

THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

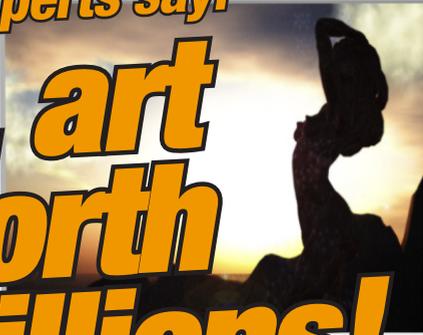
NEWS	p.2-10
Philip refuses to back down over avatar look	
BUSINESS	p.11
Cory predicts SL objects will become reality	
A-STARS	p.12-13
Cienega Soon lands 2008 SLartist Idol title	
AVASTAR OF THE WEEK	p.27
Fluffy feline Monalisa Robbiani	



ON A FASHION DIET
Callie Cline's tips to tackle fashion burnout!
PAGE 15

KIMBERLY MIRABEA

Experts say:
SL art worth millions!



SEE PAGE 4

SHOCKING INSIDE REPORT

ARE FURRIES DYING OUT?



- Abuse causing furkind to flee
- Furries rarely seen in public

By Coyne Nagy
FURRIES have been forced into hiding following constant abuse.

SEE PAGE 3

INSIDE
OPINION

"Big names come into SL, not knowing what on earth they should do. They build a bunch of big empty buildings, and seem to think we should be thankful for their presence."

YOUR MAIL
p.7

"Perhaps the reports of SL art being sold in RL are just the beginning. Who's to say we won't be at a Sotheby's sim watching the hammer come down on a multi-million US\$ sale of a virtual painting in just a few years time?"



LEIDER
STEPANOV
p.9

THE AVASTAR

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NUMBERS
OF THE WEEK

2

... new RL companies are working with technology outsourcing firm Anantara to launch their presence in-world.

33

... sims make up the Caledon region, a Victorian- and steam punk-themed 'independent state'.

63,409

... people were online at the same time on February 17, a new concurrency record for SL.

RIDING THE ROCKET



OYSTER Bay Sculpture Garden owner Morris Vig has a bit of fun with a rocket as he prepares to close the popular site's doors for good. Pic by Isolde Flamand.

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FURRIES HIDE
FROM ABUSE!

SAFE HAVEN: Furries gather at Luskwood



By CARRIE SODWIND

FEARS FOR FURKIND GROW AS MANY FLEE ABUSE

FURRIES have been forced into hiding after receiving constant abuse by residents, sparking fears that furkind is dying out.

This shocking revelation is cause for concern as animal avatars, one of the oldest SL communities which used to make up 40 per cent of the total population, seem to have all but vanished.

PERSECUTION

An investigation by The AvaStar this week has revealed that furries have been forced to stay away from their own good, to

avoid griefing.

Furry Forepawz Golem said: "Furries have tended to band together into small sub-communities, away from what they've seen as relentless persecution by griefers."

Discrimination against animal avatars runs deep in the fabric of SL, according to Shadowcat Silverspar, who claims most in-world employers don't like to hire workers who have fur: "I have a human form that I use when I'm working as a host but I miss my tail when I'm in human form. I needed some money and the bosses prefer

to have human hosts." Arito Cotton, born in 2003, is one of the oldest furries in SL. But the co-builder of the popular Luskwood furry hangout, which is grieved daily, denies furries are dying out: "Furry communities may just be becoming tighter knit; folks may be hanging out at standard furry areas and not leaving as much."

Other furries see themselves as upholding the original ethos of SL. Hagalaz Nilsson said: "I come here [to a furry sim] a lot to get away from the commercialism."

BAN ON AD FARMS
PROVES POPULAR

By COYNE NAGY

LINDEN Lab was swamped with reports of ad farming from residents hours after the practice was banned.

Jack Linden made the announcement last week that ad farms, where land is sliced up into tiny pieces and then littered with eyesore adverts, were not allowed on after a campaign by The AvaStar.

ABUSE

By the next morning, it was reported that Patch Linden and the Lab's estate services received more than 500 abuse reports, with delighted residents finally able to tackle a problem which has blighted the grid. Now LL faces the huge task of investigating all the reports, although it appears to have the backing of a majority of SLers.

Ad farm victim MarkByron Falta said: "Unless [the Lindens] plan to increase their staff, I can't imagine them having the time to properly sort through the sheer volume of abuse reports that will be raining down on them."



BANNED: An ad farm

NEWS BITES!

DAZZLING DEBUT

DAZZLE, the project to update the SL interface appearance, has been included in the new First Look preview viewer for SL. The Lab hopes Dazzle will allow the user interface graphics to be better customised.

I'M A UNION MAN

WORKERS are set to benefit from SL as their RL unions increasingly use the world for meetings and discussions. The UK-based Trades Union Congress recently hosted an event at Union Island to plan a response to anti-union companies.

SL'S WELSH STAR

RL singer Meinir Gwilym will make her virtual debut in SL next month with what she believes will be the first in-world concert performed in Welsh. Her avatar Alaw Llewellyn will perform the gig at Taff's Bar on March 7.

BUILD THE FUTURE

ARCHITECTURE fans will enjoy three new sims dedicated to the subject. Eolus One, arcspac and Architecture Island will collaborate to help boost their presence in-world.



SL ART is setting the RL world ablaze, with some works selling for more than L\$2.7 million.

Two major RL art publications have featured SL on their front covers, and many in-world artists are starting to eye their virtual creations as a way to earn a living.

Experts say the potential of SL as a new medium for art is the key to the massive interest from RL, and a recent article in Market Watch magazine described virtual art as "big business". The in-world Avatrait Gallery is at the forefront of the new industry, and its owner Trax Hax claims to be selling SL prints for up to 7,000 Euros – or L\$2.7 million – in RL. He said: "There is no

question that SL art will become an important tool for the art world, and it has already started. Avatrait is now working with several curators and collectors from around the world, to give artists a central location in which to post their work."

CONTROVERSY

ArtWorld Market is the founder of SLART Magazine. He caused controversy in the SL art community earlier this year when he enforced his registered trademark of the term 'SLART', but he is keenly aware of the interest from RL.

According to Market, the main driving force behind the interest is the new wave of performing art-

ists in SL, like DanCoyote Antonelli and his ZeroG SkyDance work. Market said: "Scripted sculpture is developing rapidly... [Antonelli's show] is mind-boggling."

Schmonson Dalglish is an RL artist who arrived in SL in December after reading an article about virtual art in a San Diego paper. He said: "[The SL art hype] is just starting. SL allows for new art to be created, especially digital sculpture that you can not do in RL."



ART MOGUL: ArtWorld Market praises SL's performing artists

PHIL WILL NEVER CHANGE AVATAR!

LINDEN LAB CHIEF SAYS HIS AV IS AN ICON

By CARRIE SODWIND

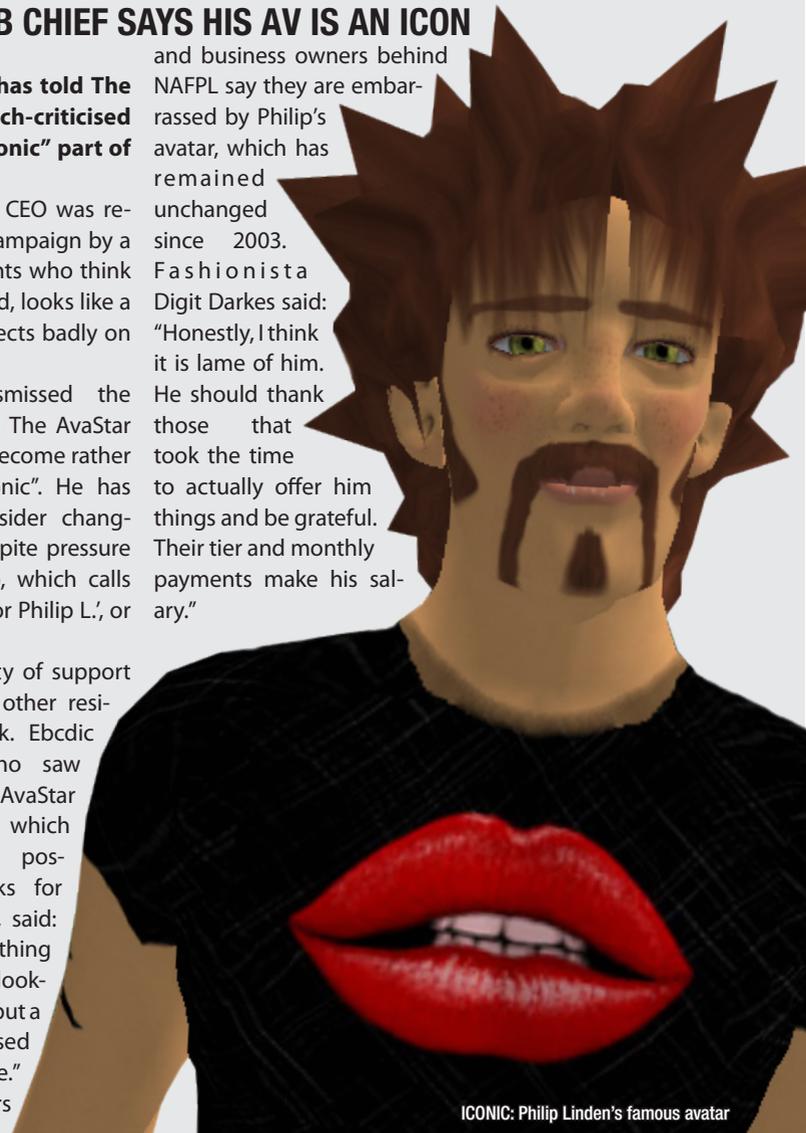
PHILIP Linden has told The AvaStar his much-criticised avatar is an "iconic" part of SL.

The Linden Lab CEO was responding to a campaign by a group of residents who think his av is awkward, looks like a newbie and reflects badly on SL as a whole.

But Philip dismissed the claims, and told The AvaStar his avatar "has become rather unique and iconic". He has refused to consider changing his look despite pressure from the group, which calls itself 'New Avi for Philip L.', or 'NAFPL'.

There was plenty of support for Philip from other residents this week. Ebcidic Zehetbauer, who saw the story in The AvaStar two weeks ago which included three possible new looks for the 'king' of SL, said: "There is something right about Phil looking like a noob - but a boss with exposed tattoos... not sure." But the designers

and business owners behind NAFPL say they are embarrassed by Philip's avatar, which has remained unchanged since 2003. Fashionista Digit Darkes said: "Honestly, I think it is lame of him. He should thank those that took the time to actually offer him things and be grateful. Their tier and monthly payments make his salary."



ICONIC: Philip Linden's famous avatar

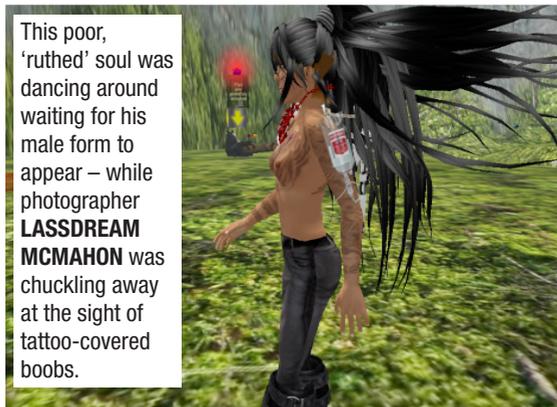
L\$500
PICS
OF THE WEEK
 yourphotos@the-avastar.com



SUSANNA CARNELL took this picture of an apparent act of freebie hero worship by her friend – but it was a bit premature, as none of the clothes were for men.



Just when she thought it was safe to go back into the water, **AMARYNTH EMMONS** suddenly realised she was swimming at the Jaws exhibit on Tribute Island...



This poor, 'ruthed' soul was dancing around waiting for his male form to appear – while photographer **LASSDREAM MCMAHON** was chuckling away at the sight of tattoo-covered boobs.

Yowser! Be careful with those things or you might hurt someone! Pic by **ANTARTICA SLADE**.

your mail @ YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

GLAD TO SEE THEM GO

Hey Regis, DON'T get me wrong, I'm not against RL companies in SL per se, but it did make me smile to see another two corporates disappear [see Issue 61]. The departure of Deutsche Post and ING just goes to show that these big names come into SL, not really knowing what on earth they should do. They build a bunch of big emp-

ty buildings, and seem to think we should be thankful merely for their presence. But I'd rather spend my time building my own world, meeting real in-world people – not some noob who is 'doing some research' for the latest corporate sim.

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

I'm also in SL partly because I'm sick of the constant marketing and advertising we are subjected to in RL, so I'm annoyed that we have to endure this here as well. If they create a cool sim, give the SL community something useful – they're more than welcome, otherwise, they can stay in the office.
By G.T.

HAVING A LAUGH AT US ELECTIONS

Dear Regis, I HAVE been watching the US presidential nomination races closely in RL. And all this fuss was starting to make me jaded, which was why I appreciated the laugh I got when I saw the caricatures of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton in The AvaStar last week! Well done Christophe Hugo for creating them, it's good to see politicians sent up!
By W.T.

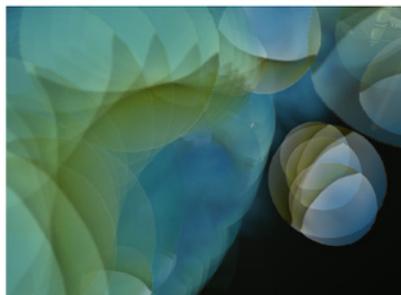
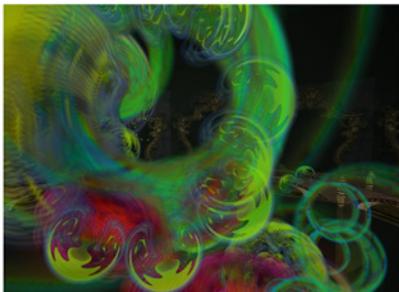
ADVERT

DemetriusSlade.com

- › Land sales › Property rentals
- › Land rentals › Financial services

THE WHITE ROOM

– PURE SECOND LIFE ART



Since January 2007 Butterfly Laa and Jesper Prinz has been writing a book about Second Life and its characters.

During this work we have taken several pictures that show the real beauty in this (second) world.

We have collected some of those pictures in our gallery.

THE WHITE ROOM

AKH 42,137,23



LEIDER STEPANOV

SL'S CREATIVITY COULD BE WORTH MILLIONS!

RL ART WORLD INTEREST PROVES RESIDENTS ARE A CREATIVE FORCE

WHAT would you buy if you had US\$142 million in your pocket?

For example, you could buy 480,000 bikes, 128,000 plasma screen TVs, 10,000 family cars or even two Boeing passenger jets.

Or you could blow it all on a single painting by Jackson Pollock, as reportedly happened in 2006, making it the most expensive piece of art in history.

MASTERPIECE

And because the money in the RL art world can be completely crazy, it was interesting to hear how some 'aficionados' have started to take an interest in SL masterpieces (see page four). Perhaps the reported L\$2.7 million which some SL works are fetching in RL are merely the beginning. Who's to say we won't be sat at a Sotheby's



sim watching the hammer come down on a multi-million US\$ sale of a virtual painting in just a few years time?

SUCCESS

That might all sound fanciful, but the fact there are non-SLers in RL who are sitting up and taking notice of the creativity of residents is fantastic. It goes to show that SL really is all about creativity, and that the endless possibilities aren't always forsaken in the name of RL recreations.

Good luck to virtual artists who decide to make a fist of earning a RL crust with their art. Of course, there will always be many more

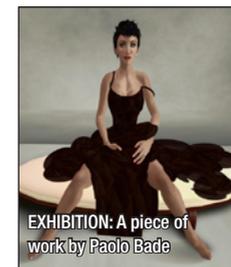
LOOKING GOOD

WELL done Philip Linden – sticking to your guns and refusing to bow to the pressure of people who say you should change your avatar (see page five).

You just have to love that retro style. But there are an awful lot of people who think the king of SL should undergo a radical makeover, which is why we receive so many suggestions for our 'Dress Up Phil' feature. We have featured everything from mafioso to wino, Uncle Sam to hippy. Perhaps he should consider my favourite, Astronaut Phil?

RETRO

Nope, Philip knows what he wants. And he created the world so frankly he can wear what he likes. After all, retro is 'in' this season. I appreciate the point made by members of 'New Avi for Philip L.', who say his avatar's 'nobness' gives SL a bad image. But it just wouldn't be the same without his facial hair, now would it?



PLEASE SEND ME YOUR COMMENTS:

newsdesk@the-avastar.com

META-NEWS!

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

TEENS POWER UP

IBM launched Power Up this week, a game in a virtual world aimed at educating teenagers about ecological issues. The project was unveiled at Engineer's Week 2008 on February 16.

THE LAW SPEAKS

SPEAKERS for the first ever virtual law conference in New York this April have been announced. Bryan Camp, a professor from the Texas School of Law, and Gregory Weinberg from Icarus Studios are among those taking part.

ENTROPIA THAIS UP DEAL

THAILAND'S CYBER CITY PROJECT SET FOR VIRTUAL HOME IN ENTROPIA

By COYNE NAGY

ENTROPIA Universe will host the virtual world presence of Cyber City, a US\$250m development currently under construction in Thailand.

The huge project is a collaboration between the Thai government and architecture firm Creative Kingdom, and will contain a state of the art TV studio and IT production complex along with high qual-

ity accommodation for visiting executives, a theme park and an education centre.

TECHNOLOGY

The planet being built in Entropia is the first part of the campaign while Robles LLC, a company owned by the Creative Kingdom CEO Eduardo Robles, intend to make a film based on the planet to be released in 2010. Creative guru Robles

said: "The technology introduced by this project will enable other companies within the media, film, music and gaming industries, among other content providers, to efficiently acquire their own planet within Entropia Universe. In turn, this will provide a diverse, entertaining and interesting virtual universe of vast proportions for participants to explore."

ADVERT

REDVINES

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FIRST 30 GET FREE 4lb JAR of RED VINES
Enter the L\$26,500 Prize Drawing!

2006 DRAWING CONTEST GALLERY

LIVE Concert
Opening Feb. 15 11am

Feb. 15 - Apr. 15, 2008
2008 Drawing Contest Information Available

For terms and conditions see http://www.mvofestivals.com/redvines/terms.htm

SL CREATIONS TO BECOME REALITY

3D FABRICATION WILL ALLOW FIRMS TO TRANSFER SL CREATIONS

By BABU WRITER

THE weird and wonderful creations dreamt up by residents in SL could become reality within five years, according to former Lab bigwig Cory Ondrejka.

Ondrejka, who as Cory Linden was LL's chief technical officer until the end of 2007, was speaking at the Metaverse U conference last week. He claimed that RL manufacturing would be revolutionised in the near

future, and objects which currently can only be created in SL would soon be real: "The infinite horsepower of distributed design is going to change how we think of manufacturing. Things that businesses can

only create now in SL, for example, they'll be able to create in real life in five years because of things like 3D fabrication. That's going to be a real transformation in business."

EXCITED

Ondrejka also revealed that he was enjoying life after SL and all the possibilities it presented. He added: "I get lots of looks at things I couldn't have seen if I were still at Linden. There's a lot of stuff worth getting excited about."

The conference was held in RL at Stanford University, and was beamed into SL at the 'Skyditorium' at the SciLands sim. But severe problems with the video feed caused frustration among the gathered avatars, who were keen to hear speakers including Joe Linden, blogger Hamlet Au, digital media guru Howard Rheingold and sociologist TL Taylor.



SOON IN RL? Joe Linden's robotic avatar

IMPRESSIVE: Cory Ondrejka addresses the Metaverse U conference in the Skyditorium at the SciLands sim.

BIZ BITES!

SL ON A HANDSET

APPLE'S new iPhone could help business users spend more time in SL. Phones have struggled to cope with the viewer but rather than using its own memory, the iPhone can stream data when it is linked with a computer.

WIRE YOU GOING?

PR Newswire has become the latest RL company to leave SL. Despite attempting to engage the community by providing media support to in-world businesses, the presence was not deemed a success.

BACK IN BUSINESS

JT Financial has relaunched as SLWallet. The firm was hit hard by the ban on banking but has now converted old accounts to shares in the new company. Shares will be bought back so customers do not lose out financially.

NEW ATLAS CRISIS

ATLAS Venture Capital is facing a fresh crisis after new boss Monkey Canning sold large amounts of his stock in the company before announcing he was taking a six-week break from the job.

a-stars



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

THE NEXT BIG THING!



WINNER: Cienega Soon

HOST: Codebastard Redgrave

By **KITTY OTOOLE**

FANS of in-world art were packed in to see Cienega Soon crowned as the 2008 Slartist Idol.

She fought off stiff competition from other big names in the SL art scene such as **Ryker Beck** and **Evangeline Cortes**, and walked away

with the L\$8,000 top prize. Her winning piece was a stunning landscape called 'Twin Paths', which impressed the judges who included **LadyArwen Demina**, **Gabrielle Sinatra** and **Stephen Venkman**.

The event was hosted by the AvaStar of the Year 2007, **Codebastard Redgrave**.

THE BRITS ARE COMING!

By **PHIL SPACKLER**

THE Beatles were still breaking new ground on Sunday when avatars gathered to celebrate the anniversary of the Fab Four's 'invasion' of America.

Their achievements after they first set foot on American soil on February 17 1964 were part of a historic injection of British culture into the US. To mark the event, the Museum of Music organised a Beatles retro party at Infotainment Island, using innovative video screen which streamed to individual visitors instead of the whole sim.

GROOVY: Music fans go all retro



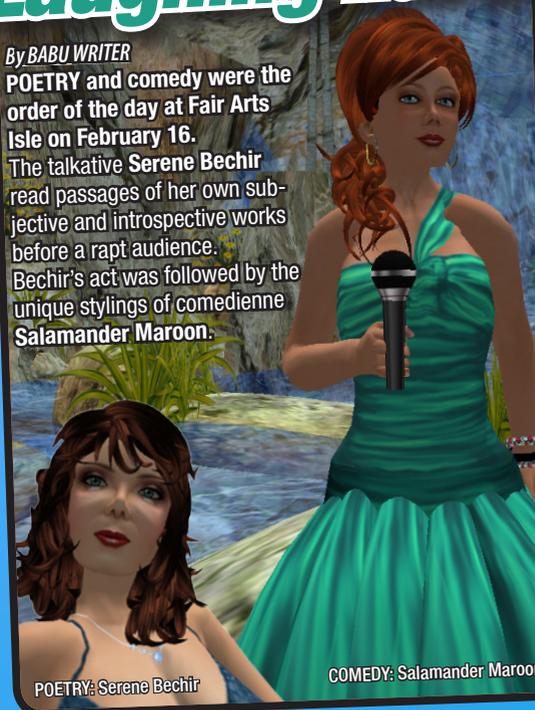
INVASION: Posters recall different British bands

Laughing hard

By **BABU WRITER**

POETRY and comedy were the order of the day at Fair Arts Isle on February 16.

The talkative **Serene Bechir** read passages of her own subjective and introspective works before a rapt audience. Bechir's act was followed by the unique stylings of comedienne **Salamander Maroon**.



POETRY: Serene Bechir

COMEDY: Salamander Maroon



HOST: Pat Young

FINALIST: Mui Mukerji

MODEL: Laura18 Streater

A terrific tool

By **ISABEL BROCCO**

SUPERCool models were keen to test out a glamorous new photo tool at its launch on Sunday.

Ananke Media Systems' kit is designed for studio modelling and portrait and still life shooting using greater control and advanced lighting effects. The event was held at the futuristic-looking Alexander Beach sim, and attracted beauties such as Miss SL Universe finalists **Mui Mukerji** and **Elisne Allen**.

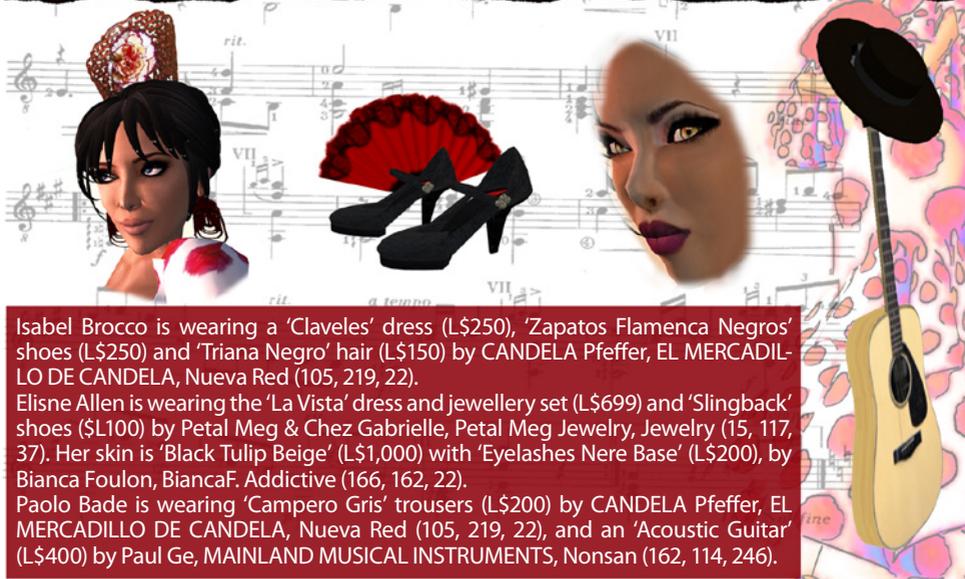
Flamenco

COLOURFUL SPANISH DRESSES, BIG FLOWERS, SOFT LIGHTING, AND DRAMATIC SPLASHES OF RED ARE KEY TO THIS ROMANTIC STYLE.

By PAOLO BADE



Special thanks to EL SACROMONTE Flamenco Club, Liberation (75, 222, 41) for the location.



Isabel Brocco is wearing a 'Claveles' dress (L\$250), 'Zapatos Flamenca Negros' shoes (L\$250) and 'Triana Negro' hair (L\$150) by CANDELA Pfeffer, EL MERCADILLO DE CANDELA, Nueva Red (105, 219, 22).

Elisne Allen is wearing the 'La Vista' dress and jewellery set (L\$699) and 'Slingback' shoes (L\$100) by Petal Meg & Chez Gabrielle, Petal Meg Jewelry, Jewelry (15, 117, 37). Her skin is 'Black Tulip Beige' (L\$1,000) with 'Eyelashes Nere Base' (L\$200), by Bianca Foulon, BiancaF. Addictive (166, 162, 22).

Paolo Bade is wearing 'Campero Gris' trousers (L\$200) by CANDELA Pfeffer, EL MERCADILLO DE CANDELA, Nueva Red (105, 219, 22), and an 'Acoustic Guitar' (L\$400) by Paul Ge, MAINLAND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, Nonsan (162, 114, 246).

Callie cLine's STYLE HOTLINE TIME FOR A DIET

TAKE A BREAK FROM HIGH FASHION AND JUST RELAX

IT has been a crazy few weeks in SL fashion, with a zillion shows and so many new releases.

I know a lot of people who are feeling overwhelmed by it all, a bit 'fashioned out'. And so it's time they went on a fashion 'diet'!

Some of us will have to take a break from chasing the latest, über-cool, hottest thing in SL fashion. With that in mind, I decided to recover from my fashion burnout this week by slipping into an old pair of Panjen overalls, a simple striped t-shirt

and an Old Gurl Six side ponytail.

COZY

I can't believe how relaxed I felt after putting the outfit on. I went about my day's work, and it was interesting to hear so many people saying, "oh wow, I love that outfit, it looks so cosy". A few even swapped their fussy hairdos and high heeled shoes for some really cute and comfy clothes.

So my outfit this week may be a lil bit country, but it sure is cosy. And it's easy – just throw on some old jeans, a comfy t-shirt and some messy hair, and relax!



COUNTRY GIRL: Callie takes a break from the catwalk



NO ANGEL: Mira Raymaker

WHAT'S HOT! JUST LOOKING FOR TROUBLE

By CARRIE SODWIND

MUMS would probably not approve of a recent bad-ass trend.

Full-body tattoos, black leather arm straps and scruffy biker hair – these girls are looking for trouble. Hardcore Mira Raymaker was wearing tattoos by Artilleri, and she and Deydey Dagger chose a scruffy tom-boy bob by FNKY. Like Deydey,

if you want a sharp edge to your image, you should have chosen a cool surname like Dagger to really complete the perfect look.

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

By CARRIE SODWIND



HIT: Jewellery

HIT: The Oriental Tang – Mui Fui jewellery set by Alienbear Gupte, Bratz (113, 239, 29), was originally designed for the Miss SL Universe Pageant. It's a traditional design for an ancient Chinese empress, on sale now for L\$2,200.



MISS: Gothic set

MISS: Gothic sets often look too much all together, but the accessories would be fab as separates. Self Expressions' 'Demoness' at Tischset by Alienbear Gupte, eridae (108, 115, 25), for L\$650, would perhaps be better broken up into its components.



HIT: Lacoste

HIT: Lacoste, a playful hat with satin colourful ribbons and a headpiece, is a new take on a classic design. By Chapeau tres Mignon in Dreamworld East (183, 194, 21) at L\$300, the designer is encouraging old Paris styles with loud splashes of colour.

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

By ISOLDE FLAMAND

TODD STAHELI OF PRETTY-N-PUNK

I LOVE...

"...my amazing shoes with the worn leather look and great buckles. They were made by Falling-water Cellardoor of Shiny Things. I wear them all the time, usually in black, but I have the brown pair too."



FOR 'COOL', IT'S HARD TO BEAT...

"...my fishing pole, made by Akasha Wachm of Catnip. It's always a topic of conversation when people see it. I love the moving water and the detail on the rope spinner. Although I hate to fish in RL, I love my fishing pole in SL."



I FEEL GREAT IN...

"...my great scripted glasses by Wayne Alder of J* Designs. The script allows me to change opacity, glass colour, bling and frame colour, adding a finishing touch to everything I wear. They even make me feel smarter, until I read my typos!"



RUGGED BEAUTY



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

Carpet 18

By Demian Caldera Benten (105, 229, 29)



L\$40

L\$50

Swedish rag rugs

By Lila Mill

Brianconnais (131, 109, 33)



L\$50

Fringed Rug in pink and green

By Tazzie Tuque

Madison Place (26, 82, 24)



L\$25

Astrology Rug

By Zaphod Submariner Excalibur (156, 241, 682)



L\$50

Round Tabriz

By Roberto DaSilva Sibine (117, 168, 71)



L\$25

NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: AN AMERICAN LEGEND, A DUTCH SOCCER GIANT, LINGUISTIC HELP AND A WELCOME RETURN

NO WHITEWASH: Land of Lincoln



COMMANDER IN CHIEF

By PERCIVAL KRONFELD

THE legendary American president Abraham Lincoln has been commemorated with a new sim dedicated to his life.

Land of Lincoln opened this week with a historically-themed inauguration ball, and visitors can take tours of an accurate replica of the White House in Washington. There will soon



FEYENOORD

be educational resources at the sim including libraries, links and events. A plantation will be the

setting for an exhibition on slavery featuring themes like the Emancipation Proclamation. Dutch football club Feyenoord have followed bitter rivals Ajax into SL. Fans can watch Feyenoord TV, visit the shop or meet up with fellow supporters in the stadium. Although the last few years haven't produced much

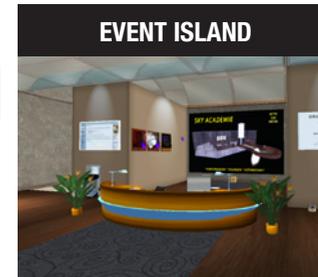


SLENGLISH

silverware, you can also check out the trophy cabinet. Learning a new language just became easier at the SLEnglish sim. Despite its name, it is actu-

ally a free resource and meeting point for all budding linguists, whether they want to study English, French, Italian or German. There is also an underwater Language Cafe to practice conversation skills.

The newly-refurbished Event



EVENT ISLAND

Island will kick off its relaunch with an event next week. The revamped island will host parties, fashion shows, concerts and weddings. There will also be courses, a health centre and a German newbie section.



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

DEAR

SHOULD I GIVE IN TO THE CUTE 'REBOUND' GUY?



HE HELPED ME PICK UP THE PIECES AFTER MY LOVER AT HUSBAND DUMPED ME

Dear Randi: I THOUGHT I was happily married in Second Life until Christmas, when my husband suddenly said he had "found somebody better" and wanted a divorce. I agreed, but was pretty crushed emotionally. I had never even suspected him of cheating. Recently I met a nice guy, who says he wants

a "proper" relationship. He's a sweet, classy guy and might make a good husband. But one of my girlfriends says he's just my 'rebound' guy and it's too soon to be in a new relationship. Is she right? — C.Q.

Randi says: I think this is one you need to figure out for yourself. Everyone who is the

victim of a nasty breakup has a different recovery period. You need to take a hard look at your new guy and determine for sure why you're with him. If he's just a space-filler, then be friends but don't lead him on. And even if he turns out to be 'the one', take it slow. Trust me, you'll be rewarded for it.

'CHARITY DATE' SEX HAS PUT ME OFF HIM

Dear Randi: I'VE been dating a guy who recently proposed virtual marriage to me. Although I find him really attractive, I was surprised by the question and told him I needed time to think about it during a RL holiday which I had already scheduled. The more I thought about it, the more excited I got, and as soon as I returned I told him yes. But since then I discovered that while I was away, he had been sold in a charity date auction and had had sex with the winner. He says it didn't mean anything, but should I give him another chance? — P.H.

Randi says: I think you should. You hadn't said yes before his blind date, so you really had no claim on him. And it sounds as if he's been very honest with you. If you still want to marry him, make sure he knows your feelings about his relationships with other women. If he really is a great guy, he'll understand when you ask him to agree that the charity date was his bachelor party.

LESBIAN STALKER IS DRIVING ME CRAZY

Dear Randi: IN RL, I am really quite boring — middle-aged, middle class and heterosexual. In fact, I was pretty bored with things. But when I came into SL, it opened up all these new possibilities in a safe environment. Needless to say, I tried as many as possible, especially sexual experimentation. A few weeks ago I had my first lesbian experience, and I was really turned on and told her so. Afterwards, though, it was back to normal for me — but the woman I picked up to do it with keeps chasing me around begging for more. Are all lesbians like that? — T.F.

Randi says: No, they are not all like that! Stalkers can be men or women, gay or straight, and everything else in between. You should mute this woman, and be more careful in future. I think if you do decide to try it again, you should be completely honest with your partner. That way there will be no surprise when the 'relationship' is over after a night of passion.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

I ASKED TO MEET IN RL BUT I'M NOT INTO GRANNY LOVE

Dear Randi: I MARRIED a great girl in SL in a fancy ceremony six months ago. We had been dating since 2006, and I thought I had found the girl of my dreams in-world. On many occasions I had suggested meeting up in RL, but she had always been non-committal about the idea. Recently I came into a bit of money, and I told my SL wife that I wanted to use

the money to fly to her home city to see her. It was only at that point she gave me the devastating news that in RL, she is a married grandmother of three. It has left me feeling completely empty — what on earth do I do now? — N.L.

Randi says: Cut your losses and forget about her. It must have been extremely hard on you for her to have

led you on like that for so long, and you must ensure you don't make the same mistake again. Most residents have no interest in a RL relationship whatsoever. That means if you begin another relationship here, be up front about the fact you're looking to take it into RL if things go well. And don't get married again without a phone call and a recent photo!

ADVERT

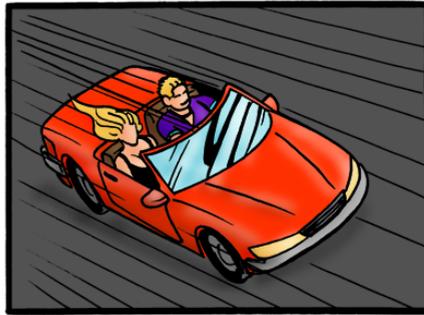
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Freebies

SL's best FREE stuff!

THIS WEEK: A SPOT OF SPRING GARDENING

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

SPRING is just around the corner for many of us in RL, and it may be time to think about decorating your SL garden to celebrate the new season.

Flowers and bees are the perfect way to brighten up your virtual space. Duggy Bing, owner of Cartoonimal (Comatose, 205, 26, 250), has made a lovely daisy with a rotating bee. There is no better way to tell the world you're looking forward to spring. It's a freebie, but in return he asks you to put his shop in your picks.

You can grab a frog on a lily pad

at FairChang Lighthouse Store (FairChang Calypso SW 77, 58, 30), where you can also find a duck, butterflies and cute parrots. There is even a free bat hanging around in the shop, which is giving away many of its products as freebies. On the first floor, there are some nice scripted boxes per-

fect for sending gifts in.



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MFA
MEROVINGI FASHION AWARDS

the 2008
Awards

NOMINATE
YOUR FAVOURITE DESIGNER
FOR THIS YEARS FASHION AWARDS



It is time for the 2008 Merovingi Fashion Awards! Last year's show helped raise money Relay for Life, and this year, we plan to help Doctors without Borders and the National Breast Cancer Foundation!

This year, our show will be twice as big, spread on 4 sims in Second Life. In comparison to passed shows, we will not hand pick designers, instead we invite you to nominate your favourite designer!

Also this year, we will award a brand new Apple iMac 20" computer to each winner, and there are 20 iPod nanos to be raffled among those who nominate and vote!

This years Awards show offers performance by live artists, among them the SpaceJunkys! For more information, visit our website today!

www.merovingifashionawards.com

MFA PARTNER
and official broadcaster of the Award show



THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: NEKO SCENE

ON THE CATWALK
ROLLO

MIAOW: Neko-Neko City

WHAT'S NEW PUSSYCAT?

By GAETANA FAUST

FULFILL YOUR FAB FELINE FANTASIES WITH A NEKO LIFESTYLE

IF you've ever wondered what it would be like to don whiskers and a tail, try prowling around SL as a Neko.

Neko-Neko City in Mogu (160, 28, 568) is a Japanese cityscape where cats rule the night. The dark, cool sim is like catnip for the streetwise Neko. If you want a place for your own scratching post with like-minded kitties, check out **Neko-Zone** in Cyprus (132, 188, 22). The sim has a great club, lots of public hang-out spots, and residential homes tailored to Neko needs.

Expand your Neko wardrobe by picking up a super deluxe starter package at **Hybrid** in Gnoma (12, 191, 47). The scripted tails and ears come with a HUD and are available in an array of stripes, spots,

and solids. Be sure to do some shopping at **One Soul** in Song (202, 83, 22), which has a wide selection of cat styles for guys and girls, including boots, belts, collars and a variety of clothes.

Freebie seekers will purr over some of the items available through the four lucky chairs, including free gift certificates. Wander around Song to check out the many Neko-friendly shops in a gritty city setting. Another trendy Neko hangout sim is **Treadoll** (128, 44, 70), which is home to hip **Club Lithium** as well as **Neko Gear** and **Nekopia**.

Anything else you need to bring out your inner kitty can be found at **Neko Mainstreet** in Radjin 1 (79, 101, 22).



Pick up some great Neko accessories so you can really look the part when hanging around with your feline friends.

Where: Rollo (133, 19, 26)

KITTY HEAVEN NEKO GARDENS



Enjoy the peaceful garden with its quiet spots for relaxing and dangling paws in a cool fountain.

Where: Sweet Reach (3, 30, 94)

GOthic NEKO SKULL CATZ



Check out the Goth vibe and grungy feel as you sit by the makeshift camp fire.

Where: Seagull (28, 39, 21)

2.22. - 2.28.

DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in SL Time



ENTERTAINMENT

OLD SALTS REUNION

Enjoy a host of musicians across four sims, including Snow Grets-ky, Angel Stormwind and Lyndon Heart, at a reunion for locals of the Old Salts pub.

When: Feb. 24, 12:00-19:00

Where: Havens Paradise (71, 158, 32)



LITERATURE

AUTHOR Q&A

The authors of 'Second Life: The Official Guide, Second Edition', including Celebrity Trollp and Jim Rossignol, will answer questions from the audience.

When: Feb. 28, 18:30

Where: Abracadabra (201, 90, 31)



ART & CULTURE

EXHIBIT OPENING

A gallery of work by colourful artist Schmonson Dalglish will be hosted by Tricia Aferdita Gallery.

When: Feb. 22, 16:00

Where: Cetus (218, 3, 40)



LIVE MUSIC

RIDHA COOLJOKE

The composer, who draws on a variety of influences, will play a two hour gig at the Sicily sim.

When: Feb. 25, 12:00

Where: Sicily (143, 106, 21)



ART AND CULTURE

POETRY JAM

Rosa Gardner performs her original poetry on stage accompanied by piano and bass.

When: Feb. 25, 19:00

Where: Lingmell (37, 102, 37)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

KOBLENZ FESTIVAL

A traditional medieval travelling entertainer's festival will be taking place in the recreation of the German town of Koblenz.

When: Feb. 23, from 11:00

Where: Deutsches Eck (18, 59, 49)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



ART & CULTURE

EYE ON BUENOS AIRES

Musician Louis Volare turns his hand to photography as he presents an interesting exhibition from his trip to the Argentinian capital, Buenos Aires.

When: Feb. 24, 12:00

Where: Nantucket (34, 121, 128)



ENTERTAINMENT

COLONIAL BALL

Caliber Eyre will throw its first ever Colonial Ball, hosted by Radio Riel. There will be a musical program designed especially for Victorians.

When: Feb. 23, 10:00-12:00

Where: Rivendell (128, 111, 401)



ART & CULTURE

GEISHA GIRLS

Relax and enjoy some Japanese culture with this performance as Geisha girls dance and tell stories on the beautiful beach.

When: Feb. 23, 08:00

Where: Owokun Meditation Island (98, 135, 30)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

MSIF DINNER PARTY

Residents from across the world will meet to raise funds for research into multiple sclerosis. DJ Maarten Supercharge will provide the tunes.

When: Feb. 23, 10:00

Where: MS Island VUmc (224, 154, 21)



DISCUSSION

PHILOSOPHY

Stimulate your mind with some lively discussion at the Socrates Cafe as part of a philosophical debate.

When: Feb. 26, 20:00

Where: Tintafel (38, 25, 766)

WANT TO SEE YOUR EVENT HERE?

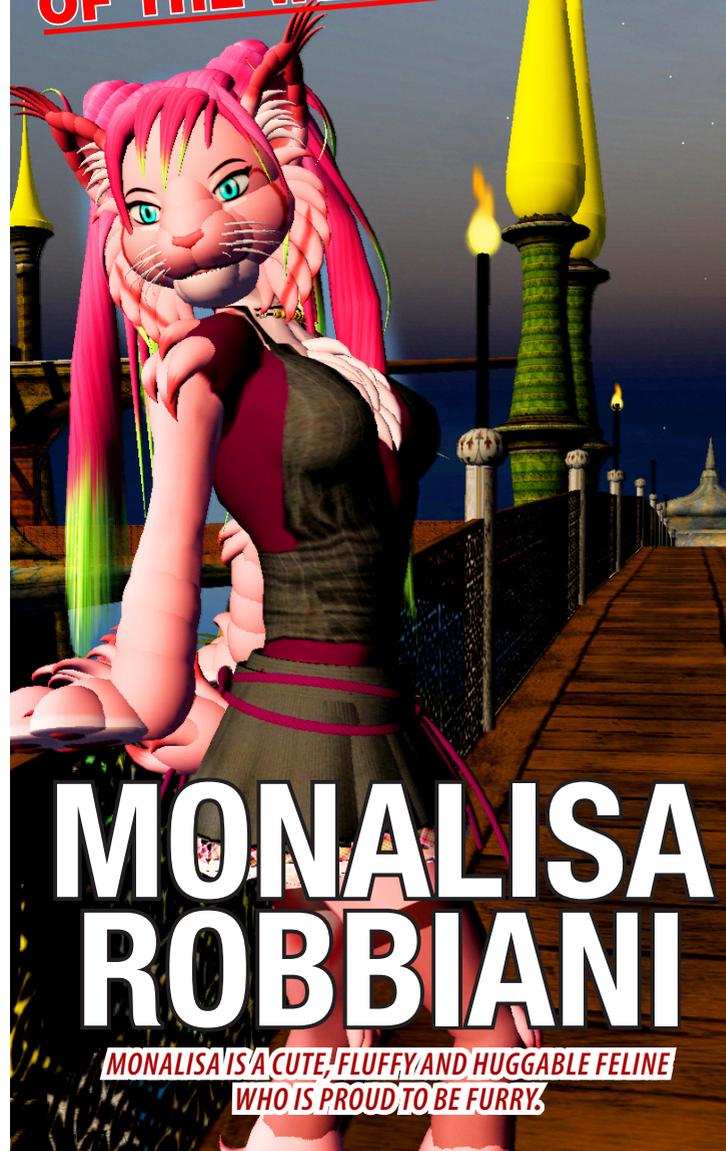
DO you have an event which you would like to see published in The AvaStar's Events section? If so, email us details at news-desk@the-avastar.com.

cc
callie cline



THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

By PAOLO BADE



MONALISA ROBBIANI

MONALISA IS A CUTE, FLUFFY AND HUGGABLE FELINE
WHO IS PROUD TO BE FURRY.

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: MONALISA ROBBIANI PROFESSION: Animator and furniture designer
BIRTH DATE: 3/1/2007 ATTITUDE: Playful

INTERVIEW

The AvaStar: How do you spend your time in Second Life?

Monalisa Robbiani: I hang out with my friends, party and explore new areas. Helping newbies and giving them an instant free makeover is also something I really enjoy doing.

TA: What would you change about SL?

MR: I would open SL for all ages, and at the same time enforce more strict personal verification and flagging of parcels with adult content. I would make sure that there is a party going on 24/7 in all welcome areas.

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

MR: That would be my avatar herself. Pink Lynxette Mona was a gift from a stranger who just decided to make a newbie happy. She became a friend and is still the only avatar I ever met in RL.

TA: What's your funniest sex story?

MR: One day I ran into a guy with a Sonic the Hedgehog avatar. We looked so cute and funny together that we decided to try a sex enabled tree house. I always wanted to make love to my childhood hero Sonic!