumpkin lantern, this particle shooter (L\$300) is a fun trick. The comedy bullets include spiders and mini-mummies.



HIT: Halloween

SPOOKY SEASON!



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

Cauldron of Witches Stew

By Casandra Jackson
Voti (237, 61, 23)



L\$250

Pumpkin Pie

By Karamel Madison
Kitchen Korner (207, 50, 42)



L\$100

Friendly Pumpkinhead Scarecrow

With raven and sound mix
By Julia Hatho
Shadow Brook (40, 78, 42)



L\$350

Star Bright witch outfit

By AliciaKay Kilara
West of Ireland (128, 128, 0)

L\$375



SCARY: Tina (PetGirl) Bergman shows off her Halloween outfit

L\$250

Pumpkin Earrings

By Addison White
Tu Amor (204, 177, 24)



L\$40

L\$50

Ifox Black Evil Jack 'O Lantern

Wear it on your head!
By Lauren Fox
Ranunculus (223, 12, 38)

Filigreemotion Witches Boots

By Alexa Soyer
The Enterprise (70, 155, 22)

L\$300

Ghoulish Gourmet Complete Dining Table

By Eliot Eckersley
Sterling Heights (57, 119, 21)



Tombstone 2 with Ghost Emitter

By Meekal Kilara
Doolin Point (170, 200, 26)

L\$65



INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

JACKAL ENNUI OF LASSITUDE & ENNUI BY ISOLDE FLAMANDE



I'M THRILLED WITH...

"...this outfit, which is built around a jacket by Nephilaine Protagonist of PixelDolls. It's called Comfort and I love the deep cut in front. It's very, very daring but can be toned down with this shirt by Tete a Pied which has such great detailing and a type of collar that I like to wear in RL."

I LOVE ...

"...my hairstyle called AOI in black, by Noam Sproket at Gritty Kitty. It's a modern Japanese hair cut, with long side bangs. I like the androgynous flair, it gives a unique spin to whatever outfit I wear it with. It's such an adaptable style and goes well with suits or more Gothic outfits. Black is my default hair colour."

I ALWAYS WEAR ...

"... my dark eyes by Toast Bard of Fashionably Dead. I like the hand-drawn style, they're so big and expressive. I wear darker eye colours because they are a strong contrast with the light skin by Tete a Pied, by CJ Carnot and Roslin Petion, in cream, make-up Pin Up 1. It's a very classical make-up style, with bold red lips dark dark eyes. It makes me feel elegant, feminine, yet powerful... and a bit sultry!"



MUSIC MAGIC DELIGHTS AVASTARS

BERLIN-BASED AVATAR WINS INNOVATIVE SCULPTURE AND ARCHITECTURE AWARD

BY CARRIE SODWIND

AVASTAR readers were treated to a fabulous orchestral performance as part of an award ceremony to reward the work of four RL artists in SL.

The Avatar Orchestra Metaverse was on hand to provide the entertainment with experimental electronic music for those gathered for the ceremony to celebrate the SL Award, the 1st Annual Architecture and Design Competition.

UNPREDICTABLE

The winners, who beat off competition from 122 other entries, included sculptor Dancoyote Antonelli, whose 'Full Immersion Hyperformalism' was an elaborate transparent structure with wacky and unpredictable scripting.

Creatina Ferraris' transportable private sphere 'Living Cloud' was named the winning project after scooping 49 per cent of the vote in a poll.

The winning entries were presented at a respected RL exposition at the International Ars Electronica Festiva, held in the Austrian city of Linz in September followed by a prize giving ceremony at the Zollverein Essen on Thursday, with live streaming from the Orchestra.



IN TUNE: Wirxi Filimlam (pink hair) and the Avatar Orchestra Metaverse

MY TRAVEL TIPS

BY TRICK MERTEL

ORPHEUS Kurosawa is a machinima film-maker and artist who wants to create things people will remember.

THE AVASTAR: Which sims have you explored recently?

ORPHEUS KUROSAWA: I was

at the Dresden Gallery sim not long ago. It's incredible. If you are interested in culture and arts go there, but don't forget to take a lunch bag with you because you might stay for a while.

TA: Where do you hang out and relax?

OK: I like to visit Shivar island. On

my first day in SL I ran into the queen of Shivar and she made me a resident of this wonderful place. The sim is centred around the Mont St. Michele, and it's both beautiful and inspiring.

TA: Where do you party?

OK: My favourite club is Sub Zero. It's set inside a U-55 submarine and they have great live DJs and hosts - this place rocks!

TA: What are your top tips for exploring SL?

OK: Wherever you are, live in the moment. It's an ever changing world, and, like in RL, you can not take anything from it but your experiences.



FIT FOR A QUEEN: Shivar Island



DEEP WATER: Sub Zero

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NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: A TV CRIME DRAMA, AN F1 MUST, A REVHEAD'S DREAM AND HALLOWEEN CLICHES



WHODUNNIT: CSI: NY

BY TRICK MERTEL

AFTER a great deal of anticipation and media hype, the CSI:NY sims are finally open - all 416 of them.

The launch coincided with the screening of an episode of the American TV drama in which RL viewers were encouraged to enter SL through the new OnRez viewer to help solve a crime. The sims will be updated every six weeks until February, when the CSI team will



PICASSO LANDING

hopefully be able to catch the baddie using clues found in-world.

Formula One fans are in for a treat at the new Deutsche Post sim Picasso Landing in the German archipelago.

PLAYGROUND

Visitors can rez a buggy and practice for the Deutsche Post Grand Prix on November 29, when German F1 star Timo Glock will be in-world for a race. The winner receives a ticket to the RL German Grand Prix at



RCM ISLAND

Hockenheim, Germany in July 2008.

Another playground for rev-heads is the new RCM Island. It is a haven for lovers

of fine cars and women, and houses the new headquarters of the Red Carpet Modelling agency as well as a beach, an airborne conference facility and a nightclub.

HAUNTED

At the end of October, the sight of a pumpkin is not uncommon on any sim, but Tahiti takes it



TAHITI

to the new level. Incorporating almost all the Halloween clichés there are, the island is filled with a haunted house, spider webs, ghosts and skeletons. The Haunted Caverns mine cart ride is good fun.



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

DEAR

SHOULD I SHARE NEW BEAU WITH HIS WIFE?



HE'S WONDERFUL - BUT SAYS HE AND HIS WIFE HAVE AN 'OPEN RELATIONSHIP'

Dear Randi: RECENTLY I met a delightful man at a dance club. He was handsome, articulate, funny, sweet and just about everything a girl could possibly want in a date. But when I checked his profile, there was a partner listed along with a picture of a kiss at a wedding. When I asked him about it, he said his wife was actually online

at the time and approved of him going to a dance club. He said they have an 'open' relationship, which allows him to fool around with whatever woman he likes. Should I see him again? — R.S.

Randi says: That's completely up to you, but if you do, don't expect to be able to see him whenever you like. I've

never quite grasped who benefits from a so-called 'open' relationship except for a guy who's playing both his wife and the women he keeps on the side. He's obviously not into real commitment, but the little commitment he does have is to her and not to you. At least in SL there aren't social diseases to pass around!

BEING STALKED BY MY HUBBY'S MAD EX-WIFE

Dear Randi: I HAVE been married for about a month to the type of man I have been looking for all my life. Not only is he the perfect gentleman in public, but he is a wonderful lover when we get behind closed doors. My problem is his ex-wife, whom he said he divorced over a year ago. She IMs him a lot, and is constantly showing up when we have an evening out. He says he doesn't love her "that way" any more, but is his oldest and best SL friend. Should I be worried she'll try to take him back? — W.K.

Randi says: Maybe she never really let him go in the first place. If a guy has a best friend, that person should either be another guy or his current wife. It sounds as if she still has a big piece of his heart. If you're willing to live with only part of a husband, let the status quo continue. But if you want him all to yourself, the two of you need to have a long talk.

MY AGONY OVER HIS RL DATING AGENCY SIGN-UP

Dear Randi: MY SL husband joined a RL dating agency and has begun to date someone. I feel really hurt, since I have the feeling that he is cheating on me. I'm pleased he has told me about her, since it would be very easy for him to live a double life without either of us knowing. But I'm worried that if things go well with her, he will spend less and less time in-world. We get on well and share everything, but he is scared to meet in RL. Since I know where he lives in RL, should I turn up on his doorstep and surprise him? — R.G.

Randi says: Your situation is a mirror image of thousands of others, in which RL married people are 'cheating' in SL. You should NOT turn up on his doorstep. That would frighten him, and he would probably end the relationship. A phone call would be appropriate. If you can't abide his other relationship, then give him an ultimatum by phone. But be prepared for a bad answer.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

ONE-NIGHT STAND A BIG MISTAKE

Dear Randi: LAST weekend I was feeling lonely, went to a bar and had no trouble picking up the best-looking girl there. We went back to her place, where we had plenty of fun experimenting with all manner of sex balls. I wanted it to be a one-night stand, but apparently she didn't get it. Now

she's IMing me every time I sign on, and I hate to say it but she's just flat boring. I don't want a relationship and it appears that she does. How can I let her down easy? — C.H.

Randi says: You probably can't! In most cases, women are quicker than men to form an attachment because of one

night in bed, and it sounds as if that's what happened here. If you care about a woman's feelings, you can't just jump her bones and run. You may have to try the "it's not you, it's me" speech, but she probably isn't going to buy it. Ignore her, and then mute her if you must. And be more careful in the future.

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK A MARRIAGE STRIPPED OF HONESTY, WEEK FOUR:

Soon-to-be-wed Micky and Gina came face to face at a stripclub...

"What are you doing here? Get down off that stage RIGHT NOW!"

"What am I doing here? What are YOU doing here? Aren't I enough for you?"

"Is he just another dirty-minded old man?"

"How can I ever trust her again?"

RANDI SAYS: "Both of you must sort out what matters to you the most. You are both in the wrong here. Gina should stop dancing, but only if Mickey stops going to strip clubs."



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Freebies SL's best FREE stuff!

BY PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

THIS WEEK: A FREEBIE HALLOWEEN

HALLOWEEN is nearly here, with pumpkins, ghosts and monsters everywhere you look.

Fortunately, it is easy to decorate your SL pad for free - and with quality stuff, too. First, grab a bunch of Halloween flags by Alicia Stella (ASD Studios 130, 153, 28), a single object with 12 different textures inside.

You will definitely need a pumpkin, and you may like the sculpted example by Kyzaadrao Skall which can be found at Avalon (Emery 92, 134, 78).

A proper dress is also a must - try the amazing free Halloween witch outfit by Manya McMahon and other avatars



GHOU-ASH:
Witches' Brew

(Blackmount 6, 113, 707). It is a fat pack, including clothes, a nice flexi cap with sculpted collar and boots, as well as a sculpted witch hat, a red hairdo and two amazing ravens - one for your shoulder and one for your arm. You can feed them with herbs hidden in the sculpted bags hanging to your belt.

There are bat wings to be put into a cauldron - you'll find a nice one by Carl Omlet at Paperdoll's Freebies (Oyster 54, 129, 87), with unidentified bubbling green goo, stirring stick, fog and wind effects and evil laugh sounds.



SCARY:
A freebie witch outfit

DO + DOS AND DON'TS OF HALLOWEEN - DON'T

By CARRIE SODWIND

- + Make your way to the darker corners of SL like the City of Lost Angels.
- + Look out for freebies - designers are giving away cauldrons, lanterns and other treats.
- + Keep your camera at the ready, you never know what horror delights are in store.
- + Force the sun to midnight to give your Halloween an atmospheric moonlit tint wherever you are.
- = Go door-to-door trick-or-treating, unless you live in the neighbourhood.
- = Forget to use the edit appearance tools to give your witch a big nose or your skin a pale vampire tint.
- = Miss the wonderful horror machinima on offer, including 'Halloween in SL' by Robertz Sparrow.
- = Wear classic costumes that mirror RL - make the most of SL design effects.

My First Day in Second Life

SCULPTER SASUN STEINBECK:

By Trick Mertel

THE AVASTAR: How was your first day?

SASUN STEINBECK:

I remember trying to figure out how in the world Seifert Surface made those amazing sculptures of his out of twisty prims, that just blew my mind.

TA: What did you attempt as a newbie?

SS: I tried to start building straight away, but I got pretty frustrated. Later I focused on just one thing - scripting. To this day I can't do anything but script and I'm very glad I made that choice.

TA: What was your funniest moment?

SS: Dropping into a formal art gallery opening of someone I was desperately trying to impress, wearing a dancing cow attachment, bouncing like an idiot in the middle of the room after teleporting in too quickly. I forgot



DANCING COW:
Sasun Steinbeck

how to get that darn cow off! I made quite the impression.

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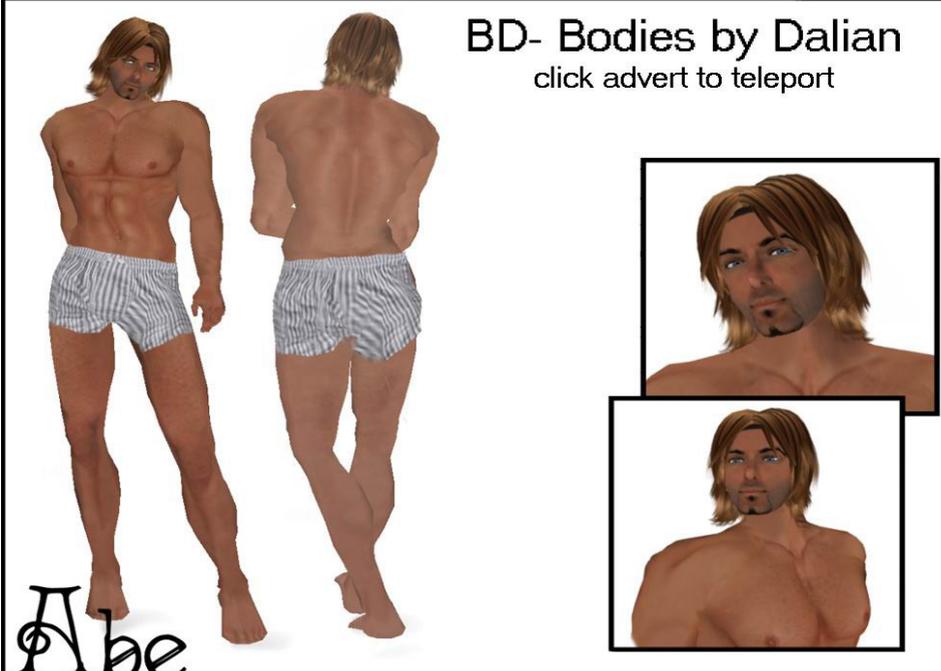


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Abe

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ARTWORK:
Ermanno Spitteler

"MISSING"



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BETTER THAN
RELAXING IN A
HEALTH SPA!

UNFORTUNATELY
IT'S TIME TO GO
BACK TO RL...

INVENTORY

OOPS!
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INVENTORY...

HEY!
THIS IS A PG SIM!
GET DRESSED NOW
OR YOU'LL BE
BANNED!

THEN
GET
LOST!

PUNN

PLEASE,
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INVENTORY, SO I HAVE
NO CLOTHES!
HELP!!!

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THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: WINTER SPORT

SKATING ON THIN ICE
HYER SPORTS

A winter wonderland

By TRICKMERTEL



IDYLLIC:
Romance Ice Skating Rink

FROM SKIING TO SKATING, ENJOY THE COLD WEATHER IN STYLE

HIT the virtual slopes this season for some great winter sports action.

Head to **Snowy Mountain Park**, at Nakiska (200, 52, 126), for the finest skiing and snowboarding facilities SL has to offer. There is a slalom course to negotiate against your friends or the clock, and a steam room to soothe those aches and pains.

For anyone who needs a little adrenaline with their sport, the **Epic Conditions** ski run at Weather (113, 5, 26) is close to vertical and not for noobie skiers, while the **Ski Scotland** downhill run at Eilean Donan (14, 247, 101) offers a giant human snowball ride.

For a more gentle winter sports experience, skate on thick ice at the **Dark Kitty Ice Skating Pond** (Dark Kitty 147, 30, 102). Skates and dog-driven sleighs are

available for free, and the endless supply of fresh snow makes for a decent snowball fight.

For the perfect winter date location, the **Romance Ice Skating Rink** at Yalu (17, 86, 155) delivers. Choose from a range of gear, and enjoy your date. A fishing hole has been cut into the surface for those that prefer to sit down for their sport, and there are some nice cold beers to drink and ten types of fish to net.

There are also fishing holes at **Hanson** (110, 35, 97), where for L\$2 you can try your casting arm against the fish. Anything caught can be redeemed for cash and prizes. Shake off the icicles on the **Romantic Ice Palace** dance floor at Everfrost (87, 84, 24) where some of the best ballroom dancers in SL have been frequenting, with two floors of dancing action.



Watch an ice hockey game at the most scenic rink in SL, precariously perched on a riverside cliff.

Where: Kitzbuhel (193, 31, 93)

BLACK RUN
WENGEN



Enjoy the popular ski run, the longest SL has to offer - and nothing apart from skis can be rezzed!

Where: Wengen (15, 227, 85)

A COSY RETREAT
TAHOA MOUNTAIN TIGER



A beautiful setting featuring a skating rink and ski slopes for all to enjoy.

Where: Tahoe Mountain Tiger (18, 141, 24)

10.26. - 11.2.

DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in SL Time



LIVE MUSIC

MONSTER METAL MADNESS

Rock away in fancy dress and enjoy three of SL's most popular metal artists as they take to the stage for a Halloween special at The Merry Prankster.

When: Oct. 28, 19:00-22:00

Where: Basilisk (145, 169, 86)



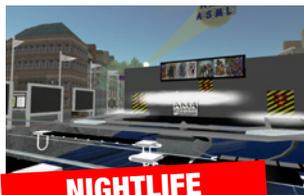
DISCUSSION

THE SEX TRADE

The Diversionarium hosts a controversial panel discussion about the booming sex industry in SL at Sophrosyne Stenvaag's Saturday Salon.

When: Oct. 27, 13:00-15:30

Where: Pandoria (31, 103, 23)



NIGHTLIFE

HEROES ASSEMBLE

The Atlantis Modelling Agency holds a costume party with the best heroes and villains in SL.

When: Oct. 28, 12:00

Where: Dublin 3 (210, 147, 25)



LIVE MUSIC

SWISS ARENA

Come to the Swiss Arena to enjoy some big names in SL music at the live weekly concerts.

When: Nov. 3, 12:00-14:00

Where: Helvetia (73, 162, 22)



FESTIVAL

VIRTUAL VIBE 2007

The jazz festival includes live performances and discussions.

When: Oct. 26, 06:00-14:00

Where: Ilha de Intercambio (165, 51, 31)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Hosted by The Public Libraries in SL group, activities include a trick or treat scavenger hunt and spooky storytelling. A Masquerade Ball will finish the day.

When: Oct. 27, 12:00-15:00

Where: Clearwater Beach (198, 52, 0)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



NIGHTLIFE

PINK CHARITY BALL

Join in all the fun at this event in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which includes a competition for the prettiest partygoer in pink.

When: Oct. 28, 14:00-16:00

Where: ASpiRE! Isle (113, 98, 26)



OPENING

360 DEGREES

Tamsin Congrejo's art gallery opens to the public with a party including music by DJ Dean Ashby. A donation to Rely for Life will be made from the proceeds.

When: Oct. 30, 12:00

Where: Brando Island (139, 228, 22)



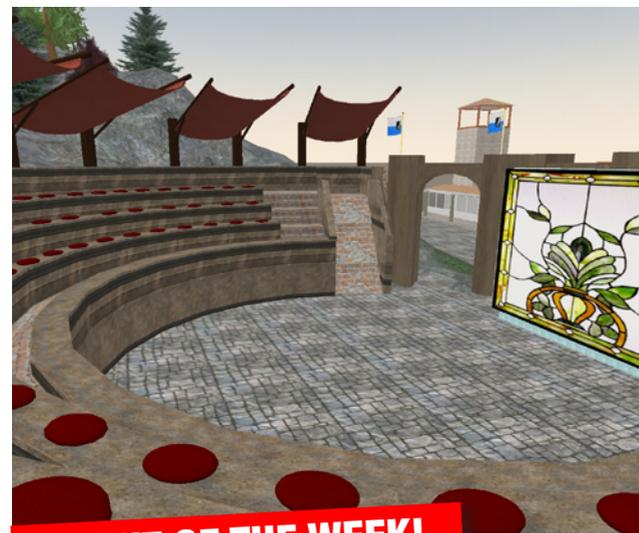
ART & CULTURE

WARRIOR PRINCESS

Gianna Oh reads the first chapter of her new book 'Warrior Princess' at Halliwell, including tales of dragons, goblins and trolls.

When: Oct. 27, 17:00

Where: Halliwell (156, 89, 64)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

GREEK PARTY

Enjoy the traditional festivities at the opening of the AK Creations store, including authentic Greek instruments, music and dancing in an amphitheatre.

When: Oct. 28, 14:00-16:00

Where: Colonia Nova (193, 241, 0)



OPENING

MAPLE GROVE

The virtual city is launched by Canada Post with a bang, with a party including Grace McDunnough, JueL Resistance and Louis Volare.

When: Oct. 27, 14:30-21:00

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

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.

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SL TIME	LIVE MUSIC

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 AVILION

THE AVA STAR OF THE WEEK



KATHLEENK SPITTELER

**KATHLEENK SPITTELER IS AN ARTIST
AND MODEL FOR SL ILLUSTRATED.**

BY TRICK MERTEL, PIC BY PAOLO BADE

INTERVIEW

The AvaStar: What is your best feature?

KathleenK Spitteler:

Probably my hair. I know men love long hair, so I would never change. It was given to me by my great friend Enoch. It looks so life-like and flows so naturally. That's why I have long hair in RL too.

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

KS: Talking and dancing. I love to meet people from all over the world. It's almost like travelling, and I can do it in my pyjamas.

TA: What would you change in SL?

KS: I would love an inventory clean up service. I'm having far too much fun to clean up my inventory.

TA: What's your funniest sex story?

KS: A friend arrived at my house with an appendage hanging out of his pants. I asked him what he had been doing and he told me he had been 'talking' to the most interesting person. I just stood there and laughed.

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

KS: My friend Pierce Raymaker. I know I can always trust him. He would make sure everything ran smoothly, but with an even hand.

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: KathleenK Spitteler

PROFESSION: Artist and model

BIRTH DATE: 4/5/2007

ATTITUDE: Tell me your story but tell me no lies