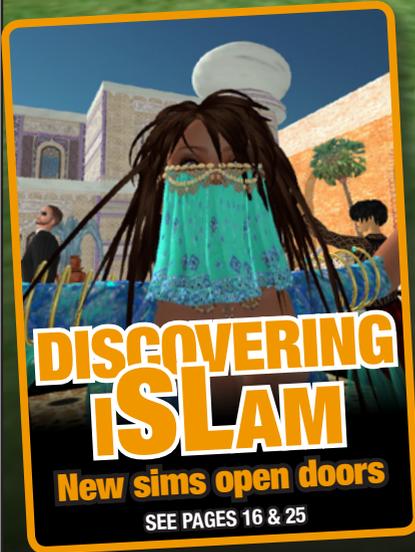


**THE**  
**AVASTAR**  
 Your World. Your Voice.

<b>NEWS</b>	<b>p.2-14</b>
Notorious baron puts landbots for sale on eBay	
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Voice not helping in-world business	
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Bubbly blonde Uma Troell	



**KEY PLAYERS IN SHOCK EXIT**

**LAB SUFFERS DOUBLE BLOW**

By COYNE NAGY

LINDEN Lab suffered a double blow this week with the shock SL exits of Cory Linden, Pontiac and AOL.

**OUT:** Car giant Pontiac & AOL Pointe

**OUT:** Lab technical guru Cory Linden

FULL STORY: SEE PAGES 4 & 5

INSIDE OPINION

"I think I would have behaved the same way - the fear of being accused is too big. Age play is a bad and stupid thing, but the hypocrisy and 'witch hunt' are no better."

YOUR MAIL p.9

"Ultimately, there's no point speculating over the reasons behind Cory Linden's exit. What we need to look at are the knock-on effects on SL. Philip is confident that nothing will change, everything will stay as it is."



LEIDER STEPANOV p.11

THE AVASTAR

THE AVASTAR is published by Bild.T-Online AG & Co. KG. Check out the website at: www.bild.t-online.de.



NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

485 ... residents combined are in the groups of SLNN, Reuters, SL Herald, New World Notes, Massively and Metaverse Messenger.

555 ... avatars are in the Beerbaum Family group, open to all residents with the most common surname in SL.

1632 ... residents are in the AvaStar Readers Group - the fastest growing group in SL. Thanks for your support, folks!

OH DEER-IE ME!



OUCH - it looks like there are two reindeer who are keen to see off the competition for Zeisha Cortes' attention!

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BOTS ON EBAY!

NOTORIOUS BOT MERCHANT MERLIN SET TO CASH IN ON LAND SCAM



By CARRIE SODWIND

TO BLAME? Landbaron Merlin, now banned, with one of his landbots

A NOTORIOUS landbot baron is set to cause more misery for residents after putting his scam up for sale on eBay.

LandBot Merlin, widely reported to be the same person as infamous and now-banned avatar Landbaron Merlin, has cost property owners thousands of US\$ in lost land

over the past year. He is now selling his program on the internet website for US\$523.75.

The scam uses bots to snap up land as soon as it is put on the market - often when the price has not been set, and is at an automatically low level.

SHOCKED

Landbot victim Stephen Hilra found the bots for sale this week and told The Avastar he had reported it to

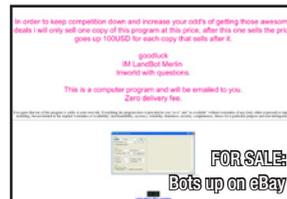
both Linden Lab and eBay. He said: "I was shocked. Earlier this year I was partners with someone on a sim and we were exchanging some land. The bot swooped in and took it." Hilra claims he lost a massive L\$465,000 in the callous swoop.

But he is sceptical that the Lab or eBay will be able to ban the sale of the bot. The

landbot was placed on eBay on December 8, and Merlin describes the program as a "never-ending saga of progress in both engineering and design".

FBI

Merlin told The Avastar this week: "I do not think there is any way to commit 'theft' with a bot, and both eBay and LL are aware I am not breaking any rules."



SHOCKED: Bot victim Stephen Hilra

By COYNE NAGY



QUIT SHOCK: The Pontiac sim

## OUT: PONTIAC & AOL

SEVEN-SIM PONTIAC IS JOINED BY AOL AS BOTH FIRMS PULL PLUG ON SL ACTIVITIES

**CAR giant Pontiac will quit SL before the end of the year - despite having the most successful in-world presence of any RL company.**

And in a double blow for Linden Lab, technology firm AOL has also announced its intention to leave the grid. Pontiac entered SL in late 2006 with the aid of Millions of Us, and was considered one of the best corporate presences in-world thanks to a high level of interaction with residents. But a post this week on the MotoratiLife blog revealed the company will leave on December 31.

Jim Hopson, RL manager of

communication for the firm, explained the decision: "Pontiac's experience in SL has been wonderful, and we've really enjoyed the experience of being in-world. But, after a year of what we always considering to be a 24/7 social marketing experiment, we felt it was time to move on and explore other possibilities in the digital and social networking space."

### CELEBRITIES

Pontiac was based on seven islands and became an instant hit through hosting parties and events. Top RL celebrities like Jay Z and 50 Cent were also attracted into SL to appear

on the sims.

Callie Cline, one of the Motorati Girlz group used for promotion, said: "They [Pontiac] gave people a great model to look at on how to engage a community here."

### LOSS

The AOL Pointe sim, which hosted events such as live music and competitions, is also closing. "We've gained a lot of insight from our participation in SL and we're now refocusing our efforts in virtual worlds", read a statement from the firm. The loss of two huge corporations could be a major blow to LL, but Mat Small, director of media strategy for Millions of Us, is remaining positive: "We continue to be very optimistic about SL's future and the opportunity for corporations to participate in the community."

GOODBYE: Pontiac brought top stars such as US rapper 50 Cent to SL



# OUT: TOP LAB TECHIE CORY

CEO PHILIP LINDEN DEFIANT OVER DEPARTURE OF CTO By COYNE NAGY

**SL TECHNOLOGY chief Cory Ondrejka has made a shock exit from Linden Lab after a series of disagreements with CEO Philip Rosedale.**

Details about the move were made public this week, with Ondrejka, Cory Linden in SL, set to leave the San Francisco-based company at the end of the month. Both sides have insisted the split was amicable.

### PUSHED

Cory, who worked for LL for seven years, was also responsible for single-handedly writing the scripting language in SL, as well as other features now taken for granted on the grid. The circumstances surrounding her departure are unclear, though it seems from an internal Lab email last week that she was pushed out of the door.

### CHANGE

Philip Linden's email was blunt and he

took full responsibility for the move: "As we change and grow as a company, I feel that we need a different set of strengths in engineering leadership. I strongly believe that this is the right decision, although not without pain, for both Linden Lab and Cory."

### CONCERN

In another internal email to Lab workers, Cory, a man in RL and woman in SL, said: "I continue to believe in both SL and Linden Lab, but Philip and my visions for the future of Linden Lab are divergent enough that he decided to lead in his own way."

Many residents have expressed concern

that the loss of Cory could be a major blow to SL, with her programming language, which effectively powers movement within the world, now standing at 2.5 billion lines of code. But Philip added he was convinced there would be no fall-out: "During Cory's tenure the engineering team has grown tremendously, and given the breadth and depth of our technical expertise, we do not foresee any impact on our development."



OUT: Cory Linden in happier times with her mascots

## NEWS BITES!

### CLIMATE CHANGE

RL American congressman Edward Markey practised what he was preaching when he appeared at a United Nations conference in Bali as an avatar in SL, in order to avoid the carbon emissions of flying to the venue.

### L\$1M LIGHT COMP

GERMAN firm Osram is offering a massive L\$1m prize to residents in a multi-stage contest to come up with a design concept making the most innovative use of light. Professional designers will help contestants in the final round.

### SL IN LAST PLACE

SECOND Life has scraped onto AOL's list of the hottest products of 2007. It features at the bottom of the list in 15th, and is behind Webkinz, Halo 3 and Google Maps.

### A BETTER VIEWER

LINDEN Lab has published its latest viewer as it continues the battle against bugs in SL. A better crash logger and improved inventory loading are two of the improvements included in the release.



# [ hoorenbeek ]

HIGHLY DETAILED PRODUCTS



## [ WINTER SALE ]

from Dec. 16th to Dec. 22nd

Get the chance to buy our products and your Christmas gifts with great discounts. Check out our special offers.

[ jeans - shirts - tees - suits - hats - glasses - shoes ]  
[ gadgets - animations - eyes & more ]

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BACK OF THE NET! Messi shoots at the Inter Milan sim

By REGIS BRAATHENS Pics By PAOLO BADE

# ...AND HE SCORES!



HOT PROPERTY: The Argentinian star poses at Barcelona Virtual



**BARCELONA STAR MAKES VIRTUAL DEBUT**  
BARCELONA superstar Lionel Messi is set to grace the grid with his silky skills next week.

The AvaStar took some EXCLUSIVE pics of the avatar of the Argentinian international as he warmed up for his SL debut. Messi, currently football's hottest property, will be making an appearance at Banco Sabadell's Christmas party, to be held at Barcelona Virtual on December 19 at 12pm SLT. Messi will be appearing on behalf of Sabadell, a leading Spanish bank, which will also be giving away five signed

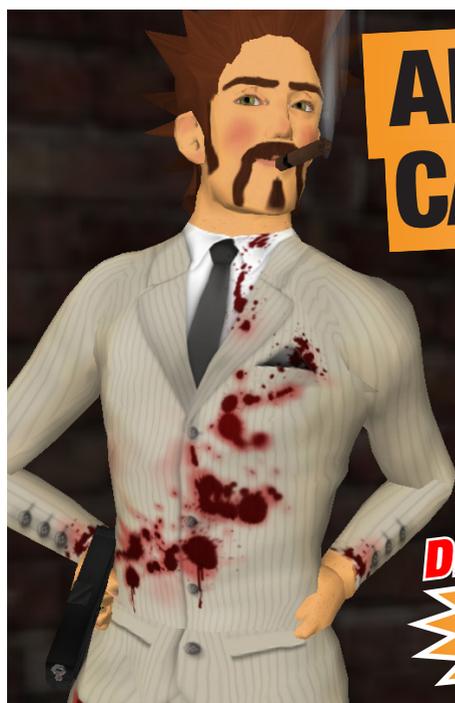
shirts of the boy wonder at the party. Messi will take time to chat to fans as well as helping Father Christmas give out other prizes and gifts.

### RENOWNED

Barcelona Virtual owner, Faithful Pau, said: "I'm very excited about this event as I'm sure Messi's many fans around the world are too."



BOY WONDER: Lionel Messi



# AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE

**WHEN you show Don Phil disrespect, be prepared for the consequences.** Obviously inspired by our story on the Mafia in SL, Big Phil seems to have carried out a 'hit' on someone - maybe a particularly vocal critic of the Lab? Anyway, wash those clothes, Phil, before the police see you!

**DRESS PHIL UP!**  
SEND US YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO  
REGIS@THE-AVASTAR.COM

# "AGE VERIFICATION IS A PAPER TIGER"

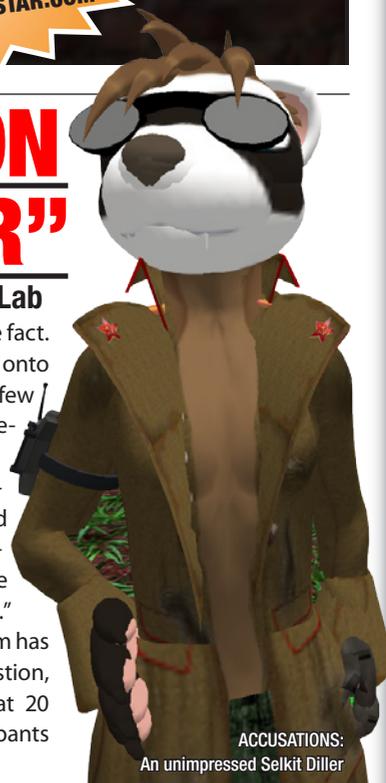
Prominent SL resident back in SL to fight against Lab

By CARRIE SODWIND

THE Lab's controversial new age verification system has been derided as a "paper tiger" by a veteran resident.

Selkit Diller had initially threatened to storm out of SL after denouncing the Integrity system, introduced onto the main grid last week, as "data theft". But despite saying he had cancelled all land and sim fee payments, Diller has since had a change of heart. He said: "Verification is a paper tiger, and I think Linden Lab's fi-

nally beginning to realise the fact. My prediction? They'll hold onto a train wreck of a beta for a few months, roll it out, and predictably watch it fail." Diller also labelled the system as legally flawed, and added: "Denying me services in part or whole because I refuse to provide it is illegal." The unreliability of the system has also been brought into question, with the Lab admitting that 20 per cent of the test participants were not correctly verified.



# your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

## STOP THE WITCH HUNT

**FIX BUGS BEFORE MORE FEATURES!**

Hey Regis, SOME days ago I witnessed the following scene: In a public square, a small group was around a 'juvenile' avatar (she was not a child, but a teenager). The owner or whoever was responsible for the sim was trying to convince her to change shape. The avatar defended herself saying she was 29-years-old and was that tiny

in RL. "At least you must wear adult dresses." "But this is what I usually wear in reality." "I'm sorry, but these are the Second Life rules. I must ask you to leave." Eventually, the 'young' avatar disappeared. The sim, although it's marked as 'mature', has absolutely no

sexual content. Unfortunately the paranoia about 'age play' continues - and usually hits innocent people. But putting myself in the shoes of the sim owner, I think I would have behaved the same way - the fear of accusation is too big. Age play is a bad and stupid thing, but the hypocrisy and 'witch hunt' are no better.

Dear Regis,

I HAVE just read your comments on the further development of SL and the importance of improved stability.

It was very encouraging since we have started an initiative recently with the goal to move the general perspective of the Lab towards bugfixing before the introduction of new features. If you are interested, have a look at slstability.wordpress.com.

By Luc Giano

By Tenchi Morigi

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

ADVERT



**Joysco Winter Festival**  
December 15th, 2007

Location: Joysco Convention Center  
Sim / Region: Convention Center  
Be on TV, be on SLN.TV from noon to 3PM

**Likwid sunshine Fashions Show at 1:00PM**  
**Music Performance**  
**UKD Project at 1:00 PM**  
**Andrus Gustafson at 3:30 PM**

**Live TV Interview from 2 to 3 PM**  
**Individual Product Demo after 3PM**

**Skidz Primz NEW version 3.0**  
**NonProfit Commons & Techsoup**  
**Brand new PrimTopia from Prim Magic**  
**Hockey Game with Scores & Uniforms**  
**Virtual World Business Bureau**  
**Skidz Partz - Primitizer**

**ICE SKATING PARTY**  
with Christmas Gifts Exchange  
organized by Opal Proctor and Alayna Hutson

Special thanks to Starr Sane and Thera DeLoach of SLN.TV

**AVASTAR** **JOYSCO** **SLN.TV** **Scout-It** **UTHANGO** **NPC** **SL LIFE**  
Social Life Online Network **BRIDGES** **Ward's Words** **WVU Radio** **WBA-Advertising**

**Happy Holidays**  
from **JOYSCO STUDIO**  
Sim / Region: Convention Center



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Visit the heart of "Ileina Cove" Sim and enjoy finest shopping at three modern and spacious designed floors.

We offer the perfect place to enjoy your time in Second Life.

We still have shops available for rent, with reasonable rates, tenant-friendly policy and service package.

Others just write about service. We offer it.



We also host live music and other events at our club lounge.

Meet People, dance, have fun!

Visit us at [Ileina Cove, 127, 115, 32](#)



# LEIDER STEPANOV

## SHOCK EXITS SHOULD FORCE LINDEN LAB TO TAKE ACTION

SHOCK EXITS OF CORY LINDEN AS WELL AS PONTIAC AND AOL COULD HAVE A HUGE IMPACT

**THE shock news of Cory Ondrejka's departure from Linden Lab seemed to catch everyone in SL by surprise.**

As Chief Technological Officer, Ondrejka had been in partnership with Philip Rosedale for seven years, and had a massive influence on the development of the world - not least in single-handedly creating the script-

ing language. He revealed that his exit from LL was down to the fact that "Philip [sic] and my visions for the future of Linden Lab are divergent enough that he decided to lead in his own way". Indeed - I take it he was 'asked to move aside', then, and not fired?

### POSITIVE

Ultimately, there's no point speculating over the reasons behind Cory's exit. What we need to look at are the knock-on effects for SL. Philip is confident that nothing will change, everything will stay as it is. Bad news, then. Seriously, though, the departure of the guy

who shaped so much of the grid could have a massive impact on the future on SL, but only time will tell. It may be a positive development - new faces could freshen up the Lab, and who knows, there may be another technical genius waiting in the wings to fill his shoes! Of more urgent concern to Big Phil are the departures from SL of Pontiac and AOL. The exit of Pontiac cer-

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

tainly came as a shock - I always held it up as an example of how a large RL company could make a success of itself in-world by interacting with the community rather than just throwing money around.

### EXPOSURE

It seems Pontiac chiefs simply aren't convinced SL is the way forward, despite the fact they have flour-



ished in-world. Other companies may look at Pontiac and wonder, 'if they don't want to be there, do we?'

With other virtual worlds gaining corporate exposure, such as Coca-Cola's link-up with There, it might be time for the Lab to reconsider its policies as we head into 2008.

## CHRISTMAS? BAH HUMBUG

**AH, Second Life - an oasis of calm to escape the real world, to avoid all the things which drive you crazy.** The perfect place to escape the fren-

zied, build-up to the festive season... what's that? Christmas is everywhere in-world? Wonderful. Bah humbug, as some old geezer once said. Nevermind, ignore

me and go have some fun - just remember not to drink so much virtual champagne at the SL office Christmas party that you end up photocopying your backside!



Purple Rose  
JEWELRY & FASHION

Miss December  
\* Naturelle Santos

Purple Rose  
Model of the Month Competition  
For Info Contact: Aliyeh Yifu  
or Visit (Purple Rose 128,128,28)

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



Havens Paradise is a beautiful place to be around Christmas time, as you can see from this pic by **SAMANTHA LAMONT**.



**ROMAN BRANDENBURG** has seen some amazing things on his voyages around SL in his trusty balloon - such as this scary sea monster!



**WILDLIFE** abounds at the WWF Conservation island, with this flying whale snapped by **SHUICHI SHINJI**.



**CLARRICE CINQUETTI** proves she has a great eye for a photo with this snapshot, entitled 'Northern Lights'.

# META-NEWS:

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

## PARENT ANGER

WEBKINZ is coming under fire from parents for adverts aimed at children. Campaigner Susan Linn said: "It's disappointing that the site is choosing to maximise revenue at the expense of children."

## ASK THE STARS

SPORTS giant Nike will launch a presence in the virtual world of Zwinky together with Millions of Us. Users will be able to compete in quizzes for the chance to put questions to top RL sports stars.

# HOMELESS SHELTER HELP

By COYNE NAGY

**A BRITISH charity is creating a virtual world to help the country's homeless this Christmas.**

As part of its festive campaign, Shelter is launching the Build A City project where donors can buy a plot to place a building such as a house, pub or windmill.

Plots vary in price but are available for as little as US\$10, and celebri-

ties such as Stephen Fry, Jon Snow and Amanda Holden are already involved.

### GIFT

Adam Sampson, chief executive of Shelter, said: "Many of us look forward to spending time at home over Christmas, but, shockingly, 1.6 million children across Britain will wake up homeless or

badly housed this year. "Buy a house for yourself or as a gift in Shelter's new virtual city and help raise desperately needed funds to give these children a brighter future."



APPEAL: Build a City

ADVERT

## Bouncy Castles

by Good2 Go

**Original Castle** - L\$ 2500

85 prims

Min Size 2m x 2m  
Max Size: 20m x 20m

**Purple Castle** - L\$ 2500

71 prims

Min Size 2m x 2m  
Max Size: 20m x 20m

**LOW LAG**

*Also available*

**Purple Castle Tiny Version** - L\$ 2500

Only 43 prims

Max Size 10m x 10m

**Unique Bounce Logic System**  
Handles Lots of Bouncers  
Newbie and Tiny Friendly  
Works at Different Sizes

**Can Be Fully Retextured**  
Adjustable Bounce Force  
Easy Operation and Setup  
MOD No Copy No Trans

SLX Buyer Review:  
★★★★★ 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)

# EVEN ESCORTS DON'T USE VOICE

VOICE CHAT HASN'T HAD THE IMPACT MANY BUSINESSES EXPECTED

By MORRHYS GRAYSMARK

**THE explosion in SL commerce predicted to follow the introduction of the voice feature has yet to happen, according to some residents.**

When plans for the feature were announced in February this year, Linden Lab's vice president for platform and technology development Joe Miller said: "We believe voice is a transformative technology that will change the way residents communicate."

### NEGATIVE

But the changes have yet to occur since voice was released onto the main grid in August. One of the businesses which was set to be transformed by voice was the sex industry, but many say any effect felt has been negative. Monk McKinney, who runs the ShowGirls escort service, said: "Other than being a novelty, it hasn't really had a big impact. The girls who used it seemed to have fun, but some girls who never used it seemed to disappear. "The reason is that some folks come here to escape RL, and voice made SL more real." For many, typing is strongly pre-

ferred to using voice, and not only in the sex business. Tab Scott is a RL professor of architecture at Montana State University, and he said there are many reasons why voice has not taken off: "People in SL for whom English is not their first language may prefer typing because of accents, and they can read English better than they can listen to it. "One other factor is those that choose to, for whatever reason, be a different gender with their avatar than they are in RL."

### CRUCIAL

Scott added that sticking to typing produces a ready-made conversation manuscript - increasingly important as in-world business becomes more complex. Yet he does admit that voice can still prove crucial for SL: "It's a very important tool in the toolbox and one that everyone should have and use."



NO ONE TO TALK TO: Many businesses aren't using the voice feature

## BIZ BITES:

### CENTRIC LAUNCH

DUTCH IT firm Centric has launched its SL presence. The company has already built a stage and a research and development office on their new island.

### CLINT IS KUSHTY

ROCKWELL Ginsberg, the outgoing CEO of property management firm Kush Island, has begged shareholders to back Clintovius Trotter to be his successor. Ginsberg will stand down due to RL commitments but shareholders are currently rejecting the new candidate by a ratio of three to one.

### DELICIOUS DEAL

DELICIOUS Demar Enterprises (DDE) has succeeded in acquiring Delicious Skins (DS). More than 50 per cent of DDE shareholders voted in favour of the move this week. DS shares will now be converted to shares in DDE.

### A BRIGHT FUTURE

A REPORT published by research firm Gartner claims that by 2010, 20 per cent of the largest RL retailers will be represented in virtual worlds, with SL in prime position to benefit.

# a-stars



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

## MULTI-CULTI BASH A HIT!



TRADITIONAL DRESS: MT Lundquist

PARTY TIME: Rose Springvale

ARABIC DANCE MOVES: Solar Hynes

By **BABU WRITER**

**A UNIQUE project to recreate a 14th century Muslim Caliphate in SL opened with a feast of cultural delights.**

Al Andalus hosted Arabic music and Middle Eastern dance, and visitors of both

genders were allowed into the ornately-tiled mosque.

### INTERACTION

Michel Manen and his partners in the project, Rose Springvale and Satir DeCuir, hosted the event, which featured a performance by Kelvinblue Oh.

Manen said: "We want to encourage interaction between different languages, nationalities, religions and cultures shaped by authentic Islamic principles, including political participation, separation of powers, and the rule of law."

## SWEDISH ANGELS



IN TUNE: Ernst Edman

WINTER WONDERLAND: The sim was packed for the party

ANGELIC: Saint Lucia

By **BABA COEN**

**ANGELIC** Swedes gathered on December 13 to celebrate Lucia and welcome in the Christmas season.

The beautiful **Saint Lucia**, dressed in white robes, made an appearance to crown the celebrations at a packed sim at the Svenskt

Resurscenter.

Top musicians including **Nathalie Moody**, **Satyra** and **Ernst Edman** played traditional Swedish songs to get the 75-strong crowd into the spirit. Generous partygoers also managed to raise L\$35,000 for the Swedish Red Cross.

## HAVING A BALL

By **ISABEL BROCCO**

**MODELS** and designers were dressed up in shades of berry red and ice blue at a winter-themed party at Second Mirage's grand ballroom.

The party followed Sunday's Winter Style fashion show at Ivalde. Spotted on the grand stairs were some of the biggest names in the fashion world, including ASpiRE! duo **Bianca Darling** and **Ally Geer**.



WINTER STYLE: Bianca Darlin, top, and Ofella Lava

## Evolutionary!



STUNNED: Lilith Heart

STYLISH: Popfuzz

By **ISABEL BROCCO**

**EVOLUTION** Museum opened its doors to an elite selection of guests on Saturday. Designers and celebrities looked back at the past, and saw how old designs compared to styles on the market now. Guests included **Gwen Carillon** of Elements in Design, **Sariella Ashton** of Body Doubles, **Popfuzz Bamboo** and **Lilith Heart**.

CHRISTMAS BALL - ICESKATING - SLEDS - SNOWBALLS - GAMES - ROMANCE

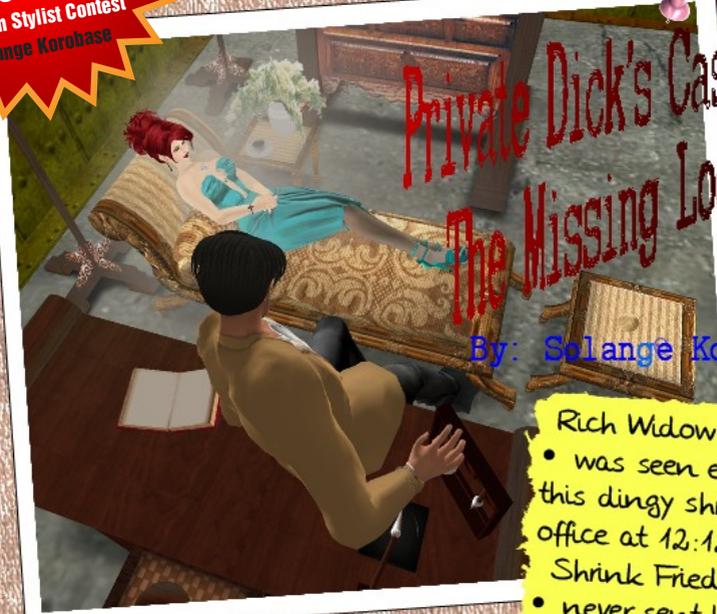
# WINTER WONDERLAND

ON TANGLEWOOD



GRAND WINTER BALL DECEMBER 16 1PM, LIVE MUSIC, DANCING & GAMES  
DANCING EVERY SATURDAY DECEMBER 24, 31 & JANUARY 7, 14 & 21, 1PM

**Winner**  
of The AvaStar  
Fashion Stylist Contest  
Solange Korobase



Private Dick's Case 216:  
The Missing Locket

By: Solange Korobase

Rich Widow Hansen  
• was seen entering this dingy shrink's office at 12:12 p.m.  
Shrink Friedrichssen  
• never sent Hansen the bill + vanished!!

**FOR SALE**

HARLOWE IN TEAL Dress and UPTOWN Suit, both from Simone! Design by Simone Stern, L\$300 and L\$200 respectively. (Simone 122/252/34)

AFANTASY COLOR CHANGE BUCKLED & DIAMOND HEELS WITH SOUND Shoes from AFantasy Emporium L\$325  
ART NOUVEAU SILVER LOCKET from Virtual Impressions L\$195 Both at Frenscant 122/252/34

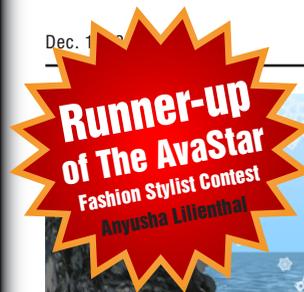
BEADED COLOR CHANGING Earrings from NC Design L\$50 (Nico Island 190/204/30)





*She wished upon a star & dreamed until the dusk, her wish was found within the glowing Diamond Dust.*

*Limited Edition Gown*      callie cline



**Runner-up of The AvaStar Fashion Stylist Contest**  
Anyusha Lillienthal



By ANYUSHA LILLIENTHAL

**Cosy wool jumper from Petit Ange, Sokri (231, 79, 71) L\$110**  
**Sculptie scarf from Sola, Okinawa (151, 241, 28) L\$100**  
**Jeans from Ibizarre, KREISS (62, 92, 23) L\$129**

WINTER time in SL is not just a time to reflect on life, but also a time to re-think your wardrobe. Fill it up, so that you stay warm for long romantic strolls in the snow.

# Winter-Magic



**Knee length boots from Adam n Eve Genesis (12, 149, 23) L\$375**  
**Fur-lined jacket from InStyle LOL Island (87, 17, 26) L\$199**



**Warm woven coat by Truth Sweet Sorrow (127, 126, 26) L\$225**





# CARRIE SODWIND

## A CALL FOR CLASSIC CHIC

IT'S TIME FOR SL DESIGNERS TO EXPERIMENT WITH SOME GREAT OLD-SCHOOL FASHIONS

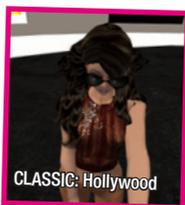
**ELEGANT** AvaStar photographer Palo Bade shared with me a secret frustration about the SL fashion world.

So few designers take the time to learn from the old classics of RL world class fashion.



Paolo's fashion pictures are minimalist, focussing on hour-glass bodies and well-cut clothes. Details are everything; every button-hole matters.

He is not the only one who has been pining for RL classic vintage. In fact, the SL fashion world is undergoing a trend revolution - all things old/vintage/elegant are over-taking punk/cyber/funky styles.



CLASSIC: Hollywood

### VINTAGE

Dyed punk hair is being replaced by black bobs and red lips, and a furry avatar is a less common site than a mink fur coat. Forcing their

way onto the stage are old-school revivals like corsets and pearls, large hips and small waists, and Hollywood red-carpet glamour. Vintage store Ivalde, up-market PaperCouture and classyKaDeWe are hot-spots for the new face of SL fashion. Don't worry Paolo - it won't be long before SL sorts its Armanis from its Vivienne Westwoods, and its Guccis from its Lacroixs.



CHIC: Black bob & red lips

ADVERT

# DESIGN OUR BRAND NEW AVASTAR CLOTHES LINE!



RED HOT: AvaStar catsuit

THERE is still time for you to enter YOUR creations in our competition to design The AvaStar's new clothes line.

The winner will walk away with **L\$10,000 plus four weeks' promotion in The AvaStar!**

All the entrants will be on display at **The AvaStar's First Anniversary Party** on December 19, so simply email your pictures to [newsdesk@the-avastar.com](mailto:newsdesk@the-avastar.com) by December 16 to be in with a chance of winning the great prize.

Remember - entries must include The AvaStar logo and feature our official colours of red and white.

# INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

By ISOLDE FLAMANDE

## WEDNESDAY SOON OF WOO'S!

### I ALWAYS WEAR...

"...these amazing eyes, called Sharbat by Zada Zenovka of Eye Fidelity. These are the eyes of the Afghan girl from the very famous cover of National Geographic. When I saw them, I HAD to have them right there and then. I'll never wear any other eyes. They are set off quite nicely by my skin by DynamiteTanaka Payne, of D-Skins. It says a lot about not being overwhelmingly made-up."



### I ADORE...

"...this bracelet from my favourite accessory shop, Untone, which is run by two Japanese girls, Cocomitsu Mayo and Chocolate Yifu. I have always been a big fan of bangles and these ones have so much amazing detail. The creativity and the texturing is awesome!"



### I LOVE SHOWING OFF..

"...this fantastic choker created by Geyer Schnyder of Primitive Designs. It was given to me by my partner and good friend Poe. It goes with so many different styles of clothing, has so many intricate pieces and details, plus it has sentimental value."



# BRANCHING OUT



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

Ghost Garden winter tree

By Carrie Grant  
Fauna 107, 213, 22

L\$225 COPYABLE



Winter Snow Tree

By Luna Bliss  
Bliss Gardens (193, 186, 145)

L\$60

Ice Twinkle Norway Spruce sculpture

By Julia Hathor  
Spellbound Woods (57, 52, 64)

L\$450

COPYABLE



Sculpture - frozen willow tree

By Julia Hathor  
Spellbound Woods (124, 65, 55)

L\$450 COPYABLE

L\$100

Ash-Rowan winter tree

By Lilith Heart, Hearth 1 (51, 86, 21)



# ROMANS DISCOVERED SL BEFORE LINDEN LAB!

WEDDING BLISS:  
Tania Juran and Hiperit Giha

**LONG ago in the mists of time the Romans discovered Cream Island (120,107,23) and settled there, long before Linden Lab.**

How do I know this? Well, specialist archaeologist teams have been busy during the past few months excavating the ruins discovered by Tania Juran and me, Hiperit Giha as we wandered through a mystic woodland while courting one day. I remember the date well - July 1, 2007 as Tania made such an impression on me that on December 1 we will open Cream Island (120,107,23) to share our romance. Recently, we celebrated our love in a stylish wedding at Dragon Inn, with Kim Seifert singing live at the reception. I say that I if you've never been to a Kim Seifert concert, you haven't lived. It was awesome! In fact, when Tania and I open our Cream Island Sim there will be a place for concerts and I am already booking them up to March next year. We have also found the remains of a medieval town complete with a

castle overlooking it. Tania has been busy ensuring the castle takes on a modern theme for two floors of fun-filled dancing.

## ROMANCE

Full of energy and enthusiasm, Tania runs differently-themed contests regularly with prizes for best male and female outfits. Tania is busy putting the finishing touches to another exciting club with VIP rooms hidden under... well, you'll have to explore for yourselves. Suffice it to say that the Mystic Wood gives way to a Romantic Lovers Meet, and other delights await you as well.

Tania says: "Are you looking for romance? Boys, girls will not tell you what they want when you romance them nor will our girls but here our dancers will show you! Girls, the Chippenhunks would be put in the shade by our male dancers." Group notices are sent out in six major languages. Ready for fun? We certainly are! Come discover yourself.

# NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: AN ISLAMIC EDUCATION EXPERIENCE, AN ENGLISH SEASIDE RESORT AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

CULTURAL:  
IslamOnline Dot Net



# LEARN ABOUT ISLAM

By COYNE NAGY

**THE new IslamOnline Dot Net sim is set to further SL's credentials as an education platform.**

Created by IslamOnline.net, the sim is designed to educate residents, both Muslims and non-Muslims, about the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca. The pilgrimage consists of several ceremonies and is one of the pillars of Islam which every able-bodied

gives visitors advice and information on how to perform the Hajj, including distributing free tents and sleeping bags, as they make a virtual representation of this special journey.

## CHEEKY

Eagle-eyed AvaStar reader Samantha Lamont spotted the excellent New Brighton sim. The highlight is undoubtedly

the island are available in small vehicles. However, there is a slightly cheeky offer to teleport to the BBC offices - which turns out to be Burt Brill and Cardens solicitors, not the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Environmentally-aware residents can now help clean up

## ISLAMONLINE DOT NET



Muslim, who has the means to travel, must perform at least once in their lifetime. The sim

## NEW BRIGHTON



the stunning recreation of British seaside resort's famous pier, and there are even seagulls flocking around high above the visitors. Automated tours of

## OKEANOS



oil spills and use a submarine to examine underwater reefs at Okeanos, the second sim from the United States National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. A HUD is available to help explore the island.



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

# DEAR

## SWEETEST GIRL EVER - BUT NOW SHE'S A MAN!

STAR  
LETTER  
L\$500  
send me a mail

I STILL LOVE HER/HIM, BUT IT JUST ISN'T THE SAME FOR ME - WHAT SHOULD I DO?

*Dear Randi:* TWO months ago I met the sweetest girl on the grid. We were attracted to each other at first sight. Soon after we met, we were inseparable. We went to clubs, visited beautiful sims, made love and even bought a small plot of land together. But last week something happened - she suddenly decided to 'kill' her avatar

and rez a new one. Now she is a he. I still love her/him, but it isn't the same. I'm trying to just become friends, but every time I see her/his new name appear in my friends list I cry. What should I do? — A lovesick M.

*Randi says:* You need to ask your friend to explain his/her actions. Perhaps in RL your friend is a man and is now be-

ing more forthcoming about his identity. Or perhaps in RL she is actually a woman and wants to explore another side of herself. If you're really good friends you may try to remain so, but the sex is almost certainly a thing of the past. Break-ups hurt, but the best thing to do is to try to learn from them and move on to other relationships.

## SEX IS GREAT BUT SHE KEEPS DISAPPEARING

*Dear Randi:* RECENTLY I met a wonderful girl, and the two of us seem to have great chemistry. The relationship has moved very quickly, with dancing followed by make-out time in the hot tub followed by some awesome sex! But she often disappears with no notice once things get hot and heavy, then says she "doesn't want to talk about it" when she returns. I'm beginning to suspect she's married in RL, or at least has a live-in boyfriend. Should I pursue the relationship, or drop it? — K.B.

*Randi says:* It seems she's willing to give you some but not all of her, and you may have to take it or leave it that way. She appears to be someone who likes to keep SL and RL separate, and for the vast majority of residents that's probably the safest approach. Tell her how you feel about her quick disappearing act, and if you can't reach an agreement you may have to get rid of her.

## HOW TO BUY A PERFECT GIFT FOR YOUR PARTNER

*Dear Randi:* I MET a gorgeous lady at a Halloween party, and I'm really interested in getting to know her better. She's beautiful, smart and funny, and she's sensitive enough to listen to my problems. I really want to get her a Christmas gift, but I'm not sure what would be in good taste. I don't want to get her anything too big, because I don't want her to think I'm rushing her. What kind of gift could I give her that would be thoughtful but not too pushy? — D.S.

*Randi says:* I certainly wouldn't buy her a mink coat, a diamond or a new house! But on the other hand, don't make her gift a joke, either. Have a talk with her and tell her your favourite charities and then find out hers. Then make contributions to several SL charities in her name. Christmas really is supposed to be more about giving than receiving, and you sound like the kind of guy who has it right.

# RANDI

The Virtual World's  
No 1 Agony Aunt

## SHOULD I GIVE SUGAR MOMMY A CHANCE?

*Dear Randi:* MY neighbour in SL is a nice older lady who seems to be able to buy anything she wants. Although I enjoy her company, I don't really have any romantic interest in her. But for weeks now she has been giving me little presents, and last week she showed me a lavish new home she says she wants to share with me. I don't

want to be her boyfriend, but I do like the beach-front view, the Jacuzzi and the fancy furniture. Should I tell her I'm not interested, or just go along for the ride? — C.T.

*Randi says:* You don't say in your letter whether or not you have made love to her - if the thought of sex with her really does makes you ill, then

the simple advice is, don't go for it. But if there's even a tiny bit of interest on your part, then give a relationship with the nice lady a chance. Older women have much more experience in matters of the heart than girls in their 20s, and you're not trying to make children. My gut feeling is that you should give her a try.

ADVERT

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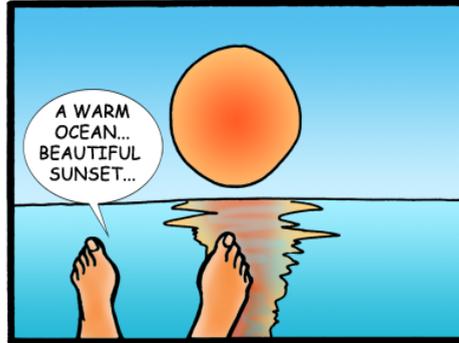
Yeolmae ( 10, 20, 80 )  
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- SL Humor T-Shirts  
"Keepin' it Real in SL"
- SL DJ & Club Scene Blog  
[DJDoubledown.blogspot.com](http://DJDoubledown.blogspot.com)

# HOT SLAGGIN'

ARTWORK:  
Ermanno Spitteler

## "BEWARE OF SEARCH"



# Freebies SL's best FREE stuff!

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

## THIS WEEK: AVOID NOTECARDS WITH LOGIT!

WRITING notecards can be painful, with plenty of hectic copying and pasting, and there is always the risk of losing work during a crash.

Many of you will have experienced this feeling in various situations in which you need to keep a written memory of your chat - discussing the price of a plot, for example, or attending a meeting or having a chat with friends. A good solution is Logit, a free tool created by Miki Gymnast. You can find it at Rezzable 04 (113, 152, 665).

Open the box for the HUD, then wear and touch it, and choose

to go to the indicated website. In your personal web space, secured by a password you received in chat, you will be able to save and search a complete diary of your SL day.

### GLOBAL

All your chats in real time, all teleports with exact time and destination as well as every region change and landmark are included, as well as names of avatars around you. With the right command, you can even save IMs or other kind of notes, and have your logins recorded. Using the HUD menu, you can enable or disable each function

or the global logging of data. Remember to avoid writing down sensitive RL data and respect other residents' privacy, according to the SL Terms of Services.



ADVERT

THE AVASTAR EVERY DAY IN DECEMBER...

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Follow the link in the group notice to this vendor and click on it for your freebie!

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# THE GUIDE TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## THIS WEEK: LIGHTHOUSES

LAND AHOY:  
Boston Light



### LIGHTING THE WAY

By GAETANA FAUST

KEEPING SL'S SHIPS SAFE FROM JAGGED VIRTUAL ROCKS

**THE top of a lighthouse is a perfect place to catch some of the most beautiful sights on the grid.**

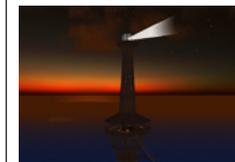
You will find a great lighthouse built at Cowell (114, 29, 23). An ancient village provides ample opportunities for becoming lost under the shadow of the **Cowell Lighthouse**. An elevator stops at the first, second and third floors, but be sure to go to the top for a special view of the detailed and carefully-crafted sim. An observation deck gives you the chance to see the white village below from a unique vantage point.

Sailors whizzing by will be familiar with the sight of the **Boston Light** in the stunning Pacific Crossing sim (114, 73, 23). The sim is one of

the New England sailing-themed sims, and it captures the mystery of a historic lighthouse against a dramatic background of waves and picturesque islands. Step inside to read about the historic landmark's history and climb the tall, winding staircase to the top to take in the panoramic view.

Make a quick stop at the small, elegant lighthouse on Linden land in **Panetalla** (21, 234, 26). It's a rare tranquil place on the bustling mainland, and the simple lighthouse adds to the serenity. The unusual **Pharos Lighthouse** in Ross (180, 53, 41) sits atop a commercial building, but it's well worth seeing for its domination of the surrounding landscape from a foggy perch.

**RUSTIC VIEWS**  
GERSTLE BAY



Enjoy the wooden beams criss-crossing up the tall structure and absorb the gorgeous views.  
Where: Gerstle (108, 207, 31)

**TOWER OF TOP TUNES**  
LARA'S LIGHTHOUSE



A romantic open-air ballroom is dominated by the tower, which you can climb for a bit of privacy.  
Where: Beauchamp (215, 55, 21)

**A MASTERFUL BUILD**  
VERNIAN SEA



Books line the study where the lighthouse keeper spends his days.  
Where: Vernian Sea (206, 226, 106)

12.14. - 12.20.

## DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in SL Time



## NIGHTLIFE

## GREAT STRIDES BENEFIT

Enjoy a dance party being held to raise funds for the RL Great Strides charity, which uses horses to help people overcome psychological problems.

**When:** Dec. 16, 11:00-14:00

**Where:** AMO (216, 137, 23)



## COMPETITION

## NOT JUST ANOTHER

Glowbox Designs, V3 Group and TRU Textures are hosting a texturing competition. You will have 24 hours to create a hand-crafted 'NJA' model.

**When:** Dec. 20, from 00:01

**Where:** Silicon Island (97, 114, 38)



## ENTERTAINMENT

## JOYSCO WINTER FESTIVAL

Enjoy live music, fashion and an iceskating party as the winter fun really kicks in.

**When:** Dec. 15, 13:00

**Where:** Convention Centre (80, 90, 21)



## FASHION

## SHAKTURE COUTURE

The label unveils its Winter Solstice '08 collection with a fabulous fashion show.

**When:** Dec. 15, 11:00

**Where:** Maria Christine (146, 48, 214)



## PARTY

## FREEBIE GIVEAWAY

Samara Studios celebrates one year in the Gembong West sim with a party featuring freebies.

**When:** Dec. 15, 09:00

**Where:** Gembong West (224, 69, 28)



## EVENT OF THE WEEK!

## LIONEL MESSI PARTY

Join RL soccer star Lionel Messi at the Barcelona Virtual sim for Banco Sabadell's Christmas party, which should prove to be a cracking good time.

**When:** Dec. 19, 12:00

**Where:** Barcelona Virtual Island (128, 128, 0)

## EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



## NIGHTLIFE

## CLUB MANNEQUIN

Head down to the new fashion-themed club for its first runway show, which will feature the work of various designers.

**When:** Dec. 15, 13:00

**Where:** Simuality2 (160, 166, 28)



## FASHION

## INIS RUA

The design house will hold its Premiere Holiday Fashion Show, with chic styles and plenty of activities afterwards.

**When:** Dec. 16, 14:00

**Where:** Cavettaz (218, 109, 38)



## ENTERTAINMENT

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

There will be a winter fashion show, a hockey game and several gigs amongst other attractions - with SLCN.tv coverage.

**When:** Dec. 15, 13:00

**Where:** Convention Center (158, 194, 23)

ADVERT

# AVASTAR PARTY

Join The AvaStar as we celebrate our first anniversary on December 19 at 10am SLT. Catch the fantastic Elegance fashion show featuring ASpiRE! models, ViciV gowns and Zhao shoes. The L\$10,000 winner of The AvaStar clothes line competition will be announced, followed by an after-party on the beach with DJ Logfather Nap. Follow the path down the rocks from the landing platform at The AvaStar Island.

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## THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

By PAOLO BADE



# UMA TROELL

*THE BUBBLY BLONDE OWNS THE FAMOUS PERFUMED GARDEN STRIP CLUB, BUT SAYS THE SEXIEST PART OF THE HUMAN BODY IS THE BRAIN.*

### AVA - ID CARD

NAME: UMA TROELL  
BIRTH DATE: 1/21/2007

PROFESSION: Stripper and club owner  
ATTITUDE: Smart girls go far

### INTERVIEW

**The AvaStar:** What is your best feature?

**Uma Troell:** It's my hot, sexy, curvy, big, beautiful... personality. There are lots of great looking avs out there, but it's always a huge plus if they have something to say.

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

**UT:** It would be tremendously helpful if LL concentrated on fixing some of the daily problems we all have to deal with before adding any new 'perks' (AKA voice). Can we stop losing inventory before they add the mandatory new smell-o-vision update?

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

**UT:** It's not exactly in my inventory but I have no idea how I would live another day in SL without my friends list. I would be a lost little pup if I couldn't log on and reach out to some of the fabulous people I've met in SL.

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

**UT:** Is it wrong to say me? I have been overheard saying I want to build an empire so why not President Troell? Just think of a more conservative Hillary minus the 'cankles'.