

# THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

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**Saving the planet**



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**US CONGRESS CONTROVERSY**

# IS THERE LESS FRAUD IN SL?

By Babu Writer

**Philip tells Congress committee SL is easier to police than RL**

PHIL Linden was grilled about virtual fraud by some of the most powerful men on earth.

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INSIDE OPINION

"Anti-bot residents believe bots are slowly destroying SL. On the contrary, bots are actually one of the most fundamental innovations for programmers within Second Life."

YOUR MAIL p.7

"There have been so many stories of bank rip-offs and content thefts, that many find it hard to believe SL is anything other than a virtual wild west. And that is because the grid is NOT policed - not by the Lab, not by anyone."



LEIDER STEpanov p.8

THE AVASTAR

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NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

2

... virtual world conferences have been announced this week - State of Play VI in July and Virtual Worlds London in October.

25

... physicians, therapists and social workers took part in the 'Mental Health in SL' conference last weekend.

89

... per cent of AvaStar readers believe Philip Linden was right to have stepped down as CEO, according to a website poll.

LOVED AND MISSED



GRIEVING friends have created a memorial to Geyl Fapp, who died on March 29, on the Olive Grove sim. Geyl was CEO of her company Geyl Fapp Productions.

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By BABU WRITER & COYNE NAGY

CONGRESS: Philip Linden appears at the in-world committee meeting

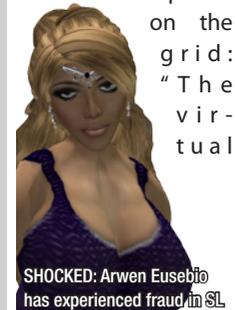
PHIL TELLS CONGRESS: POLICING SL IS EASIER!



CLAIMS ATTACKED BY RESIDENTS ANGRY THAT NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE ABOUT SL FRAUD

PHILIP Linden was grilled about virtual fraud by some of the most powerful men on earth - and claimed SL is easier to police than RL.

Appearing in RL on Wednesday before the American Congress Subcommittee on Telecommunications, the Lab CEO, aka Philip Rosedale, said it was harder for thieves and fraudsters to operate on the grid:



world has a degree of accountability, journalling and traceability which in many ways is better than the real world. The likelihood of purchasing stolen merchandise is much lower in the virtual world due to the markability and traceability of digital objects."

BANNED

The claims came as a shock to resident Arwen Eusebio, who has not only been the victim of content theft but was threatened with a Lab ban for daring to complain about it: "They close their eyes to the truth yet turn around and copyright their trademark all of a sudden so I

don't believe there is less content theft [in SL], from what I see and hear there is far more.

"I was also warned when I called that I would be banned if I called them about the content theft again, so from my point they protect the thief not the creator," she added.

TERRORISTS

Despite the controversy, the fact Philip was asked to appear before the committee - which was chaired by Congressman Ed Markey - was a huge boost for him as he prepares to step down as Lab CEO.

Among the topics discussed was the possibility of RL terrorists using SL, and Jane Harman, a Democratic Congresswoman from California, said:

"I am asking what we can do to make certain that these glorious tools are not... changed into tools that facilitate the use of terror attacks on innocent civilians around the world."

But Philip dismissed her fears, saying there was no evidence to suggest there was any terrorist activity taking place in SL.



INTEREST IN SL: Congressman Ed Markey Alter

**RELAY FOR LIFE**

By *Coyne Nagy*

**SICK opportunist residents are trying to pocket money being donated to the in-world Relay for Life charity campaign.**

Members of the campaign's committee noticed recently that unofficial vendors had been put up for sale promising the buyer a five per cent cut of all donations.

**ILLEGAL**

Residents were duly warned to avoid these vendors and only use official kiosks provided by Relay for Life (RfL), from which 100 per cent of donations go to the American Cancer Society. Splitting the donation could even be illegal under laws in some US states.

To check a vendor is genuine, touch the kiosk – a RfL web page should load with the location and owner. Jade Lily, who built the original vendors, said: "It's a shame there are people who would take advantage of this great cause and steal money from others who are literally fighting for their lives."



REAL OR FAKE? Check your RfL vendor is genuine



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: Jay on his recreated set of cult movie Pulp Fiction

**PULP FICTION**

**SHOW ME THE MONEY!**

**FILM-MAKER HOPES TO RAISE CASH IN-WORLD FOR SL DOCUMENTARY**

By *LEIDER STEPANOV*

**MOVIE fans can put down their popcorn and take part in some classic scenes – all in the name of helping a film-maker document Second Life.**

Jay Spire needs money to finish his half-shot film based on the grid and how SL affects the real lives of its residents, and he is holding a fund-raising event with a difference. Visitors to the 'Perform-a-thon' on April 6 can take part in some legendary moments of cinema, from

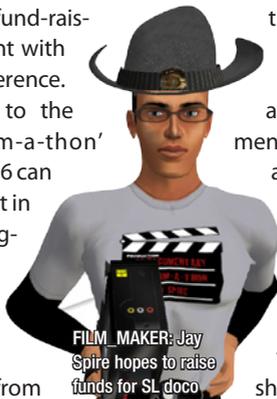
movies including Easy Rider, Pulp Fiction, and Alfred Hitchcock's North by Northwest, thanks to impressive virtual recreations.

**AMBITION**

Spire, New York-based independent film-maker Jason Spingarn-Koff, hopes to not only raise money to help him finish his film, but also attract potential investors. He said: "A typical theatrical documentary of this ambition – in high def, intended for theatrical release and television, shooting over

more than a year – has a budget in the hundreds of thousands of US\$."

The event takes place at Hyperborea Park South (Hyperborea 156, 98, 22) from 3pm SLT on April 6, and is set to attract plenty of film buffs. Spire added: "I'm really encouraged by the response I've had from everyone I've shown parts of the film to, and I'm hopeful that if I can keep on track, it will be picked up and reach a wide audience. "But I need to keep filming. The people I'm following, and the SL world as a whole, keep changing and evolving so fast, and I want the film to cover the drama of this evolution."



FILM MAKER: Jay Spire hopes to raise funds for SL doco

**IBM TO GO PRIVATE**

**FIRM TO HOST PRIVATE SL REGIONS AS LAB ROLLS OUT NEW CORPORATE STRATEGY** By *COYNE NAGY*

**IBM will become the first company to host private SL regions on its own servers.**

Employees will be able to move freely between the public areas of the grids and the private regions guarded by the company's firewall under the plans announced by the computer giant this week.

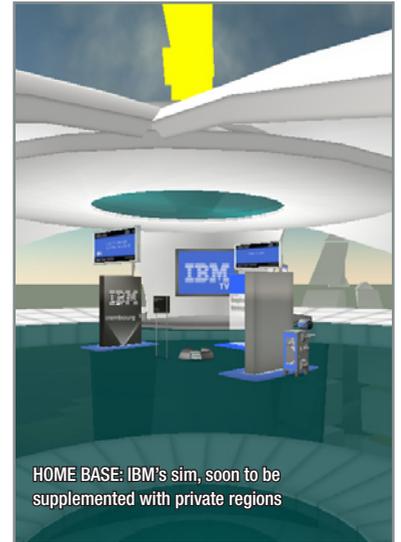
**SENSITIVE**

Other residents will not have access to the IBM sims, and conversations which take place there will not be stored on LL's servers, enabling more sensitive information to be discussed. The regions, currently in beta,

are set to go live in the next few weeks.

The step could signal a change in corporate use of SL as Linden Lab look to offer services as a software provider rather than a marketing tool.

Michael Kiess, IBM's German spokesman, told The AvaStar: "Many organisations have been asking for this – a secure virtual environment that runs reliably and which they have the ability to utilise and create within as they see fit."



HOME BASE: IBM's sim, soon to be supplemented with private regions

**THEY'RE NOT BOTS, HONEST GUV'NOR!**

**FIRST RESULTS BEGIN TO SHOW AS BOT HUNTERS EXPOSE DEVIOS SIM OWNERS**

By *MARIGOLD DEVIN*

**BOT hunter MARIGOLD DEVIN has spent another week hard at work tracking down the zombie bots who help bring misery to ordinary residents.**

THIS week, I've been following up many new leads from disgruntled SLers.

**DANCING**

I have also had contact with two bot owners – one even went to the trouble of creating an alt (with the wonderful name of Jolly Grumpy) just to berate me!

Last Friday, I found a box of dancing bots 750 metres in the sky above Ghergie and I joined the party before contacting sim owner Tyrian Camilo, who denied all knowledge of the

bots, saying he rents the land out. When I returned to Ghergie later the same day, the bots had been removed – result! Fellow bot hunter Lemmony Dumpling also followed up a



BOOGIE MONSTERS: Marigold gets down with bots at the Ghergie sim

lead about the Mission Viejo sim. But sim owner Jo-Han Glenville says he doesn't use his bots to generate traffic, but is using them for an art installation called 'Crowded silence'.

## NEWS BITES!

## KABBALAH IN SL

THE ASHLAG Research Institute has opened a virtual classroom in SL. The first lesson of 'Understanding Yourself Through Kabbalah' was given on March 30. Kabbalah is the mystical aspect of Judaism and the organisation aims to improve humanity through research and education.

## SL EDU STRENGTH

SECOND Life can be used to help educational curriculums target individual kids in RL, according to Harvard educator Jennifer Fox. She has opened Strengths Movement Island in-world to help schools avoid allowing children to fall through gaps in the system.

## PARIS ART TALK

A CONFERENCE will take place in Paris to discuss the role of SL as a new platform for art. The event hosted by Les Humains Associés will take place on April 14 and will be streamed in-world.

## CSI: SL IS AIRED

THE SECOND episode of CSI: New York featuring SL aired on the CBS channel in America this week. CSI arrived in SL with the help of the Electric Sheep Company last year.

# LAB FACES BATTLE OVER TRADEMARK

MANY RESIDENTS REFUSE TO IMPLEMENT NEW RULES *By COYNE NAGY*

**A QUARTER of residents are prepared to defy any demands to stop using Linden Lab's trademarks, according to a poll by The AvaStar.**

Defiant SLers have started a backlash against the Lab's decision to ban the use of its names and logos like 'Second Life' and the eye-in-hand symbol to advertise in-world businesses.

## NEVER

And 25 per cent of residents who responded to The AvaStar's poll said they would never make changes to comply with the new regulations even if ordered to do so. A further 38 per cent of residents will not give up their current logos, business names or domains until LL contacts them personally with a request to stop.

## CONTROVERSY

But the Lindens could be set for a battle over SLART magazine. SLART was controver-

sially registered by ArtWorld Market in January, and the magazine's in-world lawyer insisted the trademark is safe. Juris Amat, who is also a lawyer in RL, said: "The new Brand Center is evidence of a change in policy towards businesses and organisations using 'SL' in conjunction with their business or organisation name. SLART, on the other hand, is a made up word and as such it does not infringe on 'SL'."

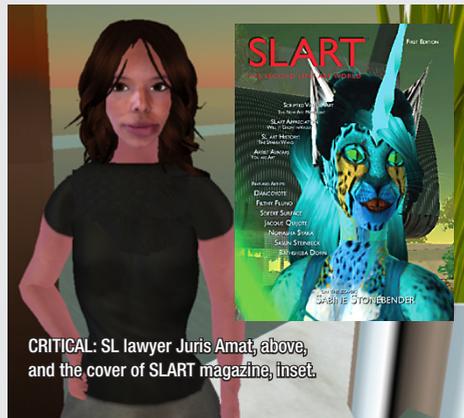
## HEAVY-HANDED

But Amat added that she had misgivings

over the Lab's ban: "I support the efforts of the company in educating users, and even protecting its rights, but I'm uncomfortable with the arbitrary distinctions and heavy handed take it or leave it tactics."

## BAN

ArtWorld Market said he did not feel the Lab would take action against him over the issue: "I don't see how they could ban me, or why they would want to. I do more to promote SL art in the real world, and get more people interested in it, than anybody else."



CRITICAL: SL lawyer Juris Amat, above, and the cover of SLART magazine, inset.

# your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

## BOTS ARE A FORCE FOR GOOD

*Dear Regis,*  
**MY name is Zetaphor, and I spoke recently with Mari-gold Devin after reading your 'Spot the Bot' article in issue 66 of The AvaStar.**

I would like to step forward, as a member of the LibSL Community, and an avid bot developer, and clear up some of the confusion about bots in SL. The premise of the 'Bot Hunter' group, and the premise of many anti-bot residents, is that bots are slowly destroying the virtual world we inhabit. On the contrary, bots are actually services, products, and applications that are only available

innovations for programmers within Second Life. Many of the larger in-world services are running with bots behind them.

## LEGITIMATE

A large part of the reason I am writing this letter is because there is just too much confusion about the role bots play in Second Life. I am still finding avatars that assume every bot they see is still a CopyBot.

While some people may use bots for bad things, there are plenty of legitimate services, products, and applications that are only available

due to the works of the LibSL community. The capabilities of LibSL provide for avid in-world developers to take their skills and products to an entirely different level. The programming interface that LibSL provides allows a programmer to develop applications that could perform services not capable within the limitations of the Linden Scripting Language.

I just ask that residents stop for a moment and consider the larger possibilities before labeling something as a scourge, and vowing to remove it from Second Life. I believe that was the same premise that the Nazis had... *By Zetaphor (zetaphor.quotaless.com/blog)*

## E-MAILS

WRITE TO:

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

## LET US USE TRADEMARKS!

*Dear Regis,*  
**UNDER normal circumstances, a company would be wise to retain a tight hold on their trademark.**

That is obvious. However, in the case of Second Life, it is definitely foolish. After all, how is a SL business supposed to market themselves in RL without using the term 'Second Life'? Isn't

that a little like New York City saying you can no longer use the term 'New York City'? Now businesses have to use the term 'inSL'. I wonder how many people in RL will know it means Second Life as opposed to, say, St. Louis? And who designed that 'inSL' logo... a first year intern? Could it be any more boring?

Why not either make an alternate version of the famous eye/hand logo, maybe in a different colour, and offer that. Or even better, put some limits on the use of the trademark to keep it from being used in a very negative manner but leave everyone else alone. This has to be some sort of April Fool's joke!  
*By Amarynth Emmons*

## NOT VERY HAPPY

*Dear Regis,*  
**I'D much appreciate it if you could pass on a couple of words to your contacts at Linden Lab regarding me having to changed my site's name to conform to the new trademark 'standards': "STICK IT!"** If they think I'm going to undo over a year of hard work and money invested into building up my business, they have got another thing coming.  
*By B.C.*



# LEIDER STEPANOV

**BUY THE AVASTAR!** SLERS can really be unintentionally amusing. Take, for example, Milov Bulan, who left us the following message: "Hello, I would like to talk to you about a possible buyout of your newspaper company. Please contact me, any time in SL I usually get on daily, or you can reach me at \*\*\*@\*\*\*.com." Out of curiosity, we replied, asking how much he would pay us. Having presumably then actually bothered to do some research about us, he never sent us an answer – but I still want to know how much we are worth! I think we could get at least L\$20 for Regis...

## PWNING LYNDENS

ANOTHER amusing message this week came from Hard Rust.

He sent a group notice which said: "At Lynden Labs we use the latest technologies in our mad quest for virtual world domination. Be part of the Lynden Labs team, and pwn the virtual world with us!" While I was sorely tempted, I wonder if the real Lab's new trademark rules will see an end to Hard's quest...

# PHILIP CAN'T HAVE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

CONGRESS APPEARANCE REVEALED CONTRADICTIONS IN LAB POLICY

**AS he chewed on a big cigar, sipped a glass of vintage champagne and leaned back in his antique rocking chair, Philip Linden must have reflected that, finally, he has made it.**

After all, it's not everyday you are invited to speak before a powerful Congress sub-committee.

### BOOST

And perhaps it was a fitting way for Philip to mark his tenure as Linden Lab CEO before he steps down from the role. It certainly seemed as though the Congressmen and

women enjoyed what he had to say, so well done to him for giving SL's image a boost.

### WILD WEST

But part of his message will have caused some bemusement among residents. Most obvious was his suggestion that there is less fraud in SL than in RL (see page three). His justification was that SL is easier to police than RL. I think that strikes a lot of people as unrealistic. Over the past year or two, there have been so many stories of bank rip-offs and content thefts, that many find it hard to believe SL is

anything other than a virtual wild west. And that is largely because the grid is NOT policed – not by the Lab, not by the RL authorities, not by anyone.

### HIDING

Victims of content theft frequently complain that not enough is done about the problem, and that even after filing successful DMCA reports, the copied material is still distributed.

Many times in the past, Linden Lab has hidden behind its well-stated policy of not interfering in transactions between residents, but the other side of that argument is that they cannot now claim that SL is, in fact, policed so well that fraud is at lower levels than in RL. It seems Phil wants to have his cake, along with his champagne and cigar, and eat it.



**YOUR COMMENTS:**  
newsdesk@the-avastar.com

# PICS OF THE WEEK

yourphotos@the-avastar.com



**PHILIP said, "let there be light!" And then there was light. Windlight.** The latest SL client viewer was released this week with Windlight as standard. It has been touted as a giant leap forward for SL by many residents, especially photographers such as **Milady Guillaume**, who caught **Kinder** and **Tinder Torok** in a romantic moment (top), **Clarice Cinquetti**, who shot a magnificent photo of her swimming with the fishes (middle), and **Ingrid Ingersoll** showing a waterfall in full flow (bottom). Send us your snaps to [yourphotos@the-avastar.com](mailto:yourphotos@the-avastar.com)

# META-NEWS!

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

## ENTROPIA FOOLS

ENTROPIA residents were the subject of an April Fool's prank when a post from Pinky on entropiaforum.com reported the find of an egg incubator. Many thought it a follow-up to the discovery of a US\$10,000 egg some time ago.

## TWINITY BOOST

METAVERSUM, the company behind the Twinity virtual world, has received a multi-million Euro investment from Balderon Capital. Twinity is presently in beta.

## PARAMOUNT IN THERE.COM

By COYNE NAGY

**PARAMOUNT Pictures has become the first major film studio to launch a presence in the There.com virtual world.**

The company is hoping its VooZoo application, which allows people to create and send video emoticons, will prove a hit in There. The emoticons, known as Voohoos, are comprised of clips from famous films made by

Paramount including Beverly Hills Cop, Clueless and Grease. Members of There will be able to buy Voohoos for around US\$1.

A partnership between There and MTV Networks to provide content for VooZoo has also been announced. Paramount's Derek Broes said: "VooZoo allows consumers to differentiate themselves from one another by which characters and

lines they choose to express their thoughts." There CEO Michael Wilson said: "Your avatar can already dance, talk, run, jump and drive a buggy and the addition of video movie clips takes social interaction to another level."

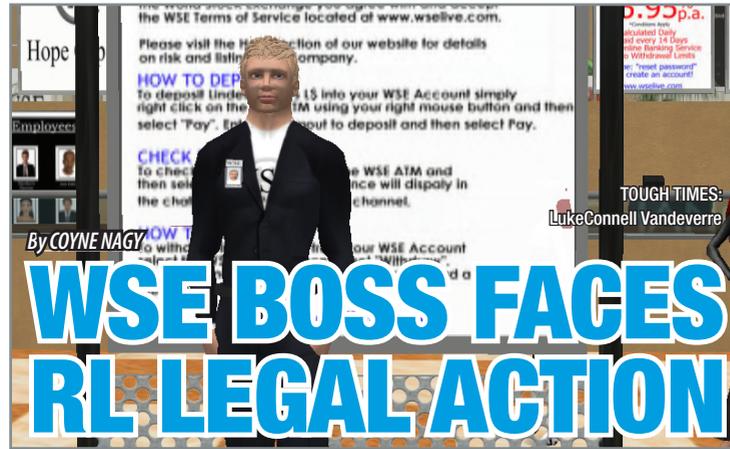


### ADVERT

Congratulations to Cartier Mall and Lounge Club's very own  
Yohmini Yoshikawa of SWS Designs,  
for being nominated for the  
Best New Designer award from Merovingi Fashion Awards.

Red Box Region  
Come and enjoy the sounds of WJAM,  
while you dance  
or shop in one of our fabulous stores in the mall.

LoungeClub  
CARTIER



## INVESTOR STARTS PROCEEDINGS AGAINST LUKECONNELL VANDEVERRE

**WORLD Stock Exchange boss LukeConnell Vandeverre is facing RL legal action over his running of the troubled business.**

Investor Wiseguy Capra has started legal proceedings in Germany against Vandeverre, and claims the action could be spread to America and Australia in an attempt to freeze assets for the duration of the case.

### FRAUD

The WSE has been offline since January awaiting a relaunch, and several companies including Second Life Wizzard and Delicious Demar have been de-listed from the exchange while balances were forcibly changed from L\$ to the World Internet Currency.

Capra, who declined to discuss the specifics of the case, said: "The main charge will be for internet fraud. We have come to a point in the SL economy where Linden Lab has to re-think their policy about not regulating the

financial sector or being involved in any of the fraud cases. So this needs public attention."

### TRUST

As he has only retained nominal funds in the WSE, Capra says his main intention is not financial gain: "For me it is not about the money I still have in my WSE portfolio but about the constant fraudulent actions happening in SL that need to be taken care of."

"It needs more attention so that at one point Linden Lab will be forced to do something about it to restore residents' trust and their willingness to invest into SL projects or companies."

### COMPLAINTS

The case could potentially turn into a class action suit, with other residents being encouraged to file any complaints they have about the World Stock Exchange at the Internet Crime Complaint Center. LukeConnell Vandeverre did not respond to requests for a comment sent by The AvaStar this week.



LEGAL ACTION: Wiseguy Capra

## BIZ BITES:

### PLAYBOY FASHION

PLAYBOY has begun link-ups with SL designers to produce branded clothes. The company originally thought of making replicas of RL clothes but instead decided to hire in-world designers to make exclusive SL-only collections.

### NEW AT THE LAB

LINDEN Lab has hired a new communications manager, ending a year-long effort to fill the position. Katt Linden will take over the SL Forums and work on the official blog to develop the relationship between Linden Lab and ordinary residents.

### SL ON SAMSUNG

SAMSUNG is continuing to develop handsets capable of running SL. Showing off its work at the CTIA Wireless conference this week, the firm has included features such as a contact list and a blogging function to make the device more usable.

### BIZ INTELLIGENCE

THE ONLINE magazine Business Intelligence Network has set up in SL. The BeyeLAND island will be dedicated to furthering interaction within the business intelligence and data warehousing communities.

wear a tag to rez a picture

# ART AS YOU APPROACH...

lin3D.com (lī'n thrē dī-)



## First Contact

Rules are made for breaking  
by *Minimal Smart*

take a tag  
to rez me

using TAG<sup>2</sup>REZ  
Technology

### ART AS YOU APPROACH

Pushing the boundaries of presentation of computer art in virtual environments. Join the experience of Ava Outlander and Alias Piek in Futurelab Art Gallery at SIM Comet 148, 236, 68

# a-stars

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

## RED N' RAUNCHY

By KITTLY OTOOLE

THE AvaStar of the Year 2007 Codebastard Redgrave brought her acclaimed 'Boudoir Rouge' photoset to life at a star-studded bash.

Avs danced away the night at the Code Red Lounge on March 30 to tunes by DJ Miss Cyberpink.

ROUGUE: Ryker Beck and Wyatt Benoir, above, and CodeBastard Redgrave, left, enjoy the party.



STUNNING: Model Anessa Stine takes part in caLLie cLine's fashion show

## IT'S SHOWTIME! Keep motorin'

By ISABEL BROCCO

AN AMAZING show featuring songs from Broadway musicals such as Phantom of the Opera and Evita raised more than US\$1,000 for Relay for Life.

The Best Of Boulevards Broadway Show on March 30 included performers such as Starr Singer, who sang 'Circle Of Life', and Cy-lindrian Rutabaga on the piano, who sang 'Someone to Watch over Me'.

IN FULL VOICE: Starr Singer

STAGE FRIGHT: The Phantom of the Opera recreated in SL

By KITTLY OTOOLE

A STUNNING fashion show featuring the latest designs by caLLie cLine and Kiana Dulce marked the grand opening of Motorability Island on March 29.

The seven-sim complex was bursting at the seams as avatars descended to enjoy a motor racing and music extravaganza. The island, once home to Pontiac, now hosts the United Spinal Associations Motorsports program.





# Burlesque!

By SOLANGE KOROBASE

*Solange Korobase is wearing*

Burlesque Outfit Bubblegum L\$225 from Reasonable Desires Reasonable Desires (132, 200, 27)  
 Tyra Hair L\$175 from ETD ETD Isle (207, 209, 27)  
 Promiscuous Shoes L\$350 from Mary Jane Chalanities (22, 95, 661)  
 Eyelashes L\$99 from caLLie cLine caLLieformia (208, 207, 22)

*Joos Nagy is wearing*

Scarlet Dancer (in black, purple, red and white) L\$150 from Bare Rose Bare Rose (208, 207, 22)  
 Ja! hair L\$150 from Simply Britnee Barbados (82, 80, 25)  
 Sadie heels L\$400 from ZHAO Shoes Agard (240, 35, 25)

# INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

BY ISOLDE FLAMAND

## APPLEJANSMAS OF FORBIDDEN FRUIT

### I JUST LOVE...

"... my pantsuit called Pristen by Ginny Talamasca of Last Call. The buckles trapping the top in the jacket, the sculpted flares on the pants and the sheer personality of the outfit just called out to me."



### I ALWAYS WEAR...

"... this gorgeous dress called Pragmata by Ginny Talamasca of Last Call when I go ballroom dancing. It is the colour of pomegranate, which is my favourite fruit. The details are amazing from top to bottom."



### I NEVER TAKE OFF...

"... my necklace created by JD Henson, who owns JCNy. When my husband Richie saw it, he said it belonged on my neck. He got it for me as a gift. The prims are so tiny, I can't imagine how JD manages to get all that detailing in them."

# SMELL THE ROSES



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN



### Orange Oriental Flower

By Norty Jezebel VolimTe (60, 234, 23)

L\$50



### Strawflower

By Smuk Zaftig TreeLine (78, 194, 22)

L\$100



### Pretty Blue Flowers

By Luna Bliss Bliss Gardens (241, 46, 231)

L\$152



### TSG planting tool

By Hamish Stuart Alba (62, 94, 24)

L\$111



Watering Can By Zora Spoonhammer Areumdeuli (56, 75, 101)

L\$50

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

DEAR



## KEEP LOOKING AND YOU WILL FIND LOVE IN SL!



LADY LOOKING FOR LOVE WANTS RELATIONSHIP – WITH A DEAR RANDI READER

*Dear Randi:* I FOUND your letter from the RL university student looking for a 'mature lady' quite intriguing. He's looking for a Second Life-only relationship, and he sounds perfect because I'm not looking for anything permanent. It would be nice to meet someone who has SL ambitions beyond mindless chat or quick sex. I don't mind

sharing loving, caring feelings, and I'm offering up my entire mind. There should be some reward for that. Is it selfish to want a deep SL relationship that doesn't ever go to RL? Could you introduce us? – B.H.

*Randi says:* Unfortunately, I can't introduce you, because that letter was sent on condition of anonymity, but of course

you aren't being selfish. There are some people who come to SL fantasising about finding their perfect RL mates, and I'm sure that magic does happen on occasion – but it's rare. The majority of residents keep SL and RL separate. I know I do! But a long-term SL relationship can be very rewarding, so you should definitely keep looking.

## I DON'T FIND IN-WORLD GIRLFRIEND HOT IN RL DITCH YOUR BISEXUAL MAN – HE'S NOT RIGHT

*Dear Randi:* I HAVE been dating a woman in SL for about a year now, and we have had many wonderful times. She's sensitive, intelligent and has a beautiful avatar, and we have many things in common. Recently she asked if I might ever be interested in taking our relationship to RL, and as I am currently single I gave her a solid "maybe". But when she sent me a photo via email, I did not find her attractive in any way. The problem is that she lives only 100 miles away and is pressing me to meet her. What should I do? — B.R.

*Randi says:* Wouldn't it be wonderful if physical attraction didn't matter in such a case? But unfortunately human nature seems to dictate it always does. You need to be a gentleman about the situation and be very delicate. Stall for a couple of weeks, and then make up a white lie about an old girlfriend coming back to you. Just please do what you can not to hurt her feelings.

*Dear Randi:* RECENTLY I have been in a great mood, because I have been going out with this charming guy I met at a dance. Then last week he told me he had something very important to discuss with me. Of course I thought he was about to propose, but instead he introduced me to another good-looking man. It turned out my guy is bisexual and said he needs to have relationships with both of us to feel fulfilled. I'm sort of old-fashioned and don't want to go along, but I haven't told him yet. What should I do? — I.L.

*Randi says:* You need to talk to him again, this time without his partner, and tell him your reasons for breaking off the relationship. No one should be in a love affair which makes him or her feel uncomfortable! Some people can handle unconventional situations, and that's fine. You aren't one of those people, and that's fine as well. Better luck next time.

RANDI

The Virtual World's  
No 1 Agony Aunt

## SL CONVINCED ME I SHOULD HAVE BEEN BORN A WOMAN

*Dear Randi:* I'VE often thought I should have been born a woman, and recently I've become even more convinced. A month back I created a female alt and took her to a 'free sex zone', where I told a nice guy the story and said I'd like to make love as a woman. He went along with it, and even bought some new working parts for both of us. We went to a private

place, and he was sweet, gentle and incredible! I felt emotions I'd never felt in RL. It was all pretty confusing. He was worried whether he might be gay, but decided he really had made love with a woman. Does this mean I should think about a RL gender reassignment? – D.E.

*Randi says:* I'm glad you both enjoyed the experience so much. You should enjoy your

new Second Life, make as many girlfriends as you can, and find out what it's like to be female in social circles. But as far as your question about a RL gender change, that is something I cannot responsibly answer for you. You must find a RL therapist who specialises in gender issues to find out what is right. Best wishes, and let me know how it all goes!

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this software cannot be used as a bot in camping or similar situations

The package includes the LSL script you need inworld



# Freebies

SL's best FREE stuff!  
By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

## THIS WEEK: TINIES

IF you have never come across 'tinies' in Second Life before, you're missing out.

They are cute little avatars and are usually found in the shape of an animal. When they appeared in 2005, they were quite revolutionary – they were one of the first attempts to modify the standard shape of an avatar.

But they are much more than just cute little avs.



They even have their own community based at the Raglan Shire sim. If you are tempted to shed your old look, you can sample life as a tiny thanks to a

few freebies. There are some great shapes at Mahulu (229, 157, 66), including the pictured 'Black House Cat', and you can pick up a nice big box of animations at Mystical Mastery (97, 83, 59) so you move and sit graciously.

But you're still naked, so pick up some great free outfits including samurai and gangster, by Zekeen Phoenix at ElvenHearth (89, 32, 22). Now you can experience a 'tiny' lifestyle!



ADVERT

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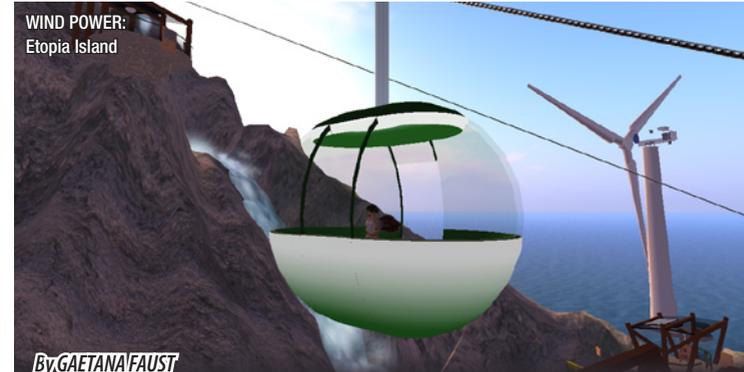
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# THE GUIDE TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## THIS WEEK: GOING GREEN

WIND POWER:  
Etopia Island



By GAETANA FAUST

# ECO-WARRIORS!

HELP PROTECT THE REAL ENVIRONMENT WITH IN-WORLD CAMPAIGNS

YOU can help save the Earth even in the virtual world, with plenty of sims dedicated to environmental awareness.

**Big Green Switch** at Gourneck (24, 26, 114) is eco-friendly and a lot of fun. Be sure to grab the cool freebies such as solar panels, wind turbines, rain savers and compost bins. If you are thinking of going green in your virtual home, stop by **Turtle Island Wind and Solar** in Native Lands (41, 15, 23) for the last word in solar panels, wind turbines and water towers.

Check out the gorgeous sims of **Commonwealth Island**, a centre for environmentally-focused non-profit organisations. A beautiful wood is the setting for cosy little pavilions dedicated to keeping

the earth green. There is far too much to be contained in a single sim, so be sure to visit **Commonwealth 2, 3, and 4** as well.

For an absolutely amazing view of **Etopia Island** (193, 55, 23), take the gondola ride up the side of the steep mountain for a spectacular view of the waterfall, trees and town far below. It's a gorgeous natural surrounding for architecture showcasing the benefits of sustainable development and renewable energy sources. Visit **Etopia Prime** (200, 41, 31), which is right next door, for a glimpse of a solar-powered village of the future. It is also home to a sprawling landscape of tree-covered mountains, with awe-inspiring waterfalls flowing into a placid lake.

## SUNSHINE FOR ALL INTEL



Plant a sunflower to benefit the Conservation International Foundation and at the same time, register to win a laptop. Where: Intel (125, 15, 134)

## A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE ECOLAPOGOS



Walk along the waterfront and take a look at the sea lions playing on the rocks as the waves roll in. Where: Ontos (130, 77, 31)

## UTOPIAN CLIMATE ABC ECO HOUSE



Bringing nature indoors and vice versa, with earth and greenery inside and out. Where: ABC Island (175, 75, 24)

GUESS WHO JUST BLEW INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD?



# DIYAS

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METANETWORK MEDIA  
Television For Generation M

# SLTRONICS MEDIA

4.4. - 4.10.

THE AVASTAR

# EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in SL Time



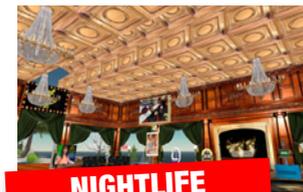
**CHARITY**

## DIABETES AUSTRALIA

Dexter Ihnen will stream his music into RL from SL as he records his new album. All money raised will go to the Diabetes Australia charity.

**When:** Apr. 8, 18:00

**Where:** Podcast Island (122, 61, 40)



**NIGHTLIFE**

## BEST IN SWING

Fans of swing, jazz and big bands will have a great time at the Moonlight Serenade with DJ Roland Josephus providing the music.

**When:** Apr. 9, 19:00

**Where:** Kissa Shores (158, 203, 23)



**LIVE MUSIC**

## PELTZER HIRANO

The musician will perform a range of jazz and blues songs.

**When:** Apr. 10, 12:00

**Where:** Cassarah (131, 223, 696)



**ENTERTAINMENT**

## DELICIOUS DISH

DJ Doubledown Tandino will play electronica, house and disco.

**When:** Apr. 7, 13:00-15:00

**Where:** Havens Paradise (65, 160, 35)



**EVENT OF THE WEEK!**

## MMAC BIRTHDAY

The Multimedia Arts Center celebrates its first anniversary in SL with a four-day party. There will be comedy, poetry and live sets from Micki Underwood and Komuso Tokugawa, among others.

**When:** Apr. 4-7, from 14:00

**Where:** Somerset (230, 230, 66)



**LIVE MUSIC**

## PET SHOP BOYS, FINALLY

Fans of the British pop group will enjoy this four-hour party arranged by the 'PSB Fans in SL Group'.

**When:** Apr. 10, 14:00-18:00

**Where:** Accessibility (67, 36, 31)

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Apr. 4, 2008 **THE**  
**AVA STAR**  
**OF THE WEEK**  
By ISOLDE FLAMAND

**INTERVIEW**

**The AvaStar:** How do you spend your time in SL?

**Callipygian Christensen:**

Exploring places to take snapshots for my work, listening to live music, spending time with wonderful friends who make me laugh, think and not take myself too seriously.

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

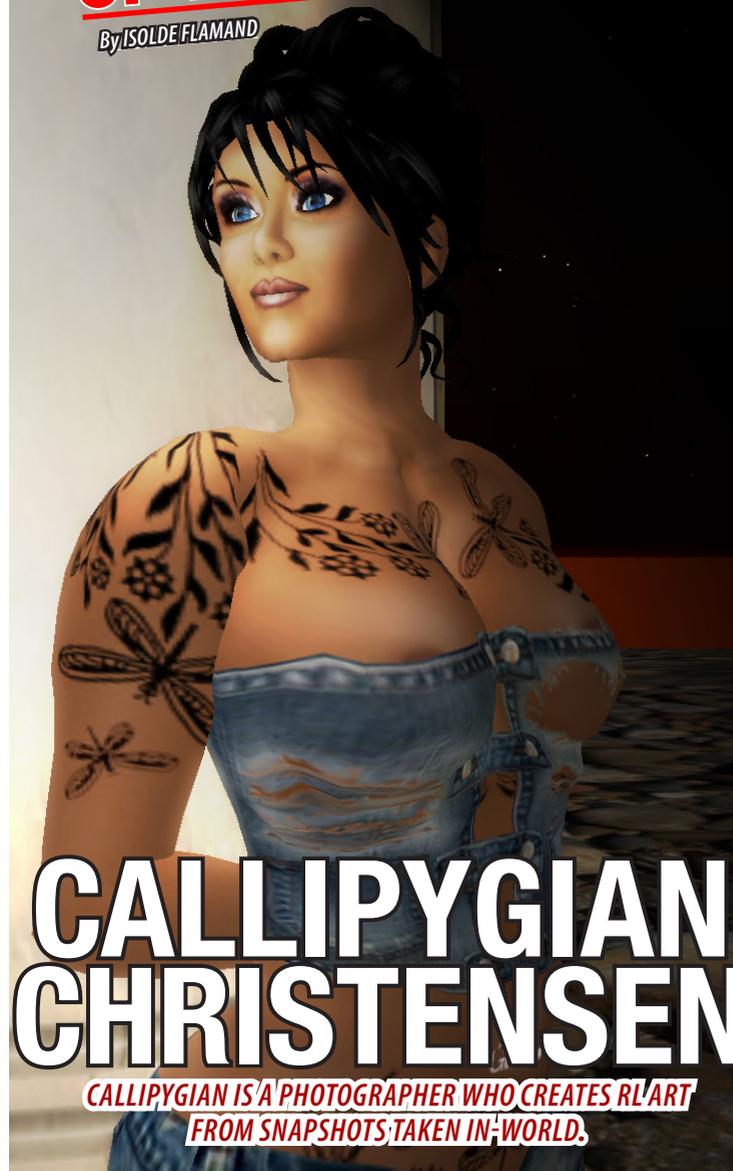
**CC:** I'd love to see a better way of listing events so that specific things are easier to find. I'd love to see free membership disappear, other than as a 'try out SL for 30 days' preview.

**TA:** What's your funniest sex story from SL?

**CC:** During an update my home sim crashed while I was naked, trying on skins. On logging back in I was dropped naked into one of the busy Welcome areas – three times in a row. No doubt there were a number of new residents there who decided SL really IS the promised land where naked women fall from the sky!

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

**CR:** Anyone who would run for that job is clearly insane and shouldn't be elected to any position of responsibility.



**CALLIPYGIAN  
CHRISTENSEN**

**CALLIPYGIAN IS A PHOTOGRAPHER WHO CREATES RL/ART FROM SNAPSHOTS TAKEN IN SL WORLD.**

**AVA - ID CARD**

**NAME:** CALLIPYGIAN CHRISTENSEN

**PROFESSION:** Photographer

**BIRTH DATE:** 12/28/2005

**ATTITUDE:** Lots