

THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

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Friend's fears over SL-linked eating disorder

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Singing sensation Richard Hawley live in-world



Startling revelations from Zee Linden Q&A:
CREDIT CARDS FORCED LAB'S GAMBLING BAN
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Boardroom babes!
 The latest executive looks
 SEE PAGE 17

1 IN 3 AVS IS A ZOMBIE BOT



- Traffic ratings faked
- Even Lab uses bots

By TRICK MERTEL

A THIRD of all avatars in SL are actually zombie bots, a prominent in-world scripter has claimed.

FULL STORY: SEE PAGE 4

INSIDE OPINION

"Do not mistake paedophilia and Child Play please, already several people have assaulted me, telling me that I am perverse even though I haven't done anything wrong."

YOUR MAIL
p.11

"I once had an argument over whether people spend too much time in SL. In my opinion, spending two or three hours in SL after work is better for the soul, and the eyes, than two or three hours in front of the idiot box."



LEIDER STEPANOV
p.12

THE AVASTAR

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NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

- 17** ... locations will host coverage on Saturday of an in-world interview with the makers of new Hollywood fantasy film Beowulf.
- 250** ... laps will be completed by the winner of tonight's final race of the 2007 SLASCAR season in the Late Model category.
- 800** ... residents have signed up for the Working Worlds recruitment fair hosted by Gax Technologies on November 28.

THE DAY THE GUNS FELL SILENT



A LONE resident surveys the Cenotaph war memorial, rebuilt in-world by Rivers Run Red for the Royal British Legion, as SL prepares for Remembrance Day.

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PERFECT AVATARS BAD FOR RL HEALTH



By CARRIE SODWIND

RL EATING DISORDERS COULD BE CAUSED BY AVS

TANNED: Many seek perfect bodies

AN obsession with the perfect avatar body could lead to eating disorders in RL, according to the worried friend of one affected resident.

White Bloch signed up for SL last month over her concerns that a RL friend who spends lots of time in-world was in danger of serious health problems. She says that creating

ventionally beautiful avatar is leading many residents to become insecure about their RL bodies.

PSYCHOLOGICAL
Her friend, who she wants to remain unnamed, is spending more and more time in front of her computer screen, and Bloch feels she has been psychologically affected by her time in an imagined body: "She

body and lots of beautiful clothes in SL. Her SL friends see her as this person, but it is not real. I want the real her back.

DESIRED

"I am worried that she is spending so much time in her SL body that she will start to feel insecure about her RL body, which may lead to things like eating disorders."

SophiaJane Alcott is a RL mental health therapist with clients in SL who have spent so much time in their avatar bodies

they no longer identify with their real selves. In December she will be opening AngelGate, a SL therapy centre in Pinta. Alcott argues that once you have experienced being desired in SL it is hard to go back to your RL body: "I had one client who was anorexic. She was trying SL sex with a very bony body - she was highly excited by it and it had a tremendously powerful effect on her.

"The border between two identities can be intensely confusing."



THERAPY: SophiaJane Alcott

NEWS BITES!

BOT EXPERIMENT

A BOT which pretends to be a normal avatar is being used to test how residents react to having their personal space invaded in-world. The experiment by University College London compares how people act in a virtual world with RL behaviour.

TEEN BRIT BOOST

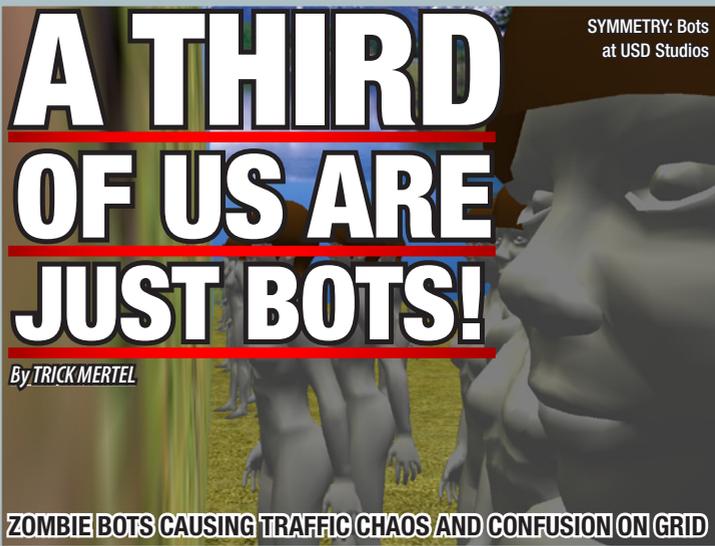
THE under-fire teen grid has been boosted by the arrival of the British Council. Famous locations like Stonehenge are recreated on British Council Isle while the project aims to encourage those learning English to practise with other teenagers.

BOWLING FOR SL

A CONCERT by music students heralded the official opening of Bowling Green State University's SL presence on November 8, although the Ohio college has been in-world since April.

SPARKLING SIM

CHAMPAGNE producer Vranken Pommery Monopole is the latest high quality brand to arrive in-world. The company will promote its Diamant range at the Vranken Diamant sim.



A THIRD of all avatars in SL are actually zombie bots, a prominent in-world scripter has claimed.

The scripter, who wants to remain anonymous, said the army of bots is causing traffic chaos and confusion on the grid. It is a practice which he says goes all the way to the top: "People use bots to improve their traffic. You can have as many as you want on your land. At least 30 per cent of the entire SL population is made up of bots. Linden Lab uses bots as well for different research." One bot hotspot is located in a skybox high above the ASD Studios sim. The bots

are easily distinguishable from real avatars by their identical and unrezzed appearance, and their closely linked names.

MISLEADING

This week, avatars there included Frogly Frog, Fish Frog, Flip Frog and Flap Frog, all under one week old. Their presence has gained the sim a popularity mark on the map and a misleading traffic amount of 108,522. ASD owner Alicia Stella denied using bots herself,

and said: "I have been paying people to park their butts on my land, privately."

The bots are freely available for purchase at shops like Thoys' Bot Shop for as little as L\$2,000. A description of the bot says: "You will be able to command your other avatars without having them on the SecondLife Client." Queenie Ella, who first came into SL in August, said: "I'm not impressed with these bots. They are spam, they cause lag, and they are misleading."



STORYTELLER

GENTLE WORK HIGHLIGHTS NEW APPROACH FROM CONTROVERSIAL ARTIST CLAVEAU

CONTROVERSIAL artist Arhan Claveau, famous for his explicit political work in SL, has sent out more shock waves with his latest piece.

But the surprise this time around is the drastic change in his style, with a gentle and even childish series of pictures entitled 'Short Story'.

His new work has already attracted interest from a RL publisher. Claveau described it as a tale of a boy down on his luck who decides to leave the "place

cised over his last work, 'Super Fun Happy Club'. The installation, which included the image of a man urinating on a book called The Meaning of the Holy Q'uran, was closed after the controversy.

PERSONAL
Claveau has dedicated the work, which can be viewed for free at crabcult.com/small_story_pt1.swf, to his friend Minx Naumova who died last December.

he is stuck in". He said: "Small Story' has turned out to be just as personal for me as all my other work. It is not intended as a statement about anything at all but I hope it shows that I am a varied artist."



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GOOD MORNING MR PRESIDENT!

By CARRIE SODWIND



PRESIDENTIAL HISTORY:
The White House replica in SL

BIG PHIL FOR PREZ?
Master Quatro

DOES SL NEED A DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED LEADER?

AN elected president is the best way to combat the perceived anarchy on the grid, according to new research by The AvaStar.

The majority of residents questioned said that a representative government led by a figurehead is their preferred choice to tackle SL's biggest problems. But the question of who should be put into power revealed conflicting views and desires.

FREEDOM

The poll was undertaken as a new 'political party' for SL called Freedom Improvement or FIRE, launched themselves on the grid. It is the latest in a string of

attempts to give ordinary residents a greater say in the running of SL, including the Socialist Party and the Republican Party.

EXPANSION

Patrokus Murakami works for the Confederation of Democratic Simulators (CDS), one of the longest-running and most successful local democratic governments in SL. He said he would like to see more democracy in-world: "We never have any problems getting new citizens and our expansion to a second sim filled up very quickly." But should there be a president in charge of the entire SL world, and who should it be? Master Quatro works for Anshe Chung's ACS

Dreamland business, one of the largest on the grid. He said: "Philip Rosedale is the President/CEO of Linden Lab and by default the ruler of SL. LL needs to work with a small group that can represent the citizens of SL. We have no one now, and we are large enough to need a voice... a place at the table."

UNNECESSARY

Some notable voices are against any kind of democratic government. Content creator Aimee Weber said: "I believe that an SL president would, at best, be an exercise in role play, at worst an unnecessary layer between the free market relationship of LL and their customers."

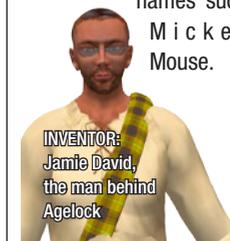
AGELOCK SUCCESS

By CARRIE SODWIND

MORE than 450 landowners and content creators have installed the Agelock system in the week since it was launched.

The free system is an alternative to Linden Lab's highly controversial age verification system, IDV, and consists of a pop-up age quiz to restrict minors from accessing mature content. Once installed on a sim, residents are requested to put in their RL date of birth and declare that they are of legal age to view adult content. If not, they are swiftly ejected from the region.

Agelock was created after heavy criticism of IDV, with some residents concerned about giving up confidential RL information such as passport numbers, on top of having to pay a L\$10 fee to data service providers Aristotle. The AvaStar revealed last week how some of the test users of IDV claim to have circumvented its checks, registering fake names such as Mickey Mouse.



INVENTOR:
Jamie David,
the man behind
Agelock

'THE WALL' IN SL HONOURS WAR DEAD

REPLICA OF AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL OPENED ON RL VERSION'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

By LEIDER STEPANOV

THOUSANDS of soldiers who died fighting for their country were honoured in SL this week with the opening of the Vietnam Veteran's War Memorial replica.

The sim contains the Three Servicemen Statue, the Vietnam Veterans Women's Statue and The Wall, which is inscribed with 58,223 names of those killed or missing in action during the conflict in the 1960s and 70s.

SPECIAL

It was launched on November 7 to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the original Wall in Washington, DC. Evian Argus is president of

Meme Science, the company charged by the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund with creating the project. He said: "We knew from the start it was a very special project, and we feel grateful it came out as we had hoped it would." Bleys Chevalier built the sim, which is simply called The Wall, while Meleni Fairymeadow was responsible for the sculptures.



POIGNANT: Evian Argus in front of The Wall

ADVERT

House of Nyla

IS IT CHRISTMAS TIME YET?

By MORRHYS GRAYSMARK



WINTER WONDERLAND: Candy Cane Lane

BUSINESSES ACROSS THE GRID ARE ALREADY GEARING UP FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

THE leaves are still falling from the trees in RL, but the spirit of Christmas is already in abundance in SL.

With 'only' 45 SL shopping days till Christmas, festive sims are springing up across the grid. Some have even been open all year, albeit with limited numbers of visitors.

But while many complain that the Christmas hype starts earlier every year, it seems SL can't get enough of Santa Claus. So who are these residents who are already donning their Santa hats and mistletoe?

First stop is the Candy Cane Lane shopping centre at West Bemham, which was hosting customers while they were still in their Halloween costumes. "Things are getting busy," said Davey Hyun, co-owner

and builder of the centre. It is a snowy place, fully kitted out with vendor stalls, a skating rink and free sleigh rides. Hyun and his partner, Jill MacKenzie, threw a Dickens Christmas grand opening party on Monday to celebrate their fourth season in a business they obviously love.

DECORATIONS

Mecke McMahon, meanwhile, is also passionate about his Christmas venture, the Xmas Market at Kitten, which opened three weeks ago. He said: "Just a few builders offer nice stuff for such an important day in RL and SL."

As in RL, SL businesses are eager to attract consumers during the

Christmas buying season. Caliantris Pendragon, who creates custom decorations for shop owners, said she started getting inquiries for work in mid-October: "The custom-made decorations need to be started early to be ready for Christmas."

HOLIDAY

Many buyers are looking for a bargain before next month's rush. Holiday shopper Suzzi Pinklady said: "This is the best time to shop while the resellers are setting up."



SNOW QUEEN: A tempting angel heralds the start of SL's Christmas celebrations

TELLING TALL TALES

ON THE JURY:
Bettina Loire, avatar
of German TV star
Bettina Cramer

AN all-star jury will decide next week who will take home half a million Linden dollars in Weltbild.de's SL film script contest.

Bettina Cramer, a top German TV host, will be casting her vote alongside director Rainer Matsutani, Sabine Hirtes from the renowned Baden Württemberg film academy, Tilmann Auer from Weltbild.de and The AvaStar editor

Regis Braathens. Stefan Mues, head of New Media at Weltbild, said he was delighted with the large amount of entries they had received.

The competition winner will not only take home a whopping L\$500,000 but will also see their script turned into a short film in SL. The open casting for the film will take place in November. Budding actors should watch this space!



By BABA COEN

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NO MICKEY MOUSE SYSTEM

Hey Regis,
LAST week's story about 'Mickey Mouse' being age verified made me laugh out loud.

You have to admire the tenacity and imagination of people in SL who can get round a system like the one being used by the Lab. But before we all start trashing them for coming up with a useless thing which no one wants anyway, I think we should

take a step back and think about this for a moment.

A lot of people, like me, actually think age verification is a good idea. It will give an extra layer of protection, both against kids finding their way into SL, and legally. It will allow us to have more freedom to do as we please, without hav-

ing to worry what others will think.

As for being able to verify yourself as Mickey Mouse - yes, there will be teething problems, and yes, the system will not be flawless. But hopefully LL will fix the problems as we go along (hopefully faster than for SL!) and we will be left with a workable, efficient system. So

we should all stop jumping to conclusions just yet.

By J. E.

L\$500
E-MAILS
WRITE TO:
YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

LIVING MY SL IS NOT CHILD'S PLAY

Dear Regis,
I WAS sad to read your article last week about paedophilia in SL.

Unfortunately, I am afraid that you made a mistake with your title 'Age play must stop'. I take part in Child Play in SL and I don't want to do anything illegal. Do not mistake paedophile and Child Play please, already several people have assaulted me, telling me that I am perverse even though I haven't done anything wrong. Child Players like me do nothing wrong and fight like you against paedophilia.

By Gogo Koba

CSI? NO THANKS

Dear Regis,
I READ about the CSI fiasco in The AvaStar.

I went to the sim and I read about the extra client download and all the other stuff you needed. Hell, I said, SL crashes so often without any extra software. And what if this software causes more trouble for my PC? No, better wait till the system is more tested. And I went out.

By Calon Giano

BAN ALL CHILD AVATARS

Hey Regis,
I READ with interest the story about the latest child sex scandal last week.

Surely it is now time to ban all child avatars to make sure this disgusting practice is banished for good. Firstly it is morally reprehensible and secondly it threatens the whole world both by attracting negative media coverage and scaring off corporations. I know there are many child

role players out there who claim to be innocent but frankly I find it all rather sick. We are all adults in-world and anyone who wants to dress up as a child to be mothered again needs

serious help.

Linden Lab claim they can't police the world but they must realise that ultimately they are responsible for what goes on here. They cannot afford to let representations of child sex continue or all of us will suffer huge consequences.

And being honest, if all we lose is a few perverts who want to be kiddies, we're not suffering much either.

By Justin3 Humphrey



LEIDER STEPANOV

RL SEX, VIRTUALLY

THEY say money makes the world go round - and sex makes the money flow.

It's an idiom which certainly holds true for SL. But a lot of (non-SL) people I speak to are incredulous when I mention the fact that virtual sex is one of the biggest in-world pastimes.

"How does that work, then?" they inevitably say. "Sounds rubbish to me." Well it turns out that avatars making the beast with two backs can be more exciting than the squidgier, RL version, at least for one couple.

BORING

I was told this week about a lady and gent who hooked up in SL, and things went so swimmingly they also got together in RL. Only problem was, the RL nookie was so boring, they ended up retreating to their tried and trusted virtual sex.

If only someone had invented RL sex pose balls...



HEED WARNING SIGNS

WE MUST ENSURE THAT SL DOES NOT AFFECT RESIDENTS' RL HEALTH

CAMPAIGN:

Pauline Baxter's billboard to promote awareness of eating disorders among fashion models.



AN eating disorder is the type of disease which is impossible to truly understand unless you have suffered it personally.

I, like most people, have never had to go through that, and I can only imagine what a horrendous experience it would be. In that sense, I can fully understand White Bloch's concern for her friend who she felt may become insecure about her RL body after spending so much

I COULDN'T possibly have let this week pass by without at least one dig at Linden Lab, so here goes.

In Tuesday's blog entry entitled 'Knowledge Base Article of the Week #3', there was acceptance on the part of Jon Linden that SL

time with her 'perfect' avatar (see page three). It reminded me of a story we ran last month featuring a picture by in-world artist Pauline Baxter, who created billboards featuring anorexic avatars to mirror a RL campaign.

ANTI-SOCIAL

Whilst I am not suggesting that a lot of people with attractive avatars are at risk from this kind of disease, it could well be a problem for some. It also had me thinking about the issue of resi-

might, perhaps, have a wee little problem with lag: "Today we're going to point you to an article about lag that should shed some light on a topic that's given most of us a hassle at least once." Most of us? Once? Hmm.

dents spending a lot of time in SL. I once had a long argument with a non-resident who said SL was an anti-social threat to RL health, with people spending all of their free time in-world. Of course, I completely disagree - in my opinion, spending two or three hours in SL after work is better for the soul, and the eyes, than two or three hours in front of the idiot box.

There will always be people who spend too much time in SL, but I firmly believe SL can be a positive force in society. We simply need to heed any warning signs which come our way.

PLEASE SEND ME YOUR COMMENTS:

newsdesk@the-avastar.com

L\$500 PICS OF THE WEEK

yourphotos@the-avastar.com



KALENA VALENTINE snapped **CROCODILE JEWELL** and **URIAH HORSEFLY** indulging in some cow dancing at the IceDragons Playpen sim.



Punk parties are notorious for being wild, and clearly **ELODY YAO** was in the zone - she was too drunk to remember where this was!



Bling bling! This little chap went all out to impress the leggy blonde, but she looks distinctly unimpressed. Pic by **DALINIAN BING**.



Strange as it may seem, it appears even robots need to go shopping for hair! Pic by **BING SEWELL**.

META-NEWS!

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

GETTING FREAKY

FREAKY Creatures, a new virtual world from Abandon Interactive, will encourage children to battle other players through their avatars when it is launched in 2008, according to the firm's president Jamie Ottillie.

NICK KIDS PLAN

VIACOM CEO Phillippe Dauman has announced plans to expand the Nickropolis virtual world. He said the firm wanted to take advantage of the growth in gaming amongst kids who watch Nickelodeon.

CRACKING DOWN ON DRUGS

By COYNE NAGY

A VIRTUAL world is being used to help RL crack addicts overcome their addictions.

The Duke University Medical Centre has created the world for users to encounter situations which may give them the desire to relapse into drug use. They are encouraged to resist temptation while hearing a tone and when they are later in similar situations in RL, they

can call a phone line to hear the tone again to stiffen their resistance.

COUNSELLING

The system is designed for those with crack cocaine addiction but it is hoped to include other drugs in the

future. Professor Zach Rosenthal said: "We are hoping that this approach will lead to new learning occurring in counselling sessions, and the transfer of that new learning into the real world."



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by Good2 Go

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★★★★★ This is a lot of fun, buy it!
Atsuko Otsuka on 2007-10-18

"I have a lot of fun creating immersive interactive experiences for avatars. Some have been based on real world fun, and others I could never do in the real world. This is one from the real world."
Good2 Go

Ponderama 25,145,38 (PG)



By KITTY OTOOLE

BAN BLAMED ON RL CREDIT CARDS

ZEE LINDEN REVEALS TRUTH BEHIND GAMBLING BAN AND VAT CREDIT card contracts have been blamed for the controversial ban on gambling by Linden Lab chief financial officer John Zdanowski, aka Zee Linden.

Zee made the comments at a public Q&A session at Petunia Island this week attended by a large crowd of avatars eager to put their concerns to a senior Lab boss in real time. He said that contrary to popular belief it wasn't the American authorities which had prompted the ban, but credit card companies whose terms of service state their products must not be used for gambling. With the majority of residents dependent on credit cards to fund game-play Zee acknowledged it was inevitable the decision would cause problems. He also revealed that VAT charges were levied against European

residents in order to avoid price increases across the grid: "If we didn't charge the European VAT tax to European residents, then we would have had to subject all of our users, whether European or not, to a price increase."

ADULT

"We thought it was most fair to have the residents in Europe pay directly for the taxes to their government." The recent age play controversy was also the subject of discussion, with Zee informing the audience that stamping out such activity was of huge importance to the Lab. After criticising a major news organisation for failing to differentiate between the teen and main grids, Zee added that SL was first and foremost an adult environment and the Lab wanted to "ban as little as possible".

LAB WORTH \$5BN

LINDEN Lab could be worth as much as US\$5 billion on the open market, according to industry insiders.

Jed Smith, the managing director of venture capitalists Catamount, confirmed his company sold ten per cent of its stake in the Lab for a price believed to be around US\$500m. That would mean SL's parent company has a total valuation of way in excess of the US\$1.6 billion Vivendi asked for their games division, which includes World of Warcraft, in 2003.

SL'S FACEBOOK HIT

SECOND Life Link, a new application which links the world to Facebook, has soared past the 1,000 verified user mark just two weeks after its launch.

The application makes it possible to stay updated with friends from Facebook and to teleport directly to their registered homes. Co-creator Fire Centaur said: "We built Second Life Link in order to enhance the social networks within SL. Second Life link helps users to enhance their social networks within SL, and also bring others into the fun."

a-stars



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

ROCKIN' RICHARD

By KITTY OTOOLE

BRITISH singing sensation **Richard Hawley** entertained guests at an exclusive VIP performance on Mute Island beach yesterday.

Richard, whose latest album 'Lady's Bridge' is steadily

climbing the RL charts, thrilled the crowd with a selection of his favourite songs. Fans can visit his home next to the beach and pick up a free t-shirt, listen to tracks or even buy a replica of his favoured Gretsch guitar.

IN TUNE: Richard Hawley performs his latest tracks



CHILLED: The crowd enjoys the concert



THIRSTY WORK FOR EMERIE

VENUE: The Crayonville sim

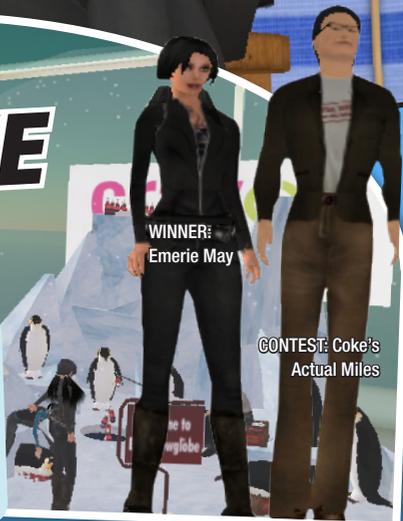
By ISABEL BROCCO

A LARGE crowd gathered at the Crayonville Amphitheatre for the results of Coke's competition to design a virtual vending machine.

Emerie May won the plaudits in Coca-Cola's Virtual Thirst competition at the event on Thursday, taking home a series of puzzle bottles as well as Coke-branded gifts.

WINNER: Emerie May

CONTEST: Coke's Actual Miles



By ISABEL BROCCO,

Pics by DEREK HOTGER

THE Brunch Business show on Sunday featured a total of seven models, 12 designers and 42 outfits.

Being corporate was the order of the day at the event, organised by Seraphine Model Management at the Business Boutique on Business Bureau Isle. Among the designers on display were **Honeydew Hilite** of Dive Style and **Marzipan Maladay** of Marzipan's Closet.

DRESSED TO IMPRESS: Missy Wishbringer

EXECUTIVE STYLE: Nyll Bergbahn

SECRET TO SUCCESS: Emmz Tizara

LET'S DO BRUNCH

Welcomed with open Brahms!



GRAND PIANIST: Gideon Kappler

Pic by TROYMCQUHAN

CLASSICAL music fans were given a treat when pianist Gideon Kappler played music by Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. The talented performer was on stage on November 4 as part of the grand opening of Infotainment Island.



LOOKING NERVOUS: Malkavyn Eldritch

HOT STUFF: Shoe Spitteler

Star search

By PHIL SPACKLER

WANNABE singing sensations took to the stage for open podium night at Taf's Bar. Among the hopefuls were Malkavyn Eldritch, who covered 'Daughters' by John Mayer, and Shoe Spitteler, who did a great version of Metallica's 'Nothing Else Matters'.

FEMMES FATALES

INSPIRED by famous stilettoes and hostile poses, photographer Helmut they compete with one another for attention. Newton, these women are dressed to kill. In sharp
By PAOLO BADE

MILEY CHAPLIN IS WEARING: Salome Black Sheer Outfit by Insolence, L\$ 200, *Venom* (95, 133, 28); Enchant Antie's shoes by Maitreya, L\$ 250, *Superieure* (94, 44, 451); **Diamond/Silver Square Set** by Ramos Designs, L\$ 350-475, *Ramos Island* (146, 89, 27); **Skin Lisa Nature** by Insolence, L\$1000; **Nikkie Choice hair** by RaC, L\$ 199, *RaC City* (180, 125, 27) Miley Chaplin's hair in the magazine photo is **Miss October dark brown** by Cher, L\$ 300, *Hillcrest Estates* (48, 194, 25)



HELEN RUSTAMOVA IS WEARING: Milan Couture, Limited Edition Dress by JCNV, L\$ 200, *Farrah Island* (195, 57, 25); **Grace Heels** by Maitreya, L\$ 250, *Superieure* (94, 44, 451); **Sapphire Gold Triangle Set** by Ramos Designs, L\$ 250, *Ramos Island* (146, 89, 27) **Plants and flowers:** BLISS GARDEN CENTER Garden Supplies, *FuturePerfect Bliss* (14, 16, 502)



A VIRTUAL PIROUETTE

SL BALLET COMPANY'S LATEST PERFORMANCE

By ISABEL BROCCO AND TRICK MERTEL

SOPHISTICATION reached new virtual heights this week as the Second Life Ballet company performed 'Windows', its second production.

A big crowd enjoyed the show at the IBM 10 sim on Wednesday, in which the dancers were guided by original scripts and all new animations rather than pose balls. Innara Saarinen was responsible for the choreog-

raphy, and the original music was by Louis Volare. The piece proved even more elaborate than the company's first production, 'Olmaanen'.

SNAPSHOT

The plot of 'Windows' revolves around the theme of love in youth and in old age. It is set in the 1950s and is a series of snapshots of one person's life and lovers. Scene include a woman sitting alone in her apartment, some teenagers dancing in



DANCERS: Lina Lageos and Pypier Dollinger

a diner and an old couple in their home. A Q&A session after the performance enabled the audience to ask the dancers' thoughts on a variety of topics. The company is set for future successes, with its group already containing more than 470 members.



CULTURE: The crowd enjoying the performance

WHAT'S HOT! DETECTIVE LEY

By CARRIE SODWIND

THERE is something of a wily 1950s New York detective about blogger Ley Wrangler. Shirt sleeves rolled up and in his classic braces set by DE Designs, Ley lounges around quietly taking it all in.

Attractive, to be sure - but to be a real lady-killer he must lose the fresh-faced and bushy haired friendliness, and replace it with a bowler hat casting a long shadow over his eyes, and a sultry cigarette burning away at the corner of his mouth.



INVESTIGATOR: Ley Wrangler

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

By CARRIE SODWIND



HIT: Khione

HIT: KHIONE is a delicate lace tracing of a snow-flake which is perfect for the coming winter months. The set, with earrings and 61 diamonds, is L\$125 at Second Mirage (Second Mirage 71, 14, 22).



MISS: Informals

MISS: A TIE without a shirt in RL can be a bold fashion statement, but in SL it looks stiff and texture-less. It pokes into your clothes and hair and sticks firmly to your chest even if you're upside down. Informals ties are L\$70 at Inone Style, Summerhausen (175, 149, 298).

HIT: SLAB! Designs has released a new burgundy woolly sleeveless jumper which looks great with a suit. Even The AvaStar editor-in-chief Regis Braathens was spotted in one! L\$495 at Pahringull (135, 167, 23) for the outfit.



HIT: Jumper



House of Nyla

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

By ISOLDE FLAMAND

PUSSYCAT PIKE OF PUSSYCAT'S DESIGNS.

I FEEL LIKE A PRINCESS IN...

"...this intricately detailed red dress by Simone Stern. It's so old-fashioned and yet so well done. It makes me feel like I am in a fairy tale. I always wear this rich red colour to match my personality."

I LOVE MY...

"...favourite long blonde hair by Violet Laviolette. It's the closest thing I could find to my RL dark blonde hair. My hair in RL is almost this long, as I've only cut it three times in my life."



MY FAVOURITE NEW ITEM IS...

"...this wand made by Fnordian Link. I was just wandering around when I found it. I love gadgets, so I thought I would try it. The wand sparkles when I say the magic words, and the orb tells my fortune when I touch it."



WACKY HOUSES



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

L\$300



Dual Sushi Home
with chopsticks
By Echo Altamura
Nekojima (93, 135, 610)

L\$500



House Neko
By Sophos Casanova
Tin Teddy (247, 198, 44)

KP Giant Apple

By Kryptonita Paperdoll
Afton (134, 233, 124)



L\$250



Sally's Genie Bottle
includes bottle, furniture and poses
By HoseQueen McLean
Panache (125, 104, 38)

L\$249

L\$1,500



Native American Teepee
By Amiryu Hosoi
Virgin Island 2 (43, 213, 29)

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NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: AN ISLAMIC GARDEN, DEAR OLD AUNTIE, ANOTHER PHONE FIRM AND MORE ASIAN ELECTRONICS



SPIRITUAL: The Islamic Garden of Peace

By TRICK MERTEL

THE Islamic Garden of Peace has been created to provide a serene place for Muslim residents as well as helping to educate other visitors on Islamic religion and culture.

A lime green-domed mosque at the Ruuh sim offers a place for prayer and a chance to read the Koran. Outside, the garden is lined with boards containing

into SL last year, British media heavyweight the BBC has finally launched its own sim. **BBC World** is a fairly bland build which offers the usual features like meeting facilities and some brief advice for newbies, but it lacks community involvement. Following in the footsteps of its competitors Orange and

or application that will aid communication in the future of both SL and RL, and prizes worth over L\$100,000 are up for grabs. Entries close on December 1. The **Fujitsu** Islands are the latest offering from an Asian electronics firm, following sims from



BBC WORLD

information about Islam. After being one of the first major organisations to dip a toe



ALCATEL LUCENT

Vodafone, **Alcatel Lucent** has appeared in SL with a simple but cleverly interactive sim. Residents are asked to submit a design for a wireless device



FUJITSU

Samsung and LG CNS. They are home to a history of the company, the usual product showcase, an area of collaboration with staff, and a results area where recent research projects exhibit their findings.



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

DEAR

IS MY NEWBIE HELPER FRIEND AFTER MY MAN?



SHE WAS REALLY HELPFUL WHEN WE MET - BUT SHE FLIRTS WITH HIM CONSTANTLY

Dear Randi: ON my first day in SL I met a nice woman who was helpful with my needs as a newbie. She helped me with the technical aspects here, and we also shared plenty of gossip as we became good friends. A few weeks ago I married a wonderful man I had met while at a dance club with my friend. At the time she encour-

aged me to date him, saying she wasn't interested. But since the wedding she has become a shameless flirt. She calls him "honey" and "babe" and seems to wear less and less every time she might see him. Am I being paranoid? — R.M.

Randi says: Probably. Many women throw terms like 'honey' and 'babe' around loosely

when they talk to males, whether they're nine years old or 99. Watch and see if she's doing it with other men as well, and if so, it's probably harmless. And maybe her style of dress is just that, as it's common for ladies to walk around half-naked in SL. But if you think she's really after your man, have a chat with her sometime when he's offline.

MY 'BACK-STABBER' EX WANTS US TO GET IT ON - SHOULD I MUTE HER?

Dear Randi: DURING my early days in SL, I got into a relationship with a woman who turned out to be a back-stabber. She is really hot and the sex was awesome. I liked her so much I gave her an expensive diamond, and we had even discussed marriage. But early this summer I had to be away for a few days, and when I returned I learned she had married my best friend! Since then he has left SL, and now she says she wants to be friends with me again with an eye toward more. I don't trust her. Should I take her back? — H.D.

Randi says: Certainly not. You said she was a back-stabber, and that sounds completely right. Cheating on you with a stranger might be one thing, but with your best friend? She ruined two relationships! Show some backbone and tell her what you think of what she did to you. Then mute her, and look for other female companionship. There are plenty of good women out there.

Dear Randi: I HAVE always thought it's good to be nice to people, even those I don't like very much. When I first joined SL I met another woman who didn't want to talk about anything but her daily problems. I told her I didn't have time to listen any more, but she got my attention when she said she was in a wheelchair and dying of some rare type of cancer. Of course she had my sympathy, and I was even planning a fund-raiser for her when she finally admitted she was making the whole thing up. What should I do? — A.N.

Randi says: Avoid her. Move to a new sim and mute her if you have to. What she did to you was pretty twisted, and I hope nobody else was caught up in the ruse. Your early mistake was in letting her believe you were her close friend. She sounds overly needy and quite boring. The next time you encounter someone like her, don't get caught up in the web!

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

'PLAYER' BOSS JUST WANTS SEX

Dear Randi: I BEGAN my first job in SL about a month ago at this cute little bar, and it had nothing to do with the pay. I didn't really need the money that badly and certainly had no interest in a carving out a career for myself. But the first time I visited the place I found I couldn't keep my eyes off the hunky boss! We have made love several times, and it was just wonderful - he was as good in

bed as I thought he would be. The problem, as I have since learned, is that he also had sex with about a half-dozen of his other employees. I asked him about it and he said he doesn't like commitment. How can I have him for myself? — C.U.

Randi says: I'm not so sure that you can. He's obviously what I would call a 'player', who likes to have sex with as many women as he

possibly can. A lot of people are like that in SL, as there are no drawbacks to that kind of lifestyle like diseases or pregnancy, as long as he isn't deceiving anyone to get it. If he never told you he loved you or brought up the subject of marriage, then he was just into sex for the sake of it. If you're willing to take just that part of him, stick around. But if you want a faithful guy, look elsewhere.

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Aliya Ariantho

Model Of The Month Competition
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Freebies

SL's best FREE stuff!

THIS WEEK: SL BROWSER

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

THE search function is one of the most frustrating aspects of SL - it is so important and yet it seems like it never works properly.

But until Linden Lab's proposed new search function arrives, you can use an amazing tool to help you find exactly what you are looking for. The SL Browser by Felix Wakmann and Diva Canto is the first and only independent search engine in SL, and is available free from Neptune (9, 233, 27). It is a HUD you wear to have access to A full-text search of two million SL products, places and information

- although not people or groups. Type a question mark in chat, followed by the name of what you are looking for: "red silk dress," for example. Scroll the results - the order is determined by relevance. When you find what you want, click on the map to teleport directly to your chosen destination. You can search for individual products, so you will be able to find the little box you are looking for, hidden in a big mall.



The landmark points to it and not to the shop. The SL Browser respects your privacy as well - residential plots and those not listed in the official search function are excluded.

DO + DOS AND DON'TS OF MODIFYING CLOTHING - DON'T

By GAETANA FAUST

- + Adjust clothing you have bought from a store so that it fits your avatar perfectly.
- + Use the appearance window to make modifications to clothing as needed.
- + Shorten or lengthen sleeves and cuffs to fit your style.
- + Stretch prim items to achieve the perfect customised look.
- + Play around with colours where possible.
- Start making changes before first copying the item.
- Mess around with the textures unless you really know what you're doing.
- Forget to check if your clothing is modifiable or not.
- Overlook the possibility of adjusting your avatar to fit the clothes. You can easily change back later.
- Quit the appearance window without saving your changes.

My First Day in Second Life

GUITARIST JEANCHRISTOPHE CHEVALIER:

By TRICK MERTEL

THE AVASTAR: How was your first day?

JEANCHRISTOPHE CHEVALIER: I saw JueL Resistance playing live, and I decided to play live too. I was so excited! She teleported some friends and my audition became an impromptu concert.

TA: What was your most embarrassing moment?

JC: In a big mall, in front of plenty of people, my avatar suddenly appeared completely nude! Even now, I don't know how it happened. I felt like I was nude in RL.

TA: What was the funniest moment?

JC: During a concert, some French friends of mine began to change their avatars into Barbapapas (French cartoon characters) and climbed



on each other in order to build a pyramid. They forced me to sing the Barbapapas' song live.

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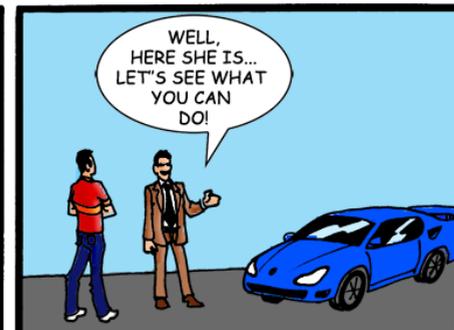
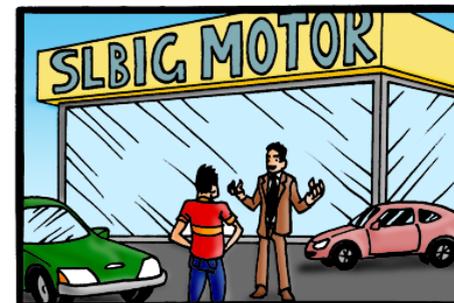


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C & C Port of Hwanin Hwanin (40, 68, 23)

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upon the earth



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THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: PUBS



IF you enjoy music, dancing, meeting old friends and making new ones, pubs are the place for you.

Start at Mieto (121, 195, 166), home to the colourfully-named **Drunken Monkey Pub**. It's all about fun, with a jukebox, pool table and pinball machine to keep you amused. Out back, you'll find a glass-covered patio with a view of swaying trees in the garden outside. You'll feel right at home when you enter **Nancy Blake's Pub**, located in the West of Ireland (138, 213, 27). Intricately carved wooden booths line the walls and a beamed ceiling soars overhead. To soak in a really beautiful build, drop by **Lily's Irish Pub** in Southlands (38, 83, 22) where the elabo-

rate woodwork, wall full of photos and brightly lit Guinness sign will make you feel like you are in Dublin itself. Couples can take a whirl around the large dance floor.

WELCOMING

You'll find your favourite beverages on tap at **Molaskey's Pub** in Wichi (145, 195, 30). A huge square bar dominates the room, putting the ales and stouts in the spotlight, while beyond that glare there are places to quietly cuddle or engage in a rowdy game of darts with your mates. You'll be drawn into the warmth of **McKinney's Bothy and Pub** in Fyre Maven (162, 146, 53). Situated in the midst of a wintry paradise, the welcoming pub offers a fire-lit and somewhat Gothic interior.

A PINT OF ALE, BARMAN THE BUSHY BEARD



The complex of rooms on offer makes this a comfortable place to relax and chat with friends.
Where: Brugge (128, 171, 24)

IVORY AND EBONY WORLD'S END TAVERN



Sit down at the wonderful piano and play some old classics like 'In the Mood' and 'Peggy Sue'.
Where: Tanglia (140, 81, 42)

SMELL THE SAWDUST THE FALLING ANVIL



Head back in time as you enter the friendly thatch-roofed tavern,
Where: Caledon Tamrannoch (234, 113, 22)

11.9. - 11.15.

DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in SL Time



COMPETITION

FILM SCRIPT CONTEST

German TV star Bettina Cramer and director Rainer Matsutani will be on the jury deciding who wins the L\$500,000 prize in the Weltbild.de contest.

When: Nov. 12, 09:00

Where: Weltbild (128, 128, 0)



LIVE MUSIC

PAKITO CRIMSON

The performer will get Saturday off to a rocking start with songs from the likes of The Smiths and Bruce Springsteen.

When: Nov. 10, 11:00

Where: Havens Paradise (66, 159, 32)



LIVE MUSIC

VON JOHNIN

The musician will play country blues including covers of Blind Lemon Jefferson and BB King.

When: Nov. 14, 20:00

Where: Yudasin (201, 192, 47)



FASHION

PUNKYROMANTIK

Fashion queens Digit Darkes and Bianca Foulon are the hostesses for the collection.

When: Nov. 15, 14:00

Where: Itland 2 (90, 150, 25)



NIGHTLIFE

WILD WEST NIGHT

The excitement of the Wild West will be recreated at this theme night.

When: Nov. 15, 17:00

Where: Heaven Sent Country (91, 47, 39)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

ROCK AM ECK

Join in the fun at the grand opening ceremony of the German Koblenz replica sim, which will include DJ Alfio and a maiden voyage of the Goethe riverboat.

When: Nov. 10, 13:00

Where: Deutsches Eck (128, 128, 0)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



ART AND CULTURE

FILTHY FLUNO

The new guest artist at the Mysterio Gallery will be on hand at the unveiling of his latest work, which will be on display for two months.

When: Nov. 10, 11:00

Where: Palomarian (34, 240, 55)



ENTERTAINMENT

TUNA ODDFELLOW

The master magician, helped by his glamorous assistant, puts on a magic show for illusion fans. There will be a DJ set afterwards.

When: Nov. 11, 11:00

Where: Gannet Island (106, 227, 651)



ART AND CULTURE

RL DIGITAL ART & DESIGN

The Real Life Digital Art and Design Exhibition officially opens, featuring work by artist Jade Schridde.

When: Nov. 14, 01:00

Where: Eden Entertainment (92, 35, 22)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!



OPENING

TRUCK SHOP

Check out the grand opening party of High Octane Trucks, where you will be able to pick up one of the behemoths of the road for free.

When: Nov. 9, 15:00-18:00

Where: Rosewoods Sunrise Shores (156, 164)

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.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Great Britain remembers its war dead in the annual two minute silence held on the anniversary of the end of the First World War, organised in SL by the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal.

When: Nov. 11, 02:00

Where: Poppy 2 (128, 128, 0)



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THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

By TRICK MERTEL
PICS By PAOLO BADE



ANESSA STINE

ANESSA IS THE QUEEN OF KITSCH, AND MANAGER OF RETROLOGY, THE HOME OF ALL THINGS RETRO IN SL.

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: ANESSA STINE PROFESSION: Club manager, model, photographe
BIRTH DATE: 12/24/2006 ATTITUDE: Rockabilly

INTERVIEW

THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?

ANESSA STINE: I don't weigh too much on appearances, so I will go with my personality, and that's the same in all worlds.

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

AS: I am a Jill of all trades. I manage PIN UPS Night Club and the Retro-logy sim. I also build, model, make wearables and do photography. And then there is the shopping, oh the shopping!

TA: What's your funniest sex story?

AS: My friend showed me a 'private room' at his club. Inside it were pose balls that said 'massage', and he joked that I should give him one. Before I knew it the animations had gotten a tad naughty. I have never hopped off a pose ball so fast.

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

AS: What I appreciate most in SL is creative content and building, people with a unique vision that are able to convey that to the rest of us. Maybe a Kriss Lehmann (of Straylight) or Krius Misfit (of SiniStyle)... they have created amazing sims and content.