

THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

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RL diploma project success

**ARTIST TO GET
DEGREE IN SL!**

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**The
next top
models?**

SEE PAGE 16

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

YOU'RE SL'S HEARTS!

- The AvaStar salutes SL's finest female residents

By COYNE NAGY

FEMALE avatars will enjoy a happy International Women's Day as the growth of their influence on the grid shows no signs of slowing down.

FULL STORY PAGES 4 & 5

INSIDE
OPINION

"If a Linden asked me, I would say freeze all funds on the WSE accounts and force it to return all balances to their owners since there is no reason why its terminals are not operational."

YOUR MAIL
p.9

"Is there really anything more important than education? I don't think so, which is why I am in favour of the development of teaching using SL – something many think will be an even bigger part of the grid in 2008."



LEIDER
STEPANOV
p.11

THE AVASTAR

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NUMBERS
OF THE WEEK

1

... lecture was given in-world by University College Dublin this week, the first by an Irish university.

12

... rock bands, including The Ramones and Iron Maiden, will have in-world shops at Universal Music's new Rock Vault sim.

3.5m

... L\$ were traded on the euroSLX in February, an increase of 445 per cent from the first month of business in January.

SPOT THE BOT: WEEK 2



STERLING Weymann joined AvaStar bot-spotter Marigold Devin in exposing zombies and their owners. Have you spotted bots? Yourphotos@the-avastar.com

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MASTER OF SL?

ARTIST IN THE SPOTLIGHT OVER SL EXAM PIECE *BY MORRHYS GRAYSMARK*

A RESIDENT artist is sweating over how his art exhibition will be received - as his RL masters degree rests on its success!

Blackthorn Hare is hoping to be made a Master of Science in

Art Education by the Massachusetts College of Arts, which is hosting his work at its sim.

The exhibition consists of two separate pieces, 'TR Hot Run' and 'Yes'. He said: "TR Hot Run

was originally driven by reading about the circumstances that led to the Trinity atomic test in July, 1945.

"You think about an event like that, and it leads you to wider implications about human nature and about the nature of the world."

AFRAID

'Yes' depicts a plane crashing into an intersection, and Hare added: "I wanted to take the moment that we are all most afraid of, and name it, state it, and even confront it."

"My point is not to spoil people's fun, but to encourage people to have fun despite the menace."

Hare also faced the challenge of presenting his virtual work to non-SLers with no interest in the world: "As an audience, they outnumber us a gazillion to one. So I developed a technique of stereo photography, to make 3D images of these environments that you can view with these cheap plastic glasses."



TOP CLASS: Hare's TR Hot Run Tower



FULL MARKS: A tube runs under the tower large enough for an avatar



SHOCKING: The artist simulates an airplane crash at Yes sim

NEWS BITES!

STRESSED OUT SL

A MASSACHUSETTS hospital is looking for volunteers from SL for a ground-breaking medical trial. Up to 40 people will be tested to check the potential of SL to reduce stress, in the latest link-up with the RL medical profession.

SUNFLOWER CASH

INTEL is encouraging residents to plant virtual sunflowers on its island to help raise awareness about the need to protect the RL earth. For every sunflower planted the computer giant will donate US\$1 to the Conservation International Foundation.

A BRIGHT FUTURE

BARCELONA Virtual has celebrated its first anniversary with major plans for the future. The Spanish hub is negotiating with Fox Television to promote the 'Lost' show while football star Lionel Messi is scheduled to make an appearance at the sim.

CLASSES FOR SL

EDUCATION in SL has been given a boost after The University of Illinois and the Illinois Alliance Library system revealed they will offer classes in SL for a variety of specialities and experience levels.

MOST INFLUENTIAL

By Coyne Nagy

WOMEN have an amazing amount of influence on the grid. In recognition of that fact, The AvaStar has picked out ten women who have made it to the top of their fields:



Codebastard Redgrave

Photographer/Machinima maker Codebastard won the AvaStar of 2007 award and leads the machinima scene.



Anshe Chung

Land baron Anshe helped build the economy, claiming to be its first RL millionaire as a result of it. She has revolutionised land sales and aided a number of in-world charities.



Gwyneth Llewelyn

Blogger & mentor

A veteran of SL, Gwyneth is widely regarded by her peers as a visionary and expert. Her blog is renowned for its insight - and length!



Babyhoney Bailey

Model

She is officially the hottest av in SL, having scooped both the Miss SL Universe 2008 and 12Avatars.com titles.

"IN SL WE CAN!"

BY COYNE NAGY



CREME DE LA CREME: (From left) Anshe Chung, Rola Hykova, Callie Cline, CodeBastard Redgrave and Babyhoney Bailey

WOMEN EXTEND THEIR POSITION AS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND SL

FEMALE avatars will enjoy a happy International Women's Day as the growth of their influence on the grid shows no signs of slowing down.

The global event is marked every year on March 8 to recognise the work of women everywhere, and the top females on the grid will be raising a glass

to each other as they survey the power they wield in-world.

BOUNDARIES

Women avs often thrive in the fashion conscious world of SL, but they are also heavily involved in building, business and land ownership. Some say SL is an example of a world of the future where sexist boundaries do not exist, unlike the real

world. Starsitter Quality, a member of the 'Feminists' group in SL, explained why women were so successful: "Dynamics are different than RL so women have better opportunities to get to positions of power here. The dynamics of verbal conversation are well known and are such that in live conversation women have a hard time getting a word in edgeways; in SL it's the fast typist who has the advantage. Finally, SL is largely about society and



relationships and women are good at these."

Babyhoney Bailey, winner of the Miss SL 2008 contest, heaped praise on the girls: "What surprised me initially is that all of the women I've met are so intelligent and strong minded. They have the drive to do and be anything and the gusto to make it work. I love that."

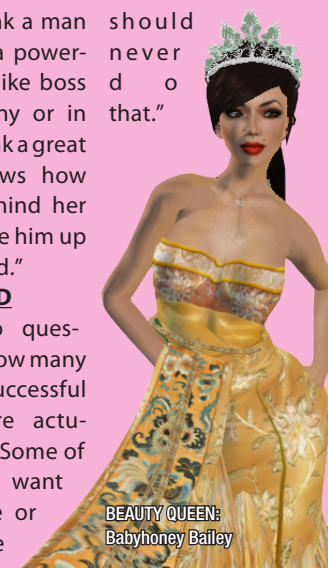
But not everyone was so positive about the role of women in SL. Rola Hykova, lead singer with the UK-

DProject, dismissed the achievements made by her fellow ladies: "I think a man is better in a powerful position like boss of a company or in politics. I think a great woman knows how to stand behind her man and raise him up when needed."

STUPID

Hykova also questioned just how many of SL's successful women were actually female: "Some of them never want to use voice or always have

the same outfit on - that sounds stupid but a woman should never do that."



BEAUTY QUEEN: Babyhoney Bailey

AVASTAR REPORTERS SHARE THEIR VIEWS

POWERFUL SL women - a familiar concept to everyone at The AvaStar, where the editorial staff is dominated by inquisitive ladies! So what do they think about the dominance of women in SL?

Randi Barracuda: "Even more than in RL, women in SL can be anything they want to be. Whether it's executive or slave,

wife and mother or escort, or vamp, all options are open with the touch of a button!"

Morrhys Graysmark: "I've met so many amazing women in SL - designers, writers, artists, activists. They play every role here. It's great!"

Honey Bender: "Being a woman in the 21st century, we can do practically everything we want. Still, in SL the sex industry is

thriving and so are the Gorean communities where many women take on submissive roles of slaves and dancers. Backlash or liberation? I don't know. I chose a collar, not a wedding ring from my SL man and it makes me feel wonderful. My take on feminism is very much in the way of Camilla Paglia's theories - beauty and sex is power."



WOMEN POWER: Editor Regis Braathens is surrounded by seven female reporters at an AvaStar staff meeting



Rola Hykova

Singer

Rola is the lead singer of the innovative and popular in-world UKDProject band.



Satir DeCuir

Builder

Satir is the force behind Al Andalus, a replica of the famous RL Alhambra. She also works towards reducing copy-right theft in-world.



Nebulosus Severine

Artist

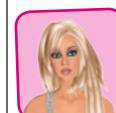
Nebulosus is one of SL's most creative artists. She currently has an installation on display on the Amsterdam sim.



Bianca Foulon

Designer

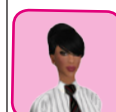
Bianca Foulon is well known as one of the trendiest designers - and is one of the stars of 2007.



Callie Cline

Fashion celeb

The top designer was the poster girl for Pontiac and featured in Maxim's RL 'Hot 100' list.



Alyssya Vella

Banker

Alyssya is a top figure in the BCX Bank, and also advises CEO Travis Ristow.

GRAND RE-OPENING
03/07 - 3:00pm



all you need. **MAKEA**

A PLAY TO BE SEEN

PRODUCTION OF HAMLET AT SL GLOBE THEATRE NOT TO BE MISSED

BY BABU WRITER

TO be at the Globe Theatre, or not to be? That is the question!

If you are, you will be able to catch the first live mini-production of Hamlet by the SL Shakespeare Company, which runs until March 9 at the venue on the sLiterary sim.

FAMOUS

The production of the first scene in the first act of what is arguably the most famous play in the world is the beginning of a series of short productions from the company. It is recreated in live voice by sculpted, animated avatar characters dressed in historically accurate

costumes. Closed captioned subtitles in multiple languages are provided, and the play has already proved popular with virtual audiences.

VENGEANCE

A full length version of the play about a Danish king seeking vengeance for the death of his father, is slated to open in November this year at the Globe, which is a recreation of Shakespeare's famous venue.



SPOOKY: The ghost of Hamlet's father



ACTION: Actors on stage at sLiterary sims

LAB NOT DOING ENOUGH

IN-WORLD ANTI-CHILD PORNOGRAPHY GROUP CRITICISES LAB OVER AGE PLAY BY COYNE NAGY

A BRITISH RL reporter reopened old wounds this week with another story claiming age play is rife in SL.

Sky News' Jason Farrell posed as a young girl in-world and claims his character attracted the attention of residents "keen to live out shocking scenarios on the internet".

RULES

The news organisation followed it up with an in-world debate at its sim asking whether RL rules should apply to SL with regards to age play, although technical problems meant little was

heard by residents in attendance.

Farrell had originally reported on age play in a story last year, and there was immediate condemnation of the images from his latest investigation from Kidscape, a charity promoting the protection of children. CEO Michele Elliot said in-world paedophilia would 'de-sensitise' people and encourage them to commit RL crimes.

SHAME

And one resident involved in the in-world anti-child pornography campaign, who asked

not to be named, said: "We as a group made several complaints with in-world pictures and sent them to the Lindens but it resulted in nothing. I'm happy to hear there is an outside media investigation and though I'm sad that it brings the name of SL into shame I also feel Linden Lab is the one that makes this the way it is."

EVIDENCE

But the Lab this week underlined its stance against child pornography in SL, and said it had not received any fresh evidence of wrong doing.

GUESS WHO JUST BLEW INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

DIVAS

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WIC IS A BAD BLOW TO SL ECONOMY



ANGRY: SLCI chief
Wiseguy Capra

Dear AvaStar Team,
READING your recent article about the WSE and how Luke-Connell Vandeverre announced that he will convert the balance of all trading accounts to 'his' fictional currency, the WIC, made me laugh in a sad way.

SCAM

In the last six months the SL economy has been hit by so many fraudulent stories from

the Ginko scam all the way to the WSE. I have been trading on the WSE myself for nearly one year and Luke closing

the site for his 'WSE 4.0' update in January to 'fix some bugs' and his announcement that all accounts will now be converted to the non-existing Vandeverre WIC currency is just another scam, as all others.

Over 95 per cent of all trades on the WSE have always been in L\$ and all the companies are SL-based as well, and our currency is the L\$ and not the WIC

Since the site and all trading was frozen in January, several stocks have been de-listed without the investors ever having a chance to trade their stocks and now he (Luke) is taking the money from all accounts to turn it into WICs without the customers' consent.

This will become just another blow to the SL economy, and cut another gap into people's trust and willingness to invest in SL projects.

If a Linden would ever ask me, I would say freeze all funds on the WSE accounts and force it to return all balances to their owners since there is no reason why its terminals are not op-

erational during the website update.

Maybe to Luke the Linden dollar is 'a fictional currency like a game token for which you purchase only a license to use it' but at least my fictional currency does have a real exchange rate to Euros or US\$.

One thing is for sure – the moment Luke re-opens his site there will be a massive draw on the funds, from what I have learned talking to investors as well as people who have their companies listed there.

With sad regards,
Wiseguy Capra,
[SLCI] CEO

E-MAILS

WRITE TO:

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

IP THEFT AWARENESS HELPS

Hey Regis,
I JUST wanted to tell you how much I appreciated your coverage of the IP rights campaign.

It was really much more than I had hoped for,

and I cannot say thank you enough.

It's such an important issue and one that is, unfortunately, becoming more and more of a problem. I believe your coverage will go

a long way to helping the campaign achieve its goals.

Thank you again.

Most sincerely,
Chez Nabob
(Creator of IP rights awareness campaign)

NAKED BEAUTIES HELP CAMPAIGN!

Hi Regis,
NOTHING like a naked women on your front page to get pulses running and tackle IP theft, eh? I Love it!
By E.H.



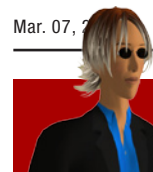
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- WATERFALLS & WATER FEATURES
- CELEBRATION & HOLIDAY DECOR
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- A SIM FULL OF SELECTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM!
- IF WE DON'T HAVE IT - WE'LL BUILD IT!
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ISLAND DEPOT - DECORATE YOUR SECOND LIFE!

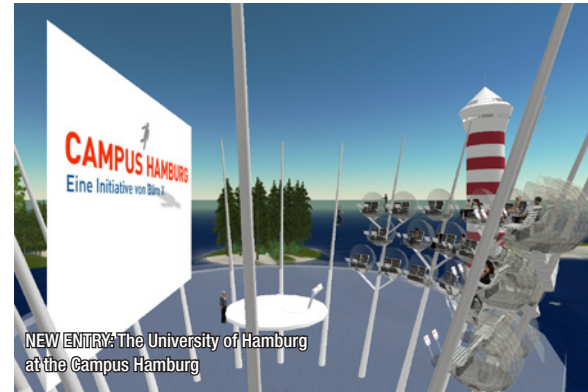
Visit Us On The Island Depot Sim



LEIDER STEPANOV

THOSE WHO CAN, TEACH... IN A VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

THE INFLUX OF EDUCATION ONTO THE GRID WILL BENEFIT ALL OF US



NEW ENTRY: The University of Hamburg at the Campus Hamburg

"EDUCATION, education, education."

Those were the three top priorities of former British leader Tony Blair, according to the slogan he adopted as he campaigned for office in 1996.

And while I may not be the world's biggest fan of Mr Blair, on this point, I actually find myself in agreement with him. Is there really anything more important than education? I don't think so. Which is why I am very much in favour of the development of teaching using SL, something many observers think will be

an even bigger part of the grid in 2008.

IMPRESSIVE

Take, for example, artist Blackthorn Hare (see page seven). He is using SL as a platform to gain a highly-credible masters degree from the Massachusetts College of Art, perhaps the first of its kind in-world. His work is impressive, and it could well be a sign of things to come. For SL to develop its education potential, its needs to be seen as more than just a novelty, or an easy way to an 'online degree'. Some good news, then, from the CeBIT confer-

ence in Germany today. The University of Hamburg has announced its plan to launch in SL, the latest institution to sit up and take notice of the grid.

INDECENCY

With many colleges and universities now offering courses, or parts of courses, on and about SL, education is set to offer a nice counter voice to all the sordid tales of fraud, sex, bad behaviour and indecency on the grid. That can only be a good thing – for all of us.

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

GETTING MESSI

POOR old Lionel Messi.

The wunderkind of world football – that's soccer to some of you – was due to appear at Banco Sabadell's Christmas party at the Barcelona Virtual sim last year.

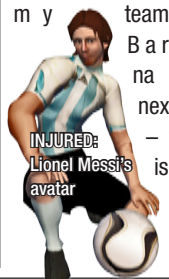
Unfortunately, FC Barcelona's young Argentinian superstar was injured in RL and wasn't able to make it. But with the first anniversary of the sim came some good news in an email this week – Messi would finally make his SL debut in April, having fully recovered!

BONUS

Alas, it was not to be. Just hours before I received the email from Barcelona Virtual, Leo was in action for his club in the Champions League. And was injured badly enough to leave him out of action for six weeks.

On the plus side, it will be a bonus for me if Arsenal, my team, draw Barcelona in the next round – that kid is good!

Get well soon, Leo!





PICS OF THE WEEK

yourphotos@the-avastar.com



META-NEWS:

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

VIRTUAL FASTBALL

A PRO baseball player could soon be launching his own virtual world. The Copernicus world is currently being planned by 38 Studios, a firm set up by three-time World Series winner and current Red Sox player Curt Schilling.

RESPECT THE LAW

A UNIVERSITY professor has published a paper about how criminal law can be applied to virtual worlds. Orin Kerr, from the George Washington University Law School, claims RL law and virtual worlds should remain separate.

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BUILDING BY BLOCKS

LEGO FORCED TO THINK VIRTUAL AS CHILDREN DEMAND VIRTUAL WORLD

By COYNE NAGY

DEMAND from Lego customers forced the RL toy firm to develop a virtual world, according to a senior executive at the company.

Lego has a three million-strong user group and Mark Hansen, director for business development, recently said that the firm could not afford to ignore the voice of its customers. Speaking in an interview, he said: "Children expect the video, the virtual and digital age to be combined with a physical product. These children don't know anything other than this, it's an expectation. We call

it premium value but they just see it as normal."

Hansen also dismissed thoughts that Lego would struggle to gain a foothold in an already crowded market as the concept would be something different to what already exists. He added: "I think our game is a much more unique offering, it's a different selling proposition, it's a more 3D immersive world but it also builds onto our physical product which really makes a difference."

Lego are collaborating with NetDevil to produce the world but a launch is not expected in the near future.



CISCO'S NEW ROUTER TECHNOLOGY COULD SIGNIFICANTLY SPEED UP SL

LAG could be a thing of the past thanks to new technology unveiled this week by RL giant Cisco.

The company held a launch event for its new ASR 1000 range of routers in-world on Tuesday, and senior figures claim it will help internet service providers and enterprise networks host a variety of data more easily.

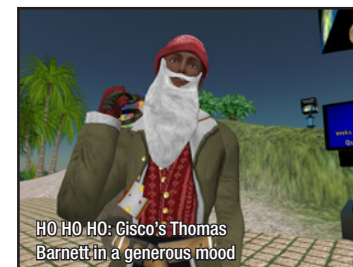
That is good news for SLers, with video, voice and graphics set to run more smoothly on networks using the new system – meaning a possible end to the age-old lag problem. Residents at the event were treated to an innovative build, with a 'exabyte-era tunnel' leading them to a futuristic room explaining the new technology. According to Cisco, the internet will continue to grow at an astonishing speed, with monthly global internet video traffic set to be nearly three exabytes in 2011 – equivalent to 650 million DVDs. Senior Cisco executive Thomas Barnett told The AvaStar the new technology would be of benefit to residents in SL: "Second Life, as an application, represents an excit-

ing blend of voice, video and data. This product will help deliver those types of applications. With our new chip, the network can be more capable of handling the demands that these types of bandwidth intensive apps require.

SCPTICAL

"Virtual worlds are clearly driving this, video in particular is huge. People want more than just 'flat communications' or entertainment today. The product itself would be applied by a service provider or enterprise, but the average SL user would be getting their service(s) from these types of networks."

Some avatars at the launch, however, were sceptical that the technology would have any effect on the lag suffered by most residents.



BIZ BITES:

SL NOW ON LINUX

LINUX users will finally be able to use SL in its beta version, after 25 months of development. With 3D voice support, user experience can now be compared to Windows and Mac users, but faster and smoother, according to tests.

FIRM LEAVES WSE

THE exodus of companies from the World Stock Exchange is continuing with Parks Fireworks becoming the latest firm to leave. Many companies have left recently in protest at LukeConnell Vandeverre's management of WSE.

CIRCUIT REOPENS

CONSUMER electronics firm Circuit City has re-launched its presence in SL with the help of IBM. There are now four sims staffed nine hours a day, and a free iPod giveaway should draw in plenty of new visitors.

SCOOTER FREEBIE

SIEMENS is developing its in-world presence by giving away a tool to residents. The firm hopes the customisable 3D Razor Scooter will help promote its CAD software.

a-stars

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

JAKE LOONY FOR JANE!

CATWALK OF LUXURY:
Guests gathered at the
fabulous KaDeWe store

BY ISABEL BROCCO

SERINAJANE Loon took the honours at the KaDeWe models search competition at the weekend - to the delight of Jake Linden!

Jake was clearly over the moon that his favourite had won, that he celebrated by partying long into the night.

Beauty SerinaJane won a trip to RL Berlin, where the famous store is located, after landing first place at the contest held at KaDeWe's SL replica. On the catwalk she wore clothes by **Nicky Ree** and **Indyra Originals** with shoes by **Dela**. After the show everyone hit the stage and enjoyed tunes by DJ **Holger Wisent**.

NO CHANCE:
Jake Linden

WINNER: SerinaJane Loon

SOUTHERN COMFORTS IN SL

BY BABU WRITER

A TOOTIN' good time was had by all at the launch of **Maggie's Southern Comfort Country Dance Club** on March 2.

An evening of line dancing with host **Ivor Tigerpaw** marked the opening of the club at the Cecil sim, and top DJ **Gerg Gloster** was also on hand to spin the tunes into the night.

YEEE HAI!
Ivor Tigerpaw and Maggie Padek
get in the swing of things

LOOKER GETS LUCKY

By PHIL SPACKLER

GALERIA LX opened its doors to the public on March 1 with a solo exhibition by SL photographer **Looker Lumet**. Art fans were keen to see the work, which covered a range of themes and included some pictures taken at one of the popular Rezzable sims, Surflife. Lumet said: "To take good shots, you have to be lucky sometimes, just as in RL."

BEAUTY & THE ARTIST:
Looker Lumet with
guest Winter Wardhand

OPENING:
SLT 2.00 PM
Saturday
March 1st 2008

LA VIDA LOCA

ROMANTIC: Thomas Pixel
and Sim Sissimondi

By KITTY OTOOLE

AVATARS danced the night away to sublime salsa sounds at a party on March 2. The tranquil surroundings of the Salsa Salsa Tango Garden at the Sphinx sim played host to the event, which has been running for over two years under the watchful eyes of hostess **Cincin Goodliffe**.

SCHOOL IS OUT!

By ISABEL BROCCO

THE Ewing Fashion Agency's elite model training graduation ceremony took place on Saturday. Over the last three weeks, **Anika Deschanel**, **Fire-dragon Bellios**, **Sally Yachvili** and **Zuri Kattun** have listened to every word their trainer **Tempest Hennesy** had to say on how to be a successful model in the competitive world of SL fashion.

STUNNER:
Sally Yachvili shows why
she is now a top model



By Solange Korobase

On Him
Jazz Suit grey L\$280
By HT - Sterling Ridge (175, 166, 27)
Matthew in Brown Hair L\$175
By ETD - ETD Isle (120, 154, 32)
Zebra Wingtip Shoes L\$200
By Mako Magellan
Caledon VictoriaCity (113, 170, 31)

On Her
Vivviann Purple Flapper Dress L\$300
By Ivalde - Ivalde (132, 210, 39)
AVEDA - Short Crop (Noir) L\$100
By ETD - ETD Isle (98, 151, 37)
Sadie Shoes in White L\$200
By Zhao Shoes
Agard (212, 23, 25)

callie cline's

STYLE HOTLINE

OLD SKOOL-STYLE FASHIONS!

CALLIE GOES BACK TO THE ROOTS

RETRO is definitely back – but not in the way you would think.

With all the talk fashionistas engage in of what is 'in' at that particular time, the whole thing can become confusing. After all, fashion moves so fast in SL, practically at the speed of light, that there is

NO way anyone can keep up with the hundreds of new releases which come out every week. So if you feel you missed out on what was 'in' to-

day, don't worry, it will be 'out' tomorrow and back 'in' next week!

To illustrate this point, I donned an outfit that is at least two years old. It includes a Pixel Dolls Cardigan, Beach Hair by Naughty, pants by Subculture and platform creepers. It's old by SL standards, maybe even ancient! But when I put it on, it felt fresh and new.

So if you're ever feeling like you can't keep up, don't fret, you CAN'T... that's the beauty of it! Accept it, wear what you want, when you want. Besides who wants to see everyone in the same shoes or hair for a week?

SPOTTED!

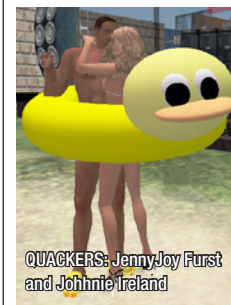
IS green the new black?

To be on the safe side, this Greenie is both green and black - and looks like a dominatrix, just in case someone gets cheeky about her look! You go girl!



WHAT'S HOT!

TAKING TO IT LIKE A DUCK TO WATER



QUACKERS: JennyJoy Furst and Johnnie Ireland

By ISOLDE FLAMAND

HERE'S one couple who certainly know how to make a splash – and quite frankly, they must be quackers to don this outfit!

Spring seemed to be closer than ever for JennyJoy Furst and Johnnie Ireland this week, as they ventured out clad in nothing more than a giant rubber 'duckie'.

DARING

They weren't bashful about it, either, and went dancing at Spunky BT's, soaking up the SL sunshine while the rubber duckie dipped and bobbed along.

Be warned – not everyone could pull off such daring attire, but Johnnie and JennyJoy seemed to thoroughly enjoy the comments and looks they received regarding their choice of evening wear as they splashed about around the grid.

cc
callie cline



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INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

By ISOLDE FLAMAND

BELLS BECK OF BB DESIGNED FOR YOU

I FEEL SO SEXY...

"...when I wear my Olly Boots, created by Olly O'Toole. They look fantastic with tight jeans and I have even worn them with a bikini! The detail is amazing and so unique, plus, they have realistic walking sounds."



THE BEST HAIR...

"...is from Gurl6! My favourite style is the 'October 07' Sunshine pack, made by Six Kennedy. The flexi curls and realistic highlighting make it so sexy and feminine. My total look comes from combining great hair with the best skin in SL."



I LOVE TO WEAR...

"...my butterfly avi with all the attachments, created by Flea Bussy. It comes with its own AO, so that the wings flap when I fly. It's so beautiful, sometimes I'll wear it for a whole day at a time."



THE EYES HAVE IT



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN



Cube glasses
By ayako Fujita
Haemosu (58, 6, 73)

L\$30

Kalnins Sunglasses
Butterfly VIP Edition
By Maris Kanto
Indian (133, 141, 21)



L\$500

O-Musi Sunglasses
By marumarumusi Cioc
uemachi (39, 220, 29)



L\$150



Pixel Mode Visions
With colour change lenses
By Tya Fallingbridge
Pixel Dreams (107, 167, 26)

L\$150



Illuminare Heart-Shaped Glasses
By Marjorie Market
Fuzzy (233, 64, 34)

L\$95

PrimOptic Twinz glasses
By Nibb Tardis.
Terra Toulouse (120, 139, 27)



L\$299

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

DEAR



WHY WON'T MY LOVER GIVE ME A PHONE CALL?

STAR
LETTER
\$500
send me a mail

IN THE DARK AS TO THE RL REASONS BEHIND GIRL'S REFUSAL TO USE VOICE CHAT

Dear Randi: SECOND Life has been really important to me for a long time – I have been in-world since, well, nearly the very beginning! I am an active builder, but also very sociable, and have met and dated many women. When the Lindens gave us the gift of voice chat, it really enhanced my experience as I have heard so many beautiful female voices. Recently I met a girl who has piqued my interest, but she is adamantly against voice chat. She says she has her RL reasons for it, and I must settle for the visual or nothing. But I don't understand her reluctance to speak. What should I do? — T.N.

Randi says: There are many reasons residents set up boundaries in SL. She could be married or involved with someone in RL and not want to test her fidelity. She might have a speech impediment or a heavy accent. Or she might not be who she says she is. A much older woman or even a man would have a very hard time sounding like a young hottie without plenty of technical help. Accept her decision or dump her.

IS MY GIRL LETTING ME DOWN GENTLY?

Dear Randi: AFTER spending what seems like years together, about a week ago I asked my girlfriend to marry me. I've been thinking about doing it for a while, as she is my whole SL. She said she never expected me to propose and was incredibly flattered, but needed time to think about it. She hasn't given me an answer, and I'm beginning to worry she just wants to let me down gently. If she's not really serious about me, I don't want to stay in the relationship. How much longer should I wait before I ask again? — G.E.

Randi says: You gave your proposal a lot of thought. But she isn't a mind-reader, and to her, your question came out of the blue. Of course she's flattered. But even RL marriage isn't the stable institution it once was, and that's more the case in SL. Perhaps that frightens her. Give her a week and tell her again why you want to marry her. If she doesn't say yes then, set a timetable.

FORGIVE HUBBY FOR CHEATING AT PARTY

Dear Randi: I'VE been married in SL for six months to a guy I thought was perfect. He's smart, sweet, and generous and knows how to make me laugh. And we are perfectly compatible in the bedroom. My problem is that I recently found out he cheated before the wedding. One of my good friends is a former stripper who coincidentally was one of several women to have sex with him at his "bachelor party". He doesn't deny it and says there isn't anything wrong with what he did. I disagree. Should I forgive him? — P.U.

Randi says: You should not only forgive him, you should forget it and not mention it again. The RL tradition of the bachelor party really is pretty sordid, encouraging the groom-to-be to 'get it out of his system'. In his mind, he did nothing wrong and is surprised at your reaction. If you absolutely must dump him, then do that. But don't keep him around to make him miserable.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

BDSM MISTRESS IN LOVE DILEMMA

Dear Randi: I WORK at a BDSM sim as a mistress that caters to male and female submissives. I'm lesbian in both RL and SL, and I've developed a relationship with one of the female subs. I know she wants me to dominate her, but I'm attracted to her romantically so I have trouble being dominant. What I really want to do is romance her and take her to bed. She is aware of all of this. Should I just do my job and treat her like just another sub, or see if there is a way for a relationship like this to evolve into something more? — B.L.

Randi says: Honesty is always a good policy, and this case is no different. You should tell her your feelings, and that you no longer want her to be your customer. Tell her how much you love her and ask if she loves you back. If the answer is "yes", then all the best to you both. If it is "no", then you may have to quit your job there and try to move on.

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK

SUGAR DADDY'S
DILEMMA WEEK ONE:



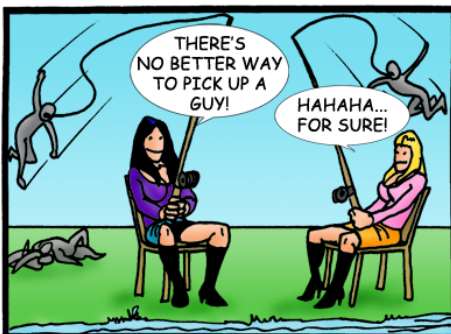
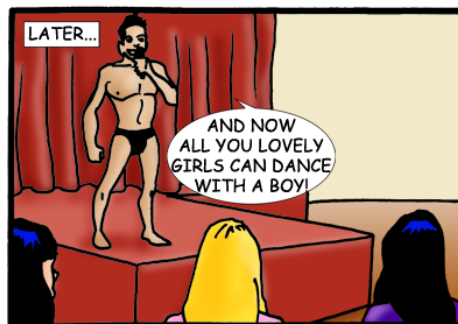
to be continued...

Pics by Skycat Ranger
Modelling by Skycat Ranger and Jay Prospero

HOT Slaggin'

ARTWORK:
Ermanno Spitteler

"WOMEN'S DAY PARTY"



© Andrea Manfredini 2008



Freebies

By PETRONILLA/PAPERDOLL

SL's best
FREE stuff!

THIS WEEK: HELP FROM SL'S MENTORS

HAVE you ever met a Second Life mentor?

Being a mentor is a voluntary job, and it is very demanding. Are they mad? Quite possibly, but usually, mentors received help themselves at the beginning of

their second lives, and now they are happy to give back, sharing their knowledge.

RESOURCE

Mentors often distribute tons of useful free stuff to disoriented newbies, helping them to im-

prove their appearance as well as their SL experience. Lucrezia Lamont has made a complete SL resource kit including tips, landmarks and freebie places. The Yard in Honeoye (87, 86, 81), by Till Pierce, collects classified freebies, including some great avatars. The Bundle

of Bundles by Tsu Goodliffe is a surprise box, and will fill your inventory with everything from gestures to sabers. It is available from Paperdoll's Quality Freebies (Public Townscape 17, 23, 753). Mentors will also give out things like basic sexy stuff (by Sexina Babii at Terra Solaris 109, 92, 27) to the Holy Bible (by LadyDawn Starbook at Nedben 176, 56, 80). Mentors do know what residents need – take a look at Rails Bailey's items, scattered in his sandbox (Largo 37, 48, 55) and to the big L\$0 shop just for women, by Tracey Sassoon (The Changing Room, Alady Island 27, 44, 33).



ADVERT

Opening February 15th, 11am
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.mindworldstudios.com/redvines/terms.htm>



Motorability
Fashion, Cars & Avatars

Charity Benefit Event for
United Spinal Association
a 501c3 Charity

Motorability Island
March 29, 2008

9am SLT - Fashion Show
caLLie cLine's BeaCh cLub & reSort
Featuring Aspire and Callie Cline Fashions

10am SLT - Racing
SLASCAR Official Fairgrounds Speedway
Sign up with Suku Ming

11am - 12pm SLT - Dancing
Parkade Nightclub and the United Spinal Upper Deck Dance Floor

All Day
Tours of the United Spinal Welcome Center,
Motorability Springs Automotive Education Center,
Wonderland Cardin and many other sites on Motorability Island

All proceeds to UnitedSpinal.org
Donate at designated donation kiosks
or directly to UnitedSpinalDonation Lane

Contact Patty Streeter or Amanda Shinji for more info

Sponsored By **THE AVASTAR**
Your World. Your Voice.

THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: INFOHUBS

EXOTIC:
Scenic Ambat



By GAETANA FAUST

INFOMATIC!

NOOBS AND OLDBIES CAN FIND TIPS AND HINTS AT INFOHUBS

LINDEN infohubs can be a lot of fun, whether you're still wearing your noob skin or are a grizzled veteran who has teleported around the grid for years.

Newer residents can find their feet in a relaxed and non-commercial atmosphere, and more experienced residents are often on hand to observe and assist.

The **Nova Albion Infohub** in Miramare (8, 24, 25) has a great tram ride right through the quiet city neighbourhood. You can sit on the red brick wall with newbies and veterans alike, to people watch and chew the fat. Check out the soaring industrial loft at **Braunworth Infohub** (Braunworth 98, 143, 180). It's a gorgeous build, and just outside you will find a

sandbox, money tree and lots of helpful Linden info.

Go slumming at the **Hobo Railroad Infohub** in Calleta (98, 214, 27), where piles of trash and makeshift shelters make the weary traveller feel right at home. There are kiosks with information to help newer hobos find their way.

Lounge around on rich Persian rugs at the exotic **Scenic Ambat Infohub** (Ambat 101, 212, 59), and watch the hippos in the flowing fountain. At the **Ross Infohub** (Ross 35, 221, 57), you're greeted by a donkey sipping from a fountain in the Mexican-style plaza. Click on the donkey, a nearby peacock, the travel posters on the wall and anything else you see to learn tidbits of information.

COSY DREAMS BEAR DREAM LODGE



Watch the newbies rezzing in the plaza or make yourself comfortable and enjoy the burning fire at the cosy build.

Where: Bear (32, 132, 112)

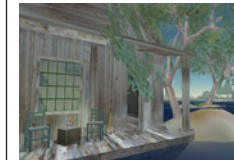
THE 'NERDITORIUM' WARMOUTH INFOHUB



Teleport to the top of the tall brick tower to catch a view of the sim from up high.

Where: Warmouth (32, 137, 95)

CHILLIN' OUT HYLES SWAMP



Relaxing is the order of the day, so take a comfy chair and enjoy the placid waters.

Where: Hyles (42, 32, 23)

3.7. - 3.13.

DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in SL Time



ENTERTAINMENT

ANGELAID

Join the sexy Perfumed Garden Angels for a crazy party, including prizes for the best angel outfit. The event is being held to raise funds for the RL AngelAID charity.

When: Mar. 9, 19:00-21:00

Where: Paw Paw (233, 43, 112)



SHOPPING

VINTAGE MARKET

Find yourself a bargain at the village market, which is the place to be as designers and residents clear out their inventories. Happy hunting!

When: Mar. 8, 09:00

Where: Shengri La (86, 82, 25)



LIVE MUSIC

AVVY BARAZANE

The spectacular opera house at Zurich City hosts singer/songwriter Barazane.

When: Mar. 8, 12:00

Where: Zurich City (244, 18, 28)



ART & CULTURE

GROUP ART EXHIBIT

Take in a wonderful exhibition featuring photography and paintings from RL and SL.

When: Mar. 12, 18:00

Where: France Centre (72, 18, 22)



NIGHTLIFE

BLACK TIE AFFAIR

Join DJs Azu and Kromus for four hours of the best electro trance tunes on the grid at Costa Rica Airport.

When: Mar. 8, 16:00

Where: Guanacaste Norte (57, 85, 22)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

SWEDISH PUNK

Enjoy some of the best punk DJs in SL at a Swedish-themed night at the Blacklist Club, where you can hear your favourite punk tunes with a Scandinavian twist.

When: Mar. 9, 11:00-03:00

Where: Shaitan (63, 215, 701)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



DISCUSSION

NAKED SCIENTISTS

Take part in an hour-long radio talk show broadcast by the UK's renowned BBC. Everyone is welcome to get involved in the discussion.

When: Mar. 9, 10:00

Where: SciLands (102, 129, 26)



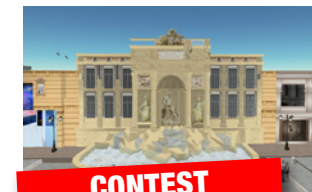
OPENING

CYBAVARIA

A new sim dedicated to German 'steampunk' opens with a display on King Ludwig II of Bavaria and with a spectacular live concert by The Cyberpiper.

When: Mar. 9, 12:00

Where: Cybavaria (126, 43, 23)



CONTEST

MISS PIAZZA ITALIA

Gorgeous Italian avatars will strut down the stage in an attempt to win L\$15,000 and the right to be the cover girl for a prestigious in-world modelling agency.

When: Mar. 10, 01:00

Where: Centro Italia 2 (100, 123, 22)



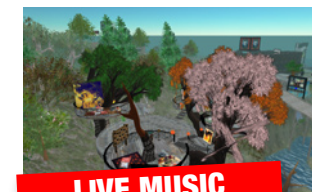
EVENT OF THE WEEK!

WOMEN IN ROCK

The best ladies in rock music are celebrated on International Women's Day with DJ Amy Ferguson playing tunes by Annie Lennox, Madonna, Cher and more.

When: Mar. 8, 17:30

Where: Rich Idiot (214, 204, 23)



LIVE MUSIC

BIG RL SHOW

Three SL rockers, Melanie Keller, Cyndrian Rutabaga and Keiko Takamura will be taking their act into the real world with a gig in San Francisco.

When: Mar. 12, 20:30

Where: Siona (166, 79, 61)

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.

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

By PAOLO BADE

GWEN CARILLON

THE MULTI-TALENTED GWEN IS AN ARTIST, DESIGNER AND DJ

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: GWEN CARILLON

BIRTH DATE: 5/27/2006

PROFESSION: Artist, designer and DJ

ATTITUDE: Feisty

INTERVIEW

The AvaStar: What is your role here in SL?

Gwen Carillon: I'm an artist and designer so I play with blocks and make 'em fancy. I'm also a freelance, professional DJ and owner of Elements in Design.

TA: How do you spend your time in SL?

GC: I spend most of my time building up on my skyland, chatting with customers in my shops and working with the Content Creators Association.

AS: What would you change in SL?

GC: Aside from the inventory issues, I'd vacuum up all of the thieves and send them to Virtual Disney.

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

GC: I have absolutely no idea, since I can't find anything at all in my inventory, because it all keeps disappearing!

TA: What's your funniest sex story?

GC: Sex? You mean you can have sex here?

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

GC: I'd vote for whoever didn't want the job. That would prove sanity on their part.