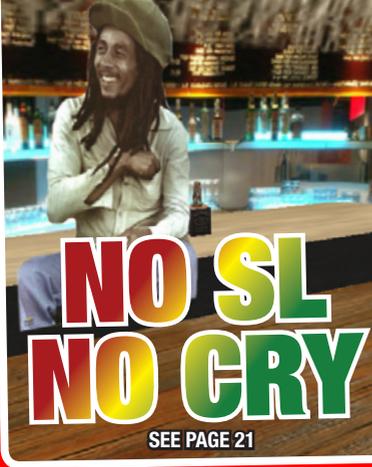


THE AVASTAR

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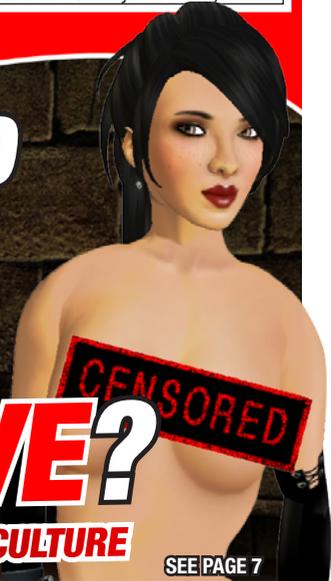
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Reggae on the grid



WOULD YOU BE A SLAVE?

SL'S SUB-DOM CULTURE



NEW DEAL IS DAMP SQUIB

LAND PRICE CUTS A FLOP

Lab cuts cost of land – but rent still far too high, say residents

By COYNE NAGY
LINDEN Lab's new land deal has fallen flat, as residents claim rent is still far too high.

FULL STORY: SEE PAGE 3

INSIDE
OPINION

"Although the problem of littering SL isn't solved, at least the unbearably uneven competition is. And then if artists want to use hundreds of bots on their sim, be my guest."

YOUR MAIL
p.9

"If you saw cereal reduced by 40 per cent in your local supermarket, you wouldn't suddenly believe that the wheat industry is in crisis. But then, mainstream journos aren't exactly experts when it comes to Second Life".



REGIS
BRAATHENS
p.8

THE AVASTAR

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NUMBERS
OF THE WEEK

67

... per cent of residents don't believe Linden Lab is doing enough to battle in-world fraud, according to an AvaStar poll.

1000

... US\$ was the value of prizes given out this week to the best in-world submissions for exhibitions at the San Jose Tech Museum.

10000

... L\$ can be won in a raffle by residents completing student Sowi Korobase's survey about social issues in America.

SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT...



EDIS Edman got a shock when he went in-world after the last update – something didn't look quite right! Send YOUR strange pics to: yourphotos@the-avastar.com.

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REDUCE THE RENT
NOT LAND PRICES

ORDINARY RESIDENTS WON'T SNAP UP NEW DEAL

By COYNE NAGY

LINDEN Lab's offer of cheaper land has been met with derision, as residents complain rent is still far too high to make them want to buy.

Jack Linden revealed the plan to slash the price of a new island from US\$1,675 to US\$1,000 and of a mainland region from US\$1,250 to US\$750 in the hope of boosting sales.

EXTORTIONATE

But ordinary residents look unlikely to take the bait and snap up the new land after revealing that the tier payments, which many say are extortionate and can be hundreds of US\$ a month, are the stumbling block, not the initial cost of the land.

Resident Patricia See-saw said the offer will not entice her to buy land: "The problem is the tier. You buy but you pay rent anyway – it is the same as owning a horse, even if you get one for free, you still have to maintain it. I can't see how the move does any-

thing for ordinary people."

UNHAPPY

Land barons saw the value of their land decreased in a stroke but were unhappier at the speed of change. Chaos Mohr said: "Common business sense would dictate that cutting prices on a major commodity by 40 per cent in one fell swoop will have a serious impact on the economy. While lower prices are certainly welcome and good for everyone, the short term losses will hurt a lot of people."

SLAP IN THE FACE

Mohr claimed that in the 36 hours following the announcement, land prices across the grid decreased by 17 per cent.

Meanwhile major land owner and blogger Sarah Nerd told The AvaStar: "[It] feels like a slap in the face for all the financial support we have given."



SLAP IN THE FACE:
Land baron Sarah Nerd

NEWS BITES!

SLT OUT OF TIME

THE use of Second Life Time appears to have been abandoned by Linden Lab. Following the latest viewer update, the in-world time is now written as PDT, or Pacific Daylight Time – the RL name for SLT.

PILOT MEMORIAL

A MEMORIAL was held this week to honour in-world pilot Mannie Madonna, who died on March 18. Madonna was an active pilot and a fly-over was staged in his honour. His RL son, Akira Boyoma, intends to keep his father's avatar name active.

GROWING MEXICO

THE second stage of Mexico's official in-world presence was launched last week. Ruta Maya is a two sim extension of the existing land and features scaled reproductions of Mayan temples, the city of Campeche and a huge rainforest.

HEALTHY GROWTH

LIBRARIANS at Health-info Island are helping residents find health information even faster by improving their wiki entry. Since opening last year, SLHealthy has catalogued 149 health groups with more than 2,000 visitors.

TOP TECHIE IN QUIT SHOCK

OPEN SOURCE WHIZZ KID BERESFORD BLAMES LINDEN LAB FOR LACK OF SUPPORT *By COYNE NAGY*

TECHNICAL genius Nicholaz Beresford has revealed he has abandoned work on his open source version of the Second Life viewer.

Beresford, widely regarded as one of the top techies in the open source community, has slammed the Lab for ignoring his work.

Ironically, he was named 'Contributor of the Year' by the Lindens last year for his development efforts, but now says he has had enough of waiting for the Lab to provide the com-

munity with proper support,



WHIZZ KID: Nicholaz Beresford

and has decided to end his project.

In a blog post on April 6 he ex-

plained his reasons and hit out at what he believed to be a change direction from LL.

IGNORING

He also said he felt SL would never run on efficient software: "The realisation took me some time, but eventually it did dawn, even on the optimist which I am, that it was not going to happen. Not through the Lindens themselves, and certainly not through contributions from the coding community, because the Lindens were increasingly ignoring the contributions."

POPULAR SIMS SCAM!

BOT HUNTER MARIGOLD DEVIN CONTINUES HER CAMPAIGN AGAINST MALICIOUS BOTS

I'VE had many people writing in objecting to bots distorting traffic rankings.

A good example is the 'Popular Places' list in search, that many residents, especially newbies, use.

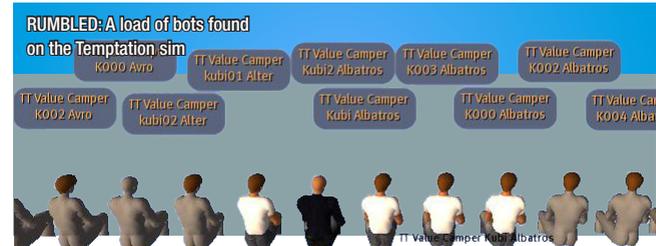
The owner of the Live sim, Danx Daniels, declares on his profile that he loves his noobs. Of course he does, because they won't realise that at least 75 per cent of the people on his

sim are bots. There are bots in singles and clumps around the edge of the sim, in a box above ground, and dotted around on camping benches and in buildings. Another 'Popular Place', Platinum World, has very obvious-looking bots hogging the camp tables.

Although the use of bots is not against the ToS, the conscience of some landowners must be pricking them, or why

else would they go to great lengths to keep them hidden in skyboxes, or even eject people who get a little bit too close for comfort, as at the 'Popular Place' Robin Hood sim. It's food for thought, isn't it?

Apologies to Lilly Figgis who was mistakenly said to be connected to the bots on Mission Veijo in the column last week. She in fact is not involved with the sim at all.



IN-WORLD GROUP PROVIDING HELP AND ADVICE *By MORRHYS GRAYSMARK*

AUTISM is a RL condition which makes it difficult for people to interact with others - making Second Life the perfect platform to provide help.

There are at least 20 groups in-world which provide help for those who have the condition and their friends and family. Autism is a complex condition which affects the ability to communicate with others, and SL provides a place for interaction without the stress of RL.

ADVICE

Naughty Auties is one of the most successful autism groups on the grid, having featured in RL media reports. It

was founded by Dave Sparrow, who in RL is 22-year-old David Savill. He has Asperger's syndrome, a kind of autism, and founded the group to help and advise residents affected by the condition. He said: "I wanted something catchy, something fun and something relevant to autism, and Naughty Auties fits all three."

SUPPORT

The group, which is also run by Rubi Hawker, has teamed up with Blues for Autism to put on a 12-hour concert on April 26 to provide an opportunity for people affected by autism to meet up, enjoy the music and chat. Dave added: "Naugh-

ty Auties is not just a place for people who have autism. It is a place for people to come who are affected by autism, be it either autistic people themselves or family members, friends, employers or teachers of people who have autism, because autism affects more people than just the person who has it."

The effect Naughty Auties has had on other residents is plain to see. Janey Bracken, who reported on the group for CNN's iReports, said: "[Dave] has worked really hard. He has good friends that have helped him - they all do a marvelous job."

JCNY COMP ROW

By COYNE NAGY & ABBIE REINARD

THE final of a modelling contest descended into farce after the winner was disqualified for cheating.

Pocket Arai had made it through several rounds of voting in the competition at the JCNY store, and appeared to have won after a closely-fought final against Rainn Rubio. But shortly after voting ended, JD Hanson, owner of JCNY, announced Arai had been disqualified for vote rigging.

MANIPULATION

Arai has maintained her innocence in the face of what she claims was abuse from Rubio's supporters, and says she was the victim: "If I lost to a good, fair 'fight' then great. But I didn't, I lost to a witch hunt."

Despite her disappointment she refused to blame Hanson for her decision, and added: "I know JD believes what she did was fair."

Hanson said: "We do not support any kind of manipulations. I just did what was right."



wear a tag to rez a picture

ART AS YOU APPROACH...

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Will he rez me?

Anything can happen if you wear a tag
by Minimal Smart

take a tag
to rez me

using TAG²REZ
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

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MY LIFE AS A SL SLAVE

SUBMISSIVE: SL slave 'PS'



THE GRID'S SUBMISSIVE-DOMINANT SOCIETY REVEALED By KITTY OTOOLE

SLAVERY and submission are among the most popular sexual role playing themes in Second Life.

But what is it about being submissive or a master which appeals to so many residents? One female slave, who wants to be known only by her initials, PS, revealed to The AvaStar how she entered the world of virtual sub-dom fantasy.

She signed up to SL recently, and despite having no experience of 'slavery' in RL, soon found herself visiting popular sub-dom clubs like Twisted Orchid. It was during one of these visits that she

began a conversation with a female avatar who was looking for slaves: "It wasn't what I had set out to find at all, but the more we discussed the lifestyle the more intrigued I became, so I agreed to become her slave." In doing so, PS had to be 'collared', and so can be forced to do things by her Mistress like kneel at her feet.

SEXUAL THRILL

PS is quick to point out that everything is done with her consent, and she says the lifestyle is actually empowering: "I get a real kick out of knowing that the service I provide to my Mistress fulfils her darkest de-

sires; it's just as much of a sexual thrill for me as it is for her."

One benefit of exploring the sub-dom lifestyle in SL is that there is no danger of being physically hurt, and if things become too heated then logging off is always an option. All you need to take part is a highly productive imagination and a willingness to try out new things, an opportunity that PS has grasped eagerly with both hands: "There's a definite emotional response that I feel in real life, but when it comes down to it, it's the dark attraction that keeps me coming back for more."

ASPIRE! SOLD OFF

By COYNE NAGY

THE fashion world was shaken up this week when one of the best-known SL modelling agencies changed hands.

Duality Inc. bought ASpiRE! from its founders Bianca Foulon and Trina Noland, and installed Kristianne Matfield as the new CEO. Matfield already has experience of the agency, having worked there as a writer before leaving to help set up Duality. The new owners also publish Depth Magazine and own pose-making and photography firms in-world.

POSITIVE

Matfield paid tribute to the former owners and looked ahead to the future: "I know mergers and acquisitions can leave anyone feeling unsure of the future and before there are any visible changes in the structure or face of ASpiRE!, we want to reassure all the loyal staff, vendors, advertisers and partners that ASpiRE! has very positive things in store for its future."

One significant move has already been made under the new management with Miss SL Universe 2008 Babyhoney Bailey taking on the role of agency director.



REGIS BRAATHENS

NOW IN DEUTSCH!

IT'S been a long time coming! Finally, most of the SecondLife.com website has been translated into German, among other languages. Having made up such a large part (between eight and 12 per cent) of the community for over 18 months, it was high time Germans were given support and information in their own language. There's still quite a bit of tidying up to do, with many parts not translated, and why it wasn't done before beats me. It's not rocket science!

LIND-O-METER

Lab-solutely awful!

Phil-ing blue!

Lagging behind!

IMproving

Sim-ply the best!



GAME OVER FOR RL PRESS

LAND PRICE CUTS GIVE MEDIA ANOTHER CHANCE TO GET IT WRONG

THE drop in land prices will no doubt cause a stir in the real life press, when they find out about it.

'Game over for Second Life', 'Prices slashed as virtual land sales tumble', 'Final nail in the coffin for Linden Lab's business model' may be some of the typically-ignorant headlines regarding Second Life in the mainstream press. In fact, it is of course not at all as drastic as it looks. The price cuts are simply a marketing tactic to boost land sales (which have been

steady this year, according to Jack Linden). If you saw cereal reduced by 40 per cent in your local supermarket, you wouldn't suddenly believe that the wheat industry is in crisis or that your supermarket is about to go under.

BIG BUSINESS

But then, a lot of mainstream journos aren't exactly experts when it comes to Second Life. Take the latest article in one of Germany's most renowned Sunday newspapers, the Frankfurter Allgemeine am Sonntag,

entitled 'Nothing is going on any more in SL'. It reported (two weeks after The AvaStar) that Mercedes had quit the grid. With that it concluded that big business is giving up on SL, and that it's game over for the virtual world (if you want to read the full story online, you have to pay €2 for access for 24 hours – I wouldn't waste your money). So keep an eye out in the coming weeks for more doom and gloom stories in the RL press – I hope you have a good chuckle!

NEW SITE SET FOR LAUNCH



AVASTAR readers are set for a treat as our new website nears completion!

You will soon not only be able to get all the latest AvaStar news, business, fashion, travel and entertainment every day, but you will be able to have your

say as well. With your own profile, you can upload photos and stories and comment on the articles. Over the next few months, we will be rolling out even more features to create the biggest online news community in the metaverse.

With news from There, Entropia Universe, Kaneva and other virtual worlds, we'll be keeping you informed as the future of the internet unfolds. Join 'The AvaStar Readers' group to be the first to know when the new site goes live!

your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

IT'S UP TO THE LAB TO STOP BOTS

Hello Regis,

I CAN'T let the letter from Zetaphor (The AvaStar issue 68) regarding the bot problems go unanswered.

It is an undisputed fact that bots create a terrible 'littering' and even for that alone are extremely annoying. On top of that is the fact that by generating fake traffic they are creating an unbelievably one-sided competition that damages others who are fair and don't use such a method. How can, for example, a small gallery with a real traffic of, say, 700 compete against an artist exhibition such as on Mission Vejio,

which has a bot-generated traffic of 69,000.

Using bots is nothing other than abuse which must be stopped by Linden Lab. And that's why one can only strongly support Marigold Devin and a group such as the Bot Hunters.

The solution to the problem is, in my opinion, very easy and lies, as with the solution to most problems in SL, with Linden Lab – don't let bots count towards traffic! Although the problem of

littering SL isn't solved, at least the unbearably uneven competition is. And then if artists want to use hundreds of bots on their sim, be my guest. That should be technically possible, no?

Finally, a word to Zetaphor – to equate the Bot Hunters and critics of this plague with the Nazis shows that Zetaphor has no idea about what being a 'Nazi' really means.

He/she should in future think before giving such insults. Or, even better, not resort to such stupid comparisons and insinuations.

Best regards,

Wolfman Hammerer

E-MAILS

WRITE TO:

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

DON'T STOP BOTS - STOP THE MINDLESS CAMPERS

Dear Regis,

THE 'sheriff's' general campaign proposition is totally out of focus.

Saying the bots monopolise the camp chairs isn't strong enough, as camping generates even more fake traffic! Camping keeps the fellows noobs in an activity that does not bring real money (what is L\$1 for 10 minutes of internet

bandwidth, electricity bill, powerful computer and expensive IT hardware, such as a video card, RAM, etc?) – nor is it in any way instructive or educational!

EDUCATION

Why not encourage the noobs to take classes in order to learn something, like building, scripting, etc, for a better SL?! There are plenty of free educational classes in SL!

Isn't it better to leave the camp chairs for the bots?!

Yes, bots cause lag, but what doesn't?

Nonetheless, I am not in favour of bots, apart from the use of them in arts, and in an educational context, whatever it might be.

Best wishes,

Lilly Figgis

Metaverse 3Designs CEO and Metaverse Branding PR

HOW MANY BOTS?

Dear AvaStar,

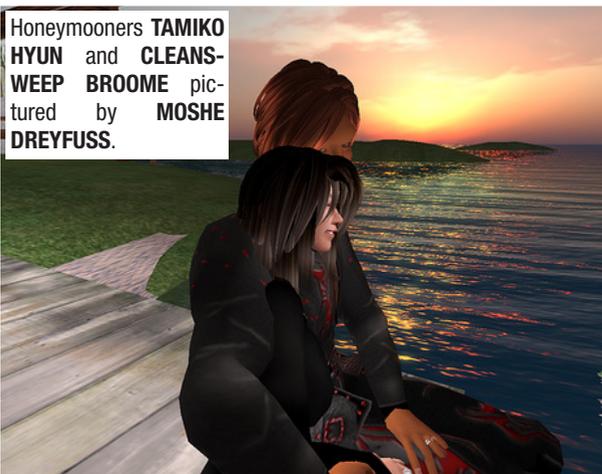
IT has been fascinating to read about your reports on bots – the most amazing thing is just how many there are of them! That makes me wonder – how many people are really using SL? Statistics say up to 60,000 people are on at one time. But how many of them are bots? Perhaps the true figure is around 10,000, maybe even less? Is that why Linden Lab won't tackle the issue?

By A.S.

PICS OF THE WEEK

yourphotos@the-avastar.com

Honeymooners **TAMIKO HYUN** and **CLEANSWEEP BROOME** pictured by **MOSHE DREYFUSS**.



What a cute tipping jar! Unless it bites of course... Pic by I.F.

ATMIRE'S LEGEND spotted bots 750m above the Efes sim, and they didn't look in good shape!



PIC OF THE WEEK
L\$500

Check out Kowloon Nights, a new collection of SL photography by **ZANARA ZENOVKA**, at the Fantasy Gallery in Maplegrove.

DISAPPEARING GOODS: L&G Designs

By COYNE NAGY

TRADERS NEED ATOMIC CHANGE

BUSINESS OWNERS DEMAND NEW TRANSACTION SYSTEM FROM LAB

CONCERNED business owners who fear being ripped off are calling for Linden Lab to improve SL's transaction system.

It is claimed that implementing 'atomicity' – or guaranteeing the transaction is either completed or cancelled – in the SL database would safeguard both residents and content creators from the curse of missing items.

Customers are quick to demand refunds or replacement copies when things go missing at the moment, according to designers and creators. But while most only make genuine claims, there is nothing to stop unscrupulous avatars claiming second copies of products they actually did receive.

LittleGio Miles, co-owner of bathroom furnishing store L&G Design, explained that as word of mouth advertising is so important in-world, businesses cannot afford to risk the bad publicity generated by unhappy customers so will often give out free items. She

said that one experience in particular highlighted the need for change: "Someone threatened us, saying that they would spread negative advertising about our customer service and tried to start 'IM-bombing' us from their friends. So we become 'bad' when we just haven't any way to check if they have actually gotten the item or not."

UNSTABLE

His partner Loba Brink also called on LL to take action: "Lately SL seems more and more unstable, it happens more often than before that people don't receive their goods. It may have happened once a month but the last few weeks it seems like every day someone doesn't receive what they bought." But technical wizard Dedic Mauriac said: "The problem is, many of us automate our sales with servers such as JEVN, SLX or On-Rez. For these to work [with atomicity], there needs to be an event available that confirms that the customer received the product."

CALL FOR ACTION: Loba Brink

BIZ BITES:

SUN AND SERVER

COMPUTER giant Sun Microsystems used SL to launch a new product this week. Employees including vice president Rick Hetherington presented details of two new servers, before taking questions from the audience.

MEIN SL ACCOUNT

GERMAN residents were given a boost this week when Linden Lab made a selection of 'My Account' pages on the official SL website available in German.

ABN SHEDS SIMS

DUTCH banking giant ABN AMRO has announced it will reduce its presence in-world from 25 islands to around six. The firm will also begin to use Active-Worlds rather than SL for internal communications and training projects.

KUONI LAUNCHES

TRAVEL firm Kuoni launched its in-world presence with a party on April 10. The Inouk island was created by employees with the help of IT firm Crealogix and offers visitors the chance to keep a travel log and play games.

Tonight Live

with

Paisley Beebe

Second Life's highest rated TV Show

A Talk Show all about Second Life For Second Life.



a-stars



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

BRITISH BLUES

PUB PARTY: Jasparella Forcella, right, was among those on the dancefloor at the British Bulldog pub, below.



HOT STUFF: Violet Nishi enjoys the party



By PHIL SPACKLER
BLUES music UK-style was the order of the day at the British Bulldog pub on April 8. Avs flooded onto the dance floor to boogie away at the Baby Blue event to the tunes provided by DJ **Darkwulf**. Partygoers also had fun with the pool table and the dart board at the venue on the Amazon Isles sim, and there was plenty of opportunity to sample the famous proper English beer.

Always on my mind...



PET SHOP FANS: StillyBaby Gomez, left, with unusual headgear; and the party in full swing, above.

By KITTY OTOOLE
PET Shop Boys fans from across the grid were treated to a four-hour extravaganza at Parkade on the **Accessibilty** sim on April 10. **DJNoNo** and **Miss Cyberpink** entertained a full house with remixes, rarities and all the hits from the famous British electronic pop duo.

Bagging for It

By SOLANGE KOROBASE



Stray Cat Outfit complete L\$350 also from Mimikri

- City Cat Jacket L\$225 from Mimikri
- Vanilla Isle (190, 190, 22)
- Coriander Hair L\$200 (5 colors pack) from Calla
- Callatropia (125, 193, 23)
- Gordie Leather Bag L\$245 from Armidi Gisaci
- Armidi (128, 140, 26)



Callie Cline's

STYLE HOTLINE

GO CRAZY WITH EXTRAS!

BE AN ACCESSORY – TO A PLAYFUL CRIME AGAINST FASHION

THEY say less is more, but sometimes it's fun to go way overboard with your accessories for a playful look.

That's exactly what I went for this week. It started when I put on this hair. I mixed it with a simple and elegant dress, but as I was walking along I saw it bouncing and being all sassy. I thought to myself, "wow, I need to build a whole outfit with that kind of attitude," so I bought a punk t-shirt, a simple mini-skirt and took out my favourite platform creepers, and then started

on the accessories.

I wore two belts, one a prim the other not, two anklets, gloves, garters, socks, arm bands, a bracelet, a pearl necklace, rings and of course, my old tiara. I hit the streets to show off my new look, and when I bumped into a fellow model and told her it was called 'accessory overkill', she laughed and said: "You're not kidding!"

See what accessories you can dig out to make a fun mess of yourself with, send me a photo and I'll send prizes for the best.



NOT SO SIMPLE: Callie with her many accessories

WHAT'S HOT!

TAKE A PEEK AT THE HOTTEST NEW STYLES TO HIT SECOND LIFE

GIRLS BRING OUT THE MAGIC MINI

By ISOLDE FLAMAND



MINI MAGIC: Jordan Morgenrote reveals her perfect pins

SHOWING off those lovely long legs by donning a micro skirt is one of the hottest new trends on the grids.

Zazza Jewel went for a feminine ruffle in gold recently, while Kat

things up in a leopard print skin-tight number.



STUNNER: Zazza Jewel goes for gold

What woman doesn't feel sexy in a short skirt – and what man could resist looking at legs in a mini-skirt? Jordan Morgenrote's shapely legs are shown off perfectly by her black mini – and as Vargas heated the weather heats up, so does

the dress code! Dressed to stop traffic, these ladies, pictured at a recent Max Kleene concert, knew how to keep the beat going!



HOT LEOPARD NUMBER: Kat Vargas



INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

By ISOLDE FLAMAND

LYRA MUSE, JAYWALK IN LITHIUM CITY

EVERYTHING I LOVE TO WEAR GOES WITH...

"...my short leather jacket created by Mirai Jun of Cubic Effect. The arms, colour and body are all sculpted. I have several colours and am especially impressed with how well the texture works.

"I think the jacket looks really great with my favorite pink Japanese T-shirt by Canimal Zephyr of Canimal."

MY PERFECT COMBINATION IS...

"...my Platinum hair by ETD, designed by Elikpeka Tiramisu, and my Vogue skin by Starley Therein of Celestial Studios. I love the exaggerated eyes and nude lips both in SL and RL, so I wear this all the time! The hair is a casual and fun look, perfect for how I'm feeling right now."



I REBEL AGAINST...

"...the whole 'couture' thing with my sneakers called Porn*Stars from Ubu. The designer name is Coke Dreadlow, but he mentioned that another person actually sculpted them. Since they are scripted for colours, they are infinitely customisable within the scope of the texture offerings. And the fact you can resize them is great."

WAGON WHEELS



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

L\$250



Yellow Gypsy Parade Cart
By Hodgy Hogfather
Mapinguari (21, 167, 42)

Wagon in red and yellow
By Evil Pluto
Clement (153, 27, 54)



L\$500

Pharaonic chariot of the New Kingdom
By Jachmes Masala
2nd Avenue (174, 151, 30)

L\$99



TLC 'Couples' Hansom cab
By TracyLynne Carpentre
Steeltopia
(241, 151, 22)

L\$1,250



L\$1,250

Bow Top Gypsy Wagon
By Elgyfu Wishbringer
Tin Teddy (230, 194, 44)



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

DEAR



DUMPED BECAUSE OF APRIL FOOL'S DAY JOKE

STAR
LETTER
L\$500
send me a mail

FRIEND SAID AS A PRANK THAT FIANCE HAD CHEATED – BUT NOW HE'S LEFT ME

Dear Randi: I WAS engaged in Second Life for several months with an eye toward a June wedding. Last week my best girlfriend told me that my fiancé had cheated on me. I believed her and decided to get even, picking up a stranger at a dance club and spending a night riding sex balls with him. And then I told my fiancé about

it, after which he said some nasty things to me and broke off the engagement. Later my girlfriend told me it was an April Fool's joke, and that he hadn't cheated. Should I try and apologize? — T.L.

Randi says: That was an awful 'prank' to play on you. April Fool's jokes should be light-hearted fun, not create

scenarios which can destroy people's relationships. That said, the fact that you cheated with a stranger is your fault and not your ex-fiance's. You should have confronted him, and after he told you the truth you should have dropped your 'friend' instead. But the damage is done now, so give the ring back and move on.

WHY DO MY PALS HATE MY SEXY NEKO LOVER? I SAW CHEATING HUBBY IN BED WITH SLUTTY EX

Dear Randi: I HAVE dated at least a half dozen guys in SL, and apparently made some bad choices because they all turned out to be losers. But about a month ago a neko approached me in a formal dance club and asked if I would 'cut a rug' with him. I agreed, and within about an hour I knew he was a keeper. My problem is his status as a neko. Several of my friends say they will drop me if I marry a furry. I say SL is not like RL, they're being prejudiced and they shouldn't deprive me of a great relationship. What should I do? — C.B.

Randi says: Your friends are being small-minded. Cats can be very sexy, especially in SL where their claws can't hurt you! See where your relationship goes with your dream guy. If your so-called friends don't want to be in your circle any more because of it, then good riddance to them. There are plenty of open-minded people in SL who would be loyal and caring friends.

Dear Randi: MY SL husband and I live in RL time zones about six hours apart, and each of us is in-world at least a couple of hours a day when the other is at work or asleep in RL. One late night last week I was having trouble sleeping, and signed on only to find him in our bed with his slutty ex-girlfriend. He didn't have a good explanation for his behaviour, but said it was just a one time thing and that he loves me and it will never happen again. Should I give him another chance? — S.W.

Randi says: Perhaps you should give him one more chance and one only. This is one of those cases where you have the right to make him grovel. Just hope this was an isolated incident. But if he cheats one more time, you have to dump him. Too many women are doormats for cheating men, so make sure you don't become one of them.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

WEDDING DRESS IS A DISASTER!

Dear Randi: MY sister in RL has had a lot of rough luck with men in Second Life. But it seems she has finally found herself a perfect guy. He is a real sweetheart, and I am really happy for both of them now they are getting married. I was really pleased when she asked me to be her maid of honour, and obviously accepted. Last weekend I went out shopping with her, and helped her to pick out a gorgeous wedding dress. But the next day she sur-

prised me with the dress I am supposed to wear, and I was horrified – not only is it tacky in its design but the colours are absolutely hideous! Frankly, I think I would be embarrassed to wear it. Should I say something, or just keep my mouth shut? — N.R.

Randi says: You say your sister has had a rough time of it with the romance game in SL, but now she has finally found the man of her dreams, she has picked you out of all the wom-

en on the grid to be her maid of honour. This is a very happy time for her, and it should be for you as well. Come the big day, you should simply smile and bite your tongue as you don the dress your sister picked out for you. This is her day, and hopefully the beginning of a long and wonderful relationship. Don't spoil it. You will only be wearing your dress for a few hours, and then you can throw it away or do whatever you like with it.

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Freebies

SL's best FREE stuff!

By PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL

THIS WEEK: PALM TREES

THERE'S nothing like a tall palm tree gently swaying in a warm breeze.

And it is the perfect way to renew a garden, for example with the L\$1 'Coconut Palmtree Senior XL' by Langlume Laval (Satie 119, 65, 23). In the box, there is a one-prim coconut. Rez it on the ground and select 'touch' from the pie menu – magically, it will generate a huge palm tree, with a little one growing from the coconut as well. Both the trees look very natural, and hanging on the big one is a nice textured hammock.

BEACH EXPERIENCE

Inside the box, there are also a couple of cuddle poseballs. To rez and adjust them is a bit tricky, and they are quite basic – if you want a personalised solution you can use poseballs and animations of your own, for example the useful and fully configurable MoPoseball (Scaffell 36, 225, 684).



TROPICAL: The palm tree completes a fantastic beach setting

The whole original set, including poseballs, takes up just 18 prims.

To complete the beach experience, don a swimsuit, make a drink for you and your partner and relax and enjoy a lovely Windlight sunset.

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THE GUIDE TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: REGGAE

BOB'S BAR:
Cosmic Beach Club

By GAETANA FAUST

HOT ISLAND RHYTHMS

CHILL OUT WITH REGGAE MUSIC AND CARRIBBEAN CULTURE

ENJOY the island breezes and relax to soulful music with lots of Caribbean style as you explore reggae culture in SL.

At **Irie Vibes** in Irie (152, 125, 27), the party is on the dance floor where the reggae tunes are always playing.

Dancing on the beach is the order of the day at the **United Rastafarians Reggae Club** at Jillette (217, 164, 31). You won't mind the sand between your toes as you boogie to the great tunes. Another top venue for reggae at its finest is **Cosmic Beach Club** in Stars Island (110, 175, 21). You might do a double-take when you see Bob Marley working the bar here, but he fits right in with the kettle drums, palm trees, and hot sun on

white sand. Shop in a picturesque Caribbean village at **BooPerFunk** (230, 21, 24), where you'll find all kinds of great stuff, including the afro or dreadlocks of your dreams, to put you in the mood for chilling out.

RELAXING

Don't be frightened by the big cat stalking the dance floor at **Jah Lion Dub Club** in Lion Valley (212, 48, 23). He doesn't seem to bite, but if you'd prefer to keep your distance, grab some free smokes nearby and relax to the music. **Rasta Beach** at the Rasta Ventures sim (58, 139, 22) is small but hopping with fun. A simple wooden deck right on the beach serves as the perfect dance floor for reggae recreation.

RASTA FASHION BOOPERFUNK



Give your wardrobe a Rastafarian infusion with funky clothes, hair and accessories.

Where: BooPerFunk (230, 21, 24)

PURE REGGAE BLISS CARIBANA LOUNGE



Enjoy the music as you chill out Caribbean-style by the colourful waterfall and pool.

Where: Vrede (203, 235, 26)

BEACH-SIDE CHILLING IRIE VIBES



Hit the dance floor with the lively crowds to enjoy some great music and the cool sea breeze.

Where: Irie (152, 125, 27)

04.11. - 04.17.

DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in PST



CHARITY

THE WALL

A collaboration of artists has formed a show featuring machinima and new music as well as a classic track from Pink Floyd. Proceeds go to Relay for Life.

When: Apr. 12/13, 14:00

Where: Benvolio (205, 50, 353)



NIGHTLIFE

SHETLAND MUSIC

DJ Lorrie Z is behind the decks bringing a unique blend of Celtic and Shetland music to the Scottish-themed pub.

When: Apr. 16, 13:00

Where: Loch Lomond Balloch (141, 227, 23)



EDUCATION

DR GABRIEL

The German lawyer will hold a RL talk about starting and managing a business, streamed into SL.

When: Apr. 15, 07:30

Where: KielCanal (121, 100, 24)



LIVE MUSIC

JB MELNIK

Enjoy a smooth night of jazz from RL and SL artist JB Melnik.

When: Apr. 14, 19:00

Where: Blue Fusion Island (173, 125, 22)



ENTERTAINMENT

SPRING FESTIVAL

A festival to welcome in the new season takes place at Solare with carnival rides, jet skiing and DJ sets all competing for attention.

When: Apr. 12-13, 12:00

Where: Solare (128, 128, 0)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

MUSEUM DUSSELDORF

Take part in traditional dances from Germany, Greece, Russia and Turkey as the recreation of the German city celebrates being part of a RL exhibition.

When: Apr. 13, 04:00

Where: Arilou (81, 152, 29)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in PST



ART & CULTURE

MARIO GEROSA

The RL Italian author presents his new book at Toscana and will be on hand to discuss art generated through social networking and avatar branding.

When: Apr. 11, 12:00

Where: Toscana (85, 215, 105)



LIVE MUSIC

BILLY MIKOYAN

The artist plays live classical piano at the Better World Gallery with dancing available for those so inclined.

When: Apr. 17, 13:00

Where: Machhapuchhre (180, 176, 92)



NIGHTLIFE

BIG COVER

The Blacklist club hosts a massive event which will feature four DJs spinning the tunes over the course of the marathon six hour party – a must for music fans.

When: Apr. 13, 09:00

Where: Shaitan (63, 215, 701)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

MATTHEW PERRAULT LIVE

The performer has a ready supply of funny and witty songs about life which are sure to keep the the audience at this special gig amused and entertained.

When: Apr. 16, 18:00

Where: Laurel Arts Isle (212, 227, 21)



ENTERTAINMENT

LIVE TELETHON

MBC's telethon will feature some of SL's best talent as well as the launch of the 'Hollywood Cubes' show.

When: Apr. 12, 11:00-17:00

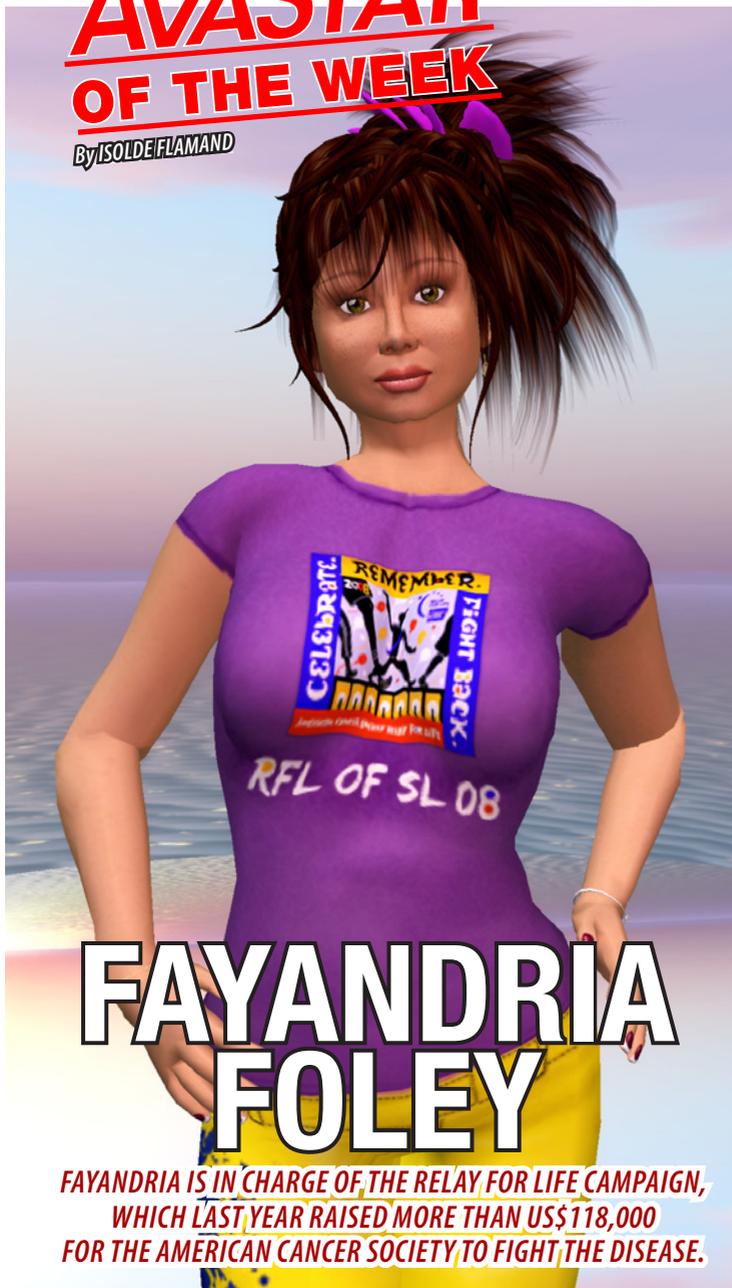
Where: Charles Bernard (36, 204, 23)

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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 ISOLDE FLAMAND



FAYANDRIA FOLEY

FAYANDRIA IS IN CHARGE OF THE RELAY FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN, WHICH LAST YEAR RAISED MORE THAN US\$118,000 FOR THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY TO FIGHT THE DISEASE.

INTERVIEW

The AvaStar: How did you first come into SL?

Fayandria Foley: I came in-world to walk in SL's second Relay for Life (RfL) after I read about the first Relay while at my oncologist's office. I remember thinking, "now there is a Relay I could walk in no matter what condition I'm in".

TA: What is your role here in SL?

FF: Supporter, volunteer, cancer survivor—just being me. I volunteer for the American Cancer Society through their RfL program and that means I spend a lot of time meeting people, listening to what they say, and supporting them.

TA: Have you been surprised by the support for RfL in-world?

FF: The growth in support and participation for RfL is astronomical. It has far surpassed all expectations and just keeps on busting records. The sheer numbers of those with the spirit and determination to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost to the disease, and fight back against it is the most positive change I have seen in SL. Residents have united to work together for a cure - very humbling to say the least.

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: FAYANDRIA FOLEY

BIRTH DATE: 3/11/2006

PROFESSION: Charity volunteer

ATTITUDE: Motivated