

THE
AVASTAR
 Your World. Your Voice.

ENTROPIA EXCLUSIVE:
MA REVEALS
PLANET PLANS!
 SEE PAGE 12



CONTENT KINGS HIT BACK

WE WON'T
DITCH SL!

Leading creators say business is booming – and vow to stay

By REGIS BRAATHENS
 LEADING metaverse developers have hit out at claims they are disillusioned with Second Life.
 FULL STORY: SEE PAGE 3

INSIDE OPINION

"No one ever mentions the good things about SL... making friends, the creativity aspect, and how it really can bring out talents that we don't display in our everyday real lives."

YOUR MAIL
p.9

"The demo is a worrying sign that Linden Lab is losing the support of normal, well-adjusted, rate-paying residents of Second Life. LL must be concerned that many more will simply cancel their premium memberships."



LEIDER STEPANOV
p.10

THE AVASTAR

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NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

2

... party events will be held each day in the club of the Senses mall, which opened its doors this week.

3

... RL products will be launched in Second Life by software giant Microsoft on April 26.

20,000

... in L\$ will be the prize for the winner of the Koinup machinima music video contest – entries close on April 29.

ALL CLEAR ON THE SL FRONT



"GOVERNOR to Linden Lab, the grid looks all clear to me. Over." Cube Republic captured Governor Linden on a surveillance trip through Second Life.

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By REGIS BRAATHENS

CARRY ON SL!

TOP CONTENT GURUS TO KEEP THE FAITH

LEADING metaverse developers have hit out at claims they are disillusioned with Second Life and are taking their clients to other virtual worlds.

The backlash came after Giff Constable, chief operating officer of major develop-



GOOD TIMES: Justin and Louise RiversRunRed

ment agency Electric Sheep Company (ESC), slammed the Lab for not being able "to realise the potential of the platform or to make it easy", in a controversial interview with Reuters. Constable criticised the inability of Linden Lab to provide the desired experience for its corporate clients' marketing campaigns. He said: "Second Life is just not at production level. You want things to be bulletproof when

you're working with a global brand... I don't know if we'd do it in Second Life the next time."

EXPANSION

But Justin Bovington, aka Fizik Baskerville, CEO of pioneering virtual worlds development company Rivers Run Red, hit out at Second Life's doom and gloom critics. Speaking to The AvaStar, Bovington said: "We still continue to use the Second Life Grid, we're actually very positive about the future of Second Life. Our clients are also looking to expand their presences, some are also looking to expand into other platforms." The firm's efforts in the field of enterprise solutions – as well as wins at the Webby's, the 'Oscars of the internet', for three of its Second Life projects, Vodafone InsideOut, Royal British Legion, and Coca-Cola Virtual Premiere – show that its SL campaigns are still paying off. Cezary Fish, CEO of

Polish development agency aHead Corporation, said he won't be sorry to see big agencies like ESC reducing their involvement: "They spoiled the market with extremely high pricing for no extended services (post-release maintenance). But for the near future I predict SL to be the leading virtual world." However, Giff Constable added that ESC would not be completely giving up on Second Life: "I plan to continue being involved in Second Life and watching its progress. Where it fits our client needs, we won't hesitate to work on the platform."



POSITIVE: Cezary Fish predicts a bright future for SL

NEWS BITES!

LL'S DMCA MOVE

LINDEN Lab has promised to devote more resources to battling content theft through the DMCA process. Many designers have been calling on LL to do more to protect them following a spate of copying incidents across the grid in recent weeks.

ECONOMY BOOMS

THE Second Life economy has grown a massive 15 per cent over the last quarter, according to figures released by Linden Lab this week. In-world business profit rates also saw a significant rise, of 11 per cent from December 2007 to March 2008.

BLOGGERS STRIKE

A STRIKE across the blogosphere took place this week in protest at Linden Lab's recent ban on the use of its trademarks. Bloggers including Co-debastard Redgrave, Kit Meredith and Gwyneth Llewelyn refused to blog about Second Life for three full days.

SLERS HONOURED

A DAY of Remembrance was held on April 17 to commemorate the lives of SL residents who have died in RL. The Lab-sponsored event featured parades and music.

THE WORLD'S HOTTEST!



RAUNCHY CALENDAR BABES ARE SL'S FINEST

By COYNE NAGY

SOME of the hottest avs in SL are featured in a new calendar available at Amazon.com.

'Second Life Lingerie Legends', priced at US\$20, features Budweiser Select Lingerie Legend winner Scarlett Niven, Graciana

McMillian, HarMonica Aabye and The AvaStar's own Isabel Brocco, amongst others. The girls were picked in a contest held by Scarlett, in which Kristianne Matfield won the top prize of L\$25,000, and photographed by Carl Crabe. Scarlett said: "Working with everyone

who was involved with making this happen was truly rewarding on so many levels."

• We have three copies of the calendar to give away, so send us a picture of your avatar in sexy lingerie to newsdesk@the-avastar.com for a chance of winning!

HANDS-FREE SL

AVS TO BE CONTROLLED WITHOUT KEYBOARD?

By COYNE NAGY

RESIDENTS could soon be able to move their avatars in Second Life without a mouse or keyboard, thanks to new technology.

Kapor Enterprises, the company owned by Lab chairman Mitch Kapor, is developing a new user interface and recently released a video demonstration of the work so far. Using a 3D camera which collects data from RL body position, avatars can be made to walk, fly and edit objects. Leaning by just a few degrees causes the avatar to walk forward,

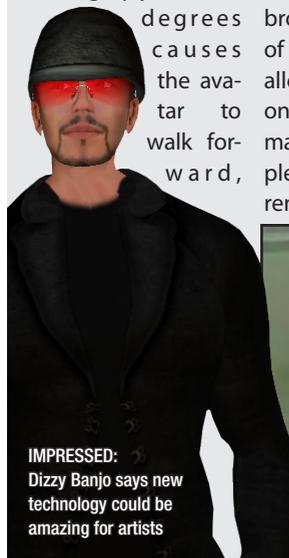
backwards or turn around while having arms raised above waist height has the same effect while the avatar is flying.

COMFORTABLE

Kapor and his colleague, Philippe Bosut, who wrote the software code for the project, are using the Handsfree3d.com website to post details of further progress. They said: "We believe that these cameras will eventually make interacting with virtual worlds as comfortable as using a webcam. This will ultimately broaden the appeal of virtual worlds by allowing new ways of online expression. It may also attract people who find the current gaming interface

too hard to handle." In-world technical expert Dizzy Banjo was enthusiastic about the new interface but cautioned that its use would not become widespread: "Of course it relies on the user having a lot of hardware but it has creative uses. I can't see many people controlling their avatar like that all the time but for artistic projects it could be amazing."

But while the new technology will undergo further development, it will not be displacing keyboards all over the world any time soon as the cameras, which is made by 3dvsystems, are not yet on sale to the public.



IMPRESSED: Dizzy Banjo says new technology could be amazing for artists



SO EASY: Shot from a video showing a person controlling his avatar through his RL body movements

SLART SUCCESS

A **CONTROVERSIAL** in-world art expert has successfully trademarked the term 'SLART' despite the Lab's ban on the use of its SL-related brands. ArtWorld Market, book artist Richard Minsky in RL, caused uproar earlier this year when he revealed plans to trademark SLART, the name of the magazine he runs. Many artists complained he was trying to make a generic name his own, and the plan was further thrown into doubt by the Lab's crackdown on the use of its trademarks.

VICTORY

But Market revealed this week he had been awarded a trademark for SLART by the US Patent and Trademark Office. A press release said: "As Minsky has learned, owning the SLART trademark requires enforcing it. That has involved sending cease and desist letters to SL residents infringers."

The trademark, which is overseen by Market's in-world legal counsel Juris Amat, includes the use of the brand in multimedia publishing, online publication and art exhibitions.



VICTORIOUS: SLART owner ArtWorld Market

Women's Clothes & Accessories

AW
Design



www.awdesign.se

[Lag Free/39/83/22]

BOTS STRIKE AGAIN!

CLUB OWNER FORCED TO BUY BACK VENUE AFTER LANDBOT SWOOPED

By COYNE NAGY

A FURIOUS club owner had to buy back her venue for L\$40,000 after a bot snapped it up for just L\$1.

The bot menace struck again this week, as Lanai Jarrico tried to change land permissions by selling parcels to managers of Club Lanai for L\$1 when disaster hit.

MUTED

She failed to set the 'buy' field to a specific person, and within seconds the land had been snapped up by a bot. Moments later, Jarrico was ejected from the land, and she was forced to fork out L\$40,960 to reclaim

it. When she approached bot owner Muratus Losangeles to demand an explanation, she was muted.

A friend contacted Losangeles on her behalf and asked if mistakes could be returned, only to be told: "Nope, not for some time.

VICTIMS

"Not since I got banned for trying to stop Hana [another bot owner] from getting mistakes and keeping them. So if LL is going to protect her, I figured screw it. Why should I care, I



AT FAULT: A landbot caught on camera by Marigold Devin

know it sucks. But they [the victims] won't make that mistake again."

MALICIOUS

It is the latest in a string of incidents where bots have been put to negative uses, which The AvaStar has highlighted in the last few weeks. Bot hunter Marigold Devin, who is running the campaign to rid the grid of malicious bots, said: "Landbots are, unfortunately, allowed by Linden Lab under the current ToS. If you are preparing to sell land, be extra vigilant when setting the price for sale. If you intend to sell your land to one person, even if they are standing right by your side, set the land for sale to them only."

There was no reply from Muratus Losangeles to IMs asking for comment this week.

U-TURN IN THE NICH OF TIME

By COYNE NAGY

TECHNICAL wizard Nicholaz Beresford has produced a new version of his open source SL viewer – despite last week promising to abandon the project.

Beresford revealed on his blog that he had surprised himself by returning to open source work but admitted the challenge of tackling a fresh problem was too much to resist. He originally quit after slamming the Lab for not giving enough help to the open source community.

PRIORITIES

The main feature of his viewer, called Eye Candy EC-e, is the plugging of a severe memory leak which is a by-product of the latest official Lab viewer. But Beresford, known in the open source community as 'the mad patcher', warned he may not be back for good: "My stance towards continuing the work on the viewer hasn't fundamentally changed. My priorities are still my own business and real life, but I also must say that the leak hunt was a nice distraction. So I guess it will be best to make no plans and to allow myself to surprise me with whatever I may do next."



SNAPPED UP FOR L\$1: Club Lanai, right, and its owner Lanai Jarrico, above.

Tonight Live

with

Paisley
BeebeSecond Life's
highest rated
TV ShowA Talk Show all about
Second Life For Second Life.www.slc.tv
a perfect world production

your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

LAB RIGHT TO CUT PRICES

Hey Regis,

I FIND it incredible that Linden Lab is being criticised for reducing land prices.

While it is undeniable the move was made for self-interest to increase income in the long run, the by-product is that land has become more affordable. The tier may be the same but there has still been a substantial reduction in the cash needed up front and it should not be forgotten

that US\$500 is still a lot of money for some people. Second Life is stagnating at present and anything, even small gestures, which make it easier for more people to get involved should be applauded. My only complaint is Linden Lab is missing the point somewhat. Land price reductions and protect-

ing copyrights or trademarks is all well and good but the only thing that will truly make Second Life better is improving the grid. It has to be reliable and free of the bugs which infuriate both dedicated and casual users alike.

Until that happens all other changes are like shuffling the deck-chairs on the Titanic while approaching the iceberg.

By C.S.

**L\$500
E-MAILS**

WRITE TO:

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

SL HELPS THOSE IN NEED

Hey Regis,

I JUST wanted to say well done to The AvaStar for highlighting the excellent work done by the Naughty Auties group in last week's issue.

While I don't have any involvement with that group in particular, I do help out some other organisations within Second Life which help people with real life conditions. I think their work is something which does not always

receive the recognition it deserves, which was why I was delighted to see Naughty Auties – along with other groups for Second Life residents with autism – be acknowledged.

BITE ME

The grid is amazing in the way it offers possibilities which otherwise would not exist, for example allowing residents who are in wheelchairs in real life the chance to enact out a life where they

can not only walk and run, but fly, too.

Perhaps the next time a squabble breaks out over who has the biggest virtual breasts or whatever, everyone should take a moment to think about the impact Second Life can have on the lives of so many people. And that, of course, would not happen without the work of volunteers from groups such as Naughty Auties.

By F.D.

FORGET THE BAD PRESS, SL RULES!

Dear Regis,

SECOND Life gets a lot of bad press - especially here in the United Kingdom.

The British media market it as somewhere to go and have affairs and how it causes problems in relationships.

PIXELATED SEX

Whilst I can accept this is true in some cases, no one ever mentions the good things... making friends, the creativity aspect, and how it really can bring out talents that we don't display in our everyday real lives. When will people realise that having a Second Life does not make you a wannabe adulterer, there are many more aspects to it than pixelated sex.

WINDOW SHOPPING

There are plenty of avatars here like me that just use SL as an extension of their real life personality – socialising, making things and, best of all, freebie shopping!!!

That is far more satisfying than 'window shopping' when you are skint in real life!

Second Life is what you make it.

By Hiraani Heartsdale



LEIDER STEPANOV

PROTEST PROVES THAT LINDENS MUST LISTEN

RESIDENT UNREST IS ANOTHER SIGN THAT WE MUST HAVE MORE SAY IN THE RUNNING OF SL

"EITHER stop charging us, or fix it!"

That was the rallying cry of a mob of angry residents who descended on the Linden Village this week to protest the state of Second Life. Their group name, 'Screwed by Linden Labs Inc.', pretty much sums up how they feel.

DISCONTENT

And there were plenty of residents who felt strongly enough to join in the demo on Wednesday – the group, founded by Mannix Mensing, already has

188 members. As part of his 'call to arms', Mensing wrote: "Since the outage of last Saturday, we have seen a drastic drop in sales, visitors etc. This is the time to take action and show our discontent. After all, don't we pay the tiers? Don't we pay for land on which we conduct our business?"

LAB CONCERN

And one of the banners at the demo read: "Why do tier payments NEVER fail?" A good question, perhaps. Whether you agree with the

group or not, it is a worrying sign that Linden Lab is starting to lose the support of normal, well-adjusted, rate-paying residents of Second Life. The Lindens must be concerned that many more will simply cancel their premium memberships – a vital source of income – and walk away (although it is encouraging that so many are making the effort to protest rather than taking that option).

CONSULTATION

For me, it all comes down to listening. It's not that Linden Lab is not trying to make life better for residents, it is that they are not listening to what we have to say. Too often they take action, like banning something or introducing a new feature, or refuse to take action, like allowing bots on the grid, without enough consultation with the community – with their customers.

And unless they start taking heed of what we, as residents, have to say, they should prepare themselves for more protests.

YOUR COMMENTS:
newsdesk@the-avastar.com



PICS OF THE WEEK

yourphotos@the-avastar.com



Ouch – poor old **YVES FIRLAN** must have tripped over the coffee table, and fallen straight through the floor!



Be afraid, be very afraid – the **PREDATOR** has been spotted in SL, as this pic by **ANTARTICA SLADE** shows.



These bots were all singing from the same hymn sheet at the Ghooglums sim recently – they all had the name of a famous composer. Pic by **VAIL BERMAN**.



Is this a meeting of the Invisible Club, or was it just a bug in the system? Pic by **KUKUMA LYLE**.

ENTROPIA EXCLUSIVE – MINDARK'S MAGNUS ERIKSSON TELLS THE AVASTAR ABOUT FUTURE PLANETS

NEW PLANETS COMING SOON FOR ENTROPIA

THE UNKNOWN:
Entropia's landscape is set to change dramatically with the new planets

ATROXS TO FEATURE IN ECOSYSTEM OF NEW ENTROPIA PLANETS

By PINKY and REGIS BRAATHENS

MINDARK has kept its plans for creating new planets in Entropia Universe carefully under wraps – until now.

Details of how the planets, set to be launched after this summer's Cryengine 2 engine upgrade, will function have remained a mystery ever since it was announced in February that design company Creative Kingdom would develop the first one. But in an in-world interview with The AvaStar, Magnus Eriksson, MindArk's chief development officer, gave an exclusive insight into the company's plans.

The AvaStar: Who will run the planets?

Magnus Eriksson: Larger companies will run planets, introduce new item categories and maybe even systems.

TA: Will planet owners be able to create their own creatures etc?

ME: Yes, but all within the boundaries of the Entropia Universe system.

TA: How will planet owners profit – will they take a percentage of the value of looted items as in the current Land Area ownership system?

ME: No, it does not work the same way as land

ownership. We have a special system for profit sharing with planet owners. But I'm afraid I can't reveal any of the details of this.

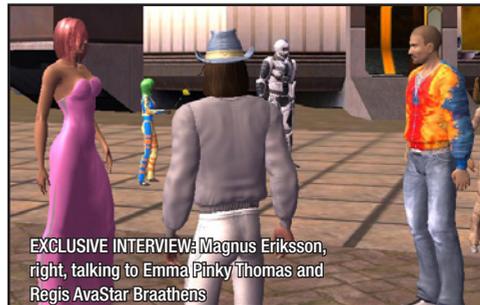
TA: Will each planet have its own ecosystem? Will we find Calypso creatures like the Atrox on the next planet?

ME: Yes and yes. The planets will have their own ecosystem and Atroxs can be brought or have already been brought to other planets.

TA: Are there going to be 'shopping planets' with no gameplay, similar to Second Life?

ME: That can be possible.

• Next week The AvaStar will reveal MindArk's plans for the future of in-game creature AI, the financial impact of the impending global recession and efforts to increase retention of newcomers.



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: Magnus Eriksson, right, talking to Emma Pinky Thomas and Regis AvaStar Braathens

TOP ANALYST MARISSA BERGBAHN REVEALS THE LATEST INDUSTRY TRENDS

METaverse WILL KEEP EXPANDING

VIRTUAL WORLD CONFERENCE REVEALS 'NEWBIES' SET TO ENTER SCENE

By MARISSA BERGBAHN

SL is only the beginning – the metaverse will continue to grow.

That was the unanimous conclusion reached at the Virtual World Conference earlier this month in New York. But which metaverse trends will be successful in future?

There is a lot going on in virtual worlds for children and adolescents, a fact which was the main topic during the conference. Both keynote speeches by Mattel (Barbie Girl) and MTV (MTV, Nickelodeon) focused on the latest developments in branded virtual worlds, where a lot has been happening.

BRAND LOYALTY

Barbie World will introduce a VIP model and MTV will create worlds for its most popular programmes, while Neopets, a successful platform for children, will introduce its own virtual world in co-operation with Netopia. Creating branded worlds with a high level of identification and brand loyalty among its users was one of the 'mega-trends' to be discussed at the conference.

It is a trend which can be observed in many companies, along with those targeting children and adolescents. Entertainment providers have the perfect tools for thriving virtual worlds as they not only create appealing content, but also own the

necessary communication channels to promote their worlds.

SURVIVAL

The third main topic in New York was worlds based on Flash animations, which can run on a browser without installing a client. The best-known of these worlds is Habbo Hotel, which has been successful for the last few years. The most attractive world visually has been created by Gaia Online, while an interesting newcomer is freggers.com, set to go beta in the near future.

Second Life itself was only occasionally mentioned during discussions, but was always present in the background, as players set to enter the market in 2008 are now the centre of attention. Not all of them will survive but some will stay and enrich our virtual lives. Let's see what happens until May 27, when the industry gathers again at the Metaverse 08 conference in the German city of Karlsruhe.

• MARISSA BERGBAHN is the co-founder and CEO of Germany's leading virtual world marketing agency, Bokowsky + Laymann.



VIRTUAL TRENDS: Marissa Bergbahn

PANFU ATTRACTS A MILLION USERS

A VIRTUAL world being used as a teaching aid has attracted more than one million users in just four months.

The German-based Panfu world teaches Spanish to children through games and socialising. There is no in-world advertising, and funding is collected from a subscription fee of US\$5.95 per month. They expanded quickly from Germany into Spain, France and Holland while sites for the UK and Poland went online this week.

DISNEY TO CLOSE MAGIC KINGDOM?

USERS of Disney's Magic Kingdom have launched a campaign to prevent the virtual world from being closed down.

More than 11,000 signatures have been collected by fans in a petition seeking to reverse the entertainment giant's decision to shut down Magic Kingdom. Disney has announced that the world will close on May 21, and said in a statement: "It exceeded our expectations in terms of performance to the point that we left it open much longer than originally anticipated."

a-stars



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

IT'S SPRING AT SOLARE



MULTI-COLOURED:
BurghMike3V Michalak

SPRING IS IN THE AIR:
Hot moves from Coyote Qavan

SKIMPY: Ruth Ponnier
in a sexy swimsuit

SPOTTED!

TEENY-WEENY:
"My you're small,
Barnes!"



STAR builder and designer **Barnesworth Anubis** was spotted being dwarfed by the leggy **Callie Cline** as he helped out on a new build on caLLifornia.

By **BABU WRITER**

AVS packed the Solare sim this week for a celebration of spring, with line dancing, a live DJ and a jet ski contest.

There were also carnival rides at the event on April 12 and 13, and scantily-clad dancers competed in the Best Bikini Body contest.

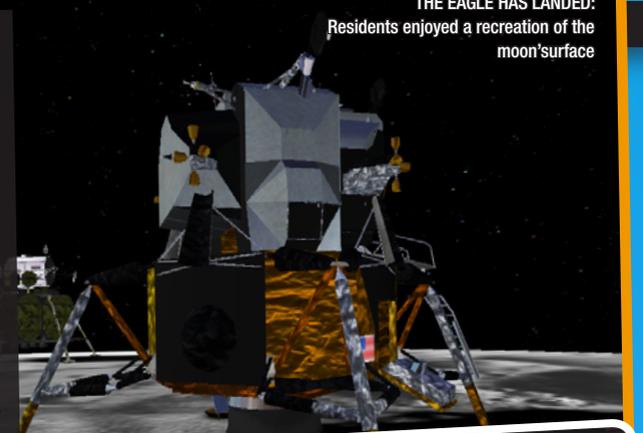
ONE GIANT LEAP FOR SL

THE EAGLE HAS LANDED:
Residents enjoyed a recreation of the moon's surface

By **BABU WRITER**

A COSMIC party was held across the grid on April 12 to celebrate Yuri Night, commemorating humanity's first venture into space.

Celebrations and events including live music at Inspire Space Park and a recreation of the moon with special low-gravity moon boots were put on for **Yuri Gagarin Day** – named after the Russian cosmonaut who was the first man to reach space in 1961. Space fans also had the opportunity to check out a replica of Gagarin's capsule from his historic trip.



ONE SMALL STEP:
Yuri fans on the dancefloor

ART SKILLS: The .ARTEFATTA: gallery, right, and 2E Leven, far right

By **BABU WRITER**

Back in the news

THE winner of a role in a TV commercial directed by Paul Verhoeven has hit the headlines again, this time for her art skills.

2E Leven was named artist of the week at the new .ARTEFATTA: Gallery, nearly a year after landing the role in the renowned Dutch director's project as a newbie. Her exhibition, containing abstract portraits on the theme of weightlessness and love in outer space, will receive free gallery space for a month.



Birthday bash



PARTY HOST: Ariel Lingjuan

By **ISABEL BROCCO**

SL Illustrated celebrated its six-month anniversary up in the clouds with a big party at its home sim.

DJ Zane provided the tunes at the skybox club at the sllustrated sim on April 12. Along with the club, SL Illustrated also features shops and hosts model shows.

By SOLANGE KOROBASE

Men @ Work

[Rich Heir]
[Socialite]

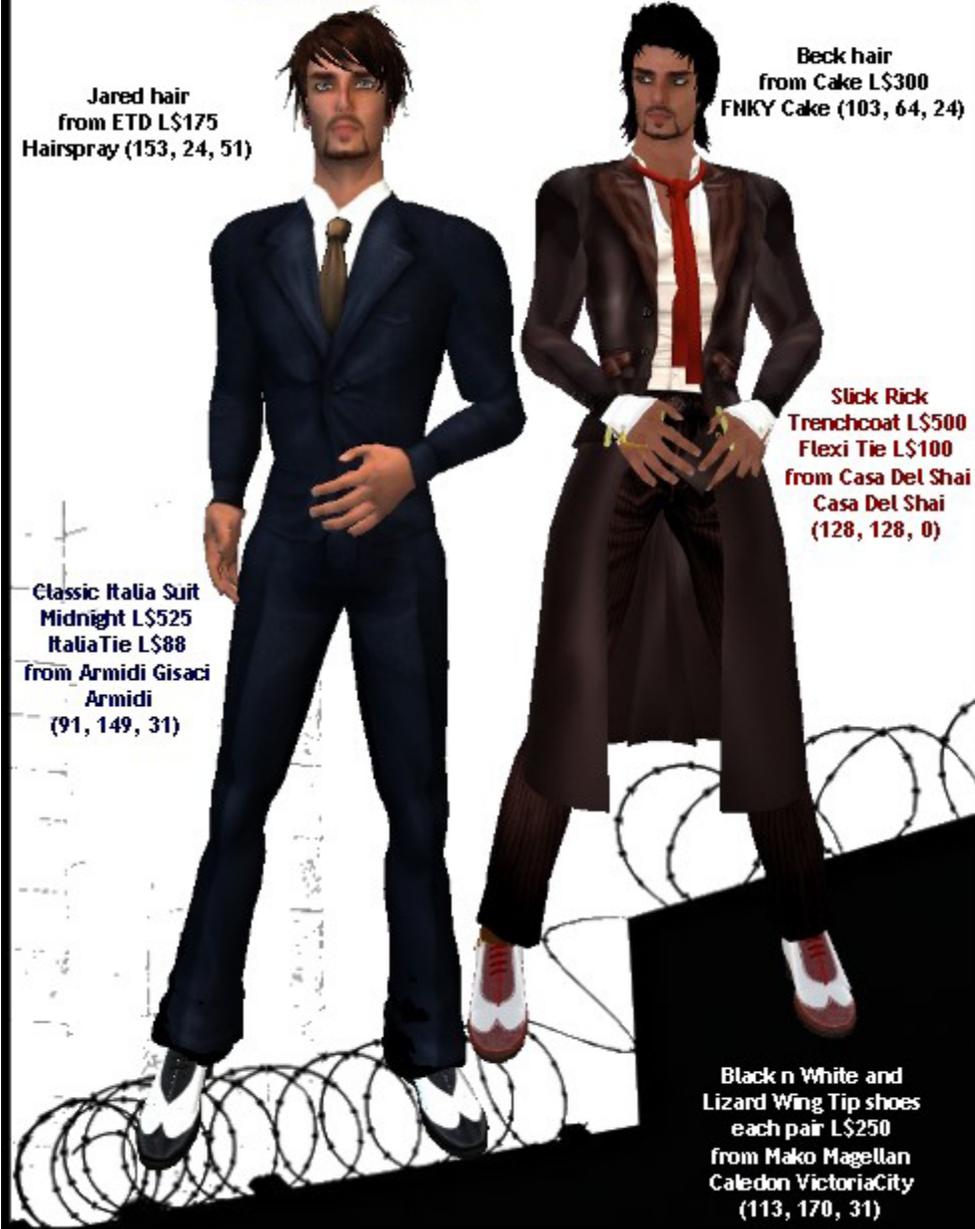
Jared hair
from ETD L\$175
Hairspray (153, 24, 51)

Beck hair
from Cake L\$300
FNKY Cake (103, 64, 24)

Slick Rick
Trenchcoat L\$500
Flexi Tie L\$100
from Casa Del Shai
Casa Del Shai
(128, 128, 0)

Classic Italia Suit
Midnight L\$525
ItaliaTie L\$88
from Armidi Gisaci
Armidi
(91, 149, 31)

Black n White and
Lizard Wing Tip shoes
each pair L\$250
from Mako Magellan
Caledon VictoriaCity
(113, 170, 31)



WHAT'S HOT!

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

MORRIS GETS HIS DETAILS SPOT ON

By ISOLDE FLAMAND

IT'S all in the details, guys, and so you should be aiming for a 'total look'.

Women DO notice those small things as well as the over-all look that you put out there. Morris Vig certainly knows how to put it all together from head to toe, as you can see from these pics.

He started off with some great hair form Armidi with the per-

fect length – not too shaggy and not too neat – set off by some great skin. He followed it up with a swing jacket by Muism layered over a funky freebie t-shirt from Civvies. Add some unbuttoned, well-worn jeans, and not forgetting the dance animation, and you have a 'total look'. In fact, Morris is totally hot!



HANDS IN THE AIR: Morris gets down



SMOOTH DUDE: Details are everything in Morris' look

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

By ISOLDE FLAMAND

SCOTLAND BECK OF ROUTE 17

BROWN LEATHER...



"...is such a great look on this bomber jacket from Brutal Gear, made by Nex Brannan. I really like the patches on it and the top notch detailing. Nex really knows how to do nice work with textures and prim collars."

EVERY GUY NEEDS...

"...a good white shirt like this one created by Amelia Redgrave of Redgrave. Nikita give me this as a gift. I love the look of it and the design on the front. It just tells the world who I am."



JUST IN TIME...

"...I got my Adidas from the Adidas sim before it went belly-up. I don't think anyone can get them any more. I have them in white and black. Hugo



Reitveld is listed as the creator – they have, like, 200 prims on each shoe! Crazy! Too bad it's gone."

'Enjoy Art As You Approach'

join group now for 1 Linden or
IM Minimal Smart to join for free



Will I ever meet her?

Anything can happen if you wear a tag
by Minimal Smart

take a tag
to rez me

using TAG²REZ
Technology

NEW SIMS

THIS WEEK: A STUNNING FREE EXHIBITION SPACE FOR ARTISTS, ROMAN GLAMOUR AND AN ORANGE FUTURE



SCENIC:
The Temenos Artist Oasis

A HEAVENLY OASIS FOR SL'S BEST NEW ARTISTS

By COYNE NAGY

BEAUTIFUL gardens have been opened on the Firefly sim to provide artists with the chance to display their work.

Ro Gastel and Enali Haller created the Temenos Artist Oasis as a non-profit venture to show off the diversity and creativity of Second Life residents. Along with space for arts such as poetry, music, sculpture and paint-

plants and a lake which will appeal to residents who like scenic locations for in-world strolls, even if they are not fascinated by the artwork on display.

COMFORTABLE

The owners describe the presence as a "gift, a labour of love" and they do not charge the artists who use the space to display

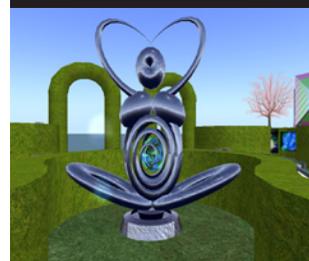
"a comfortable environment to hang out, relax, and learn then delve into the deeper side of self and art".

A new romantic venue called Seven Hills of Rome has opened featuring an art gallery, beach and spots for dancing at the

SEVEN HILLS OF ROME



TEMENOS ARTIST OASIS



ORANGE CREATE



Serena Carmel sim, while several wonderful builds, from designers such as Soror Nishi and Cezary Fish, are now on display at Orange Island as part of the Orange Create Programme.

ings, there will also be classes and seminars. There are trees,

their work. Funds are instead drawn from tips or the profits of the modest gift shop. They say they aim to give residents

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

DEAR



ESCORT MONEY SOUNDS GOOD, BUT NOT THE JOB



I ONLY SIGNED UP TO SL TO MAKE SOME CASH, SO SHOULD I BECOME AN ESCORT?

Dear Randi: WHEN I joined SL about three months ago, I did so with the idea of making it a part-time job. I created a line of ladies' clothing, but sales have been awfully slow. I was discussing this with one of my customers recently, and she told me she is making about L\$15,000 a week as a dancer and escort. Now I'm wondering if that line

of work might be a good idea for me. I'm not completely comfortable with the things I would have to do, but I would love to have some extra money. Should I go into the escort business? — J.M.

Randi says: You may have answered your own question. Yes, the escort business is lucrative for a small, well-organised

minority, but for many escorts the 'profession' amounts to little more than begging for money. And if you're not comfortable with SL sex with strangers, don't do it. Contact a few successful SL store owners and ask them what they went through to build their business. Most of them will probably be very helpful.

HELP ME DEAL WITH MY NEIGHBOUR FROM HELL

Dear Randi: EVEN though I am not married, I really enjoy my time in SL. I'm currently dating three guys, all of whom know I'm not exclusive with them. My problem is my next-door neighbour, who has had a crush on me for quite some time now. He tells me I am his "dream woman", and that after I finish playing the field he's going to marry me. He's very attentive and frequently gives me nice gifts, but the chemistry isn't there and frankly I find his attention a bit of a turn-off. How can I make him go away? — W.R.

Randi says: Start giving him the cold shoulder. You're going to have to tell him once and for all that you aren't interested in a relationship. Perhaps one of the three guys you're dating will pose as a steady boyfriend for you, and you can introduce him to your lovesick neighbour. And if all else fails, a move to another home might be in order.

RL POLITICS IS DRIVING ME AWAY FROM FIANCE

Dear Randi: I WAS very much in love with my SL fiance of several months, and we seemed to have a lot in common. But recently he said some things that may change my outlook permanently. I made an off-hand comment about an RL election, and it turned out that we are complete opposites on politics. We had an argument and both of us went away angry. He's trying to apologise, but now I doubt he is the kind of guy I want to marry. Should I stick to my principles, or just marry him anyway? — P.N.

Randi says: You should never rush into marriage, in SL or RL, when you aren't sure about it. Some women are able to tolerate lifelong differences in politics or religion with their men, while others can't be with someone who supports a different 'team'. Accept his apology for his rudeness, but tell him you're going to need to put off the wedding while you find out more about him.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

I WANT TO DATE HIM IN REAL LIFE BUT I'M BARELY 20 AND HE'S 62!

WE BOTH CAME CLEAN ABOUT OUR AGES WHEN I SUGGESTED DATING IN RL – BUT NOW WHAT?

Dear Randi: I HAVE been dating an older man in Second Life for six months, and everything in our relationship has been great. We enjoy going to dances and concerts, we have the same sense of humour, and our bedroom life is wonderful! Having had a good hard think about it, I told him earlier this month that I might want to take the relationship into real life. At the same time, I came clean

over the one thing I hadn't been honest with him about. I had said I was 27, when actually my 20th birthday was only last week. He then said he was older than I probably thought, since he had said "over 40" when in reality he is 62. Can our RL relationship work? — H.C.

Randi says: It's doubtful it would work but not impossible. It is pretty easy for a young lady to be impressed by a man of the

world, but in RL you two may not have the same energy levels as on the grid. And it's hard for you to understand now, but even setting the age difference aside, there is a greater contrast between 20 and 27 than there is between 40 and 62. By all means have some fun with him now, but you should wait at least three years before trying to make anything happen in the real world.

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Freebies

SL's best FREE stuff!

THIS WEEK: NON-HUMAN AVATARS

BEING a human in Second Life becomes boring after a while, but don't worry – there are plenty of free alternatives.

Strange and funny avatars are hidden away in shops and malls, just waiting for you to stumble across them so you can satisfy your sudden desire to look strange without going broke. First up is the Eyeball Avatar by Nanjido Oh (Busan Korea 32, 210, 23). Wear it and you'll be transformed into a giant eye in yellow, blue or black which blinks away!



The Torment Factory by Tormented Twilight in Polong (171, 138, 49) is home to several strange avs. There is the indefinable Tormentor, a black thing with round red eyes and a sting, as well as the Mushroom and Clunky the Robot.

CUTE

Don't forget to stop in at Cortech enterprises in Areumdeuli (208, 3, 79), where there are three avs for just L\$1. The first one is a funny head sneaking from a trash can, and you can also find

a mini green 'Clutluhu' and Mini-mech, a cute robot with a lot of options, a nice rusty appearance, proper low-lag animation and some steam coming out of the head.

OPTICAL ILLUSION:
Eyeball avatar

Free!!
Eyeball Avatar

Blinking Eyeball (Scripted) Yellow / Blue / Black 3 Colors in 1 Box

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THE GUIDE TOP EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: HANG-GLIDING

WATER SPORTS
ATOMIC TIKI BEACH CLUB

FLYING HIGH:
Acropolis Gardens



By GAETANA FAUST

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

ENJOY THE BEST SCENERY IN SL FROM YOUR OWN HANG-GLIDER

INDULGE your craving for adventure and excitement and fly high in the sky on a hang-glider.

Having a go at hang-gliding in SL is so simple anyone can do it – just jump on the glider and steer it using the same controls you use to fly. The ideal way to experience the breathtaking beauty of the **Acropolis Gardens** in Delia (57, 33, 23) is to fly to the top of **Mount Marzipan** and grab a hang-glider for a bird's-eye view. A one- or two-man glider will take you into the clouds for a view like no other.

Sail over a big stretch of beach and sunny sand at **Padre Island Beach** (Paradise Padre 171, 132, 22). There is a special platform for

launching your glider, and lots of room to zoom over the palm trees below. The **Redspot** sim (156, 68, 20) is a laid-back blend of modern architecture and French Polynesia. The hang-gliding is perfect, with cosy beach huts and blue waters as far as the eye can see.

Naturum Island (47, 225, 34) features a lookout elevated above the rustic sim which houses a telescope and a glider launch. Swoop down like a bird over tree-covered hills and log cabins.

If you would like to buy your own vehicle to explore Second Life's skies, stop in at **French Town** (238, 233, 0), where you will find a hang-glider, a parasail, and all kinds of other flying and rolling crafts.



Listen to the waves crashing against the rocks as you launch your glider from a towering headland.

Where: Publius (46, 9, 21)

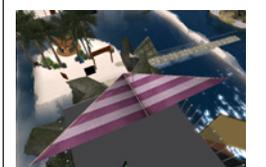
TOP-NOTCH SCENERY
TAMIL ISLE



Enjoy the great views of the beautiful sim with a bird's eye view from your own wings.

Where: Tamil Isle (198, 134, 23)

THRILLS AND SPILLS
WE3US SPORTS PARK



Gliding is just one of the many extreme sports on offer at the tropical sim.

Where: Glen Island Beach (90, 134, 21)

4.18. - 4.24.

DON'T MISS! —

All times are given in PDT



FASHION

JEWELLERY AND ART SHOW

Come along and enjoy a special two-day long jewellery show and art exhibition hosted by Monogram Virtua.

When: Apr. 19-20, 12:30

Where: Monogram Tria (201, 176, 22)



DISCUSSION

DANA CENTRE

The Dana Centre in London hosts a mixed reality event in RL and SL to discuss the opportunities and dangers provided by having a virtual identity.

When: Apr. 22, 11:00

Where: Abracadabra (201, 90, 31)



EDUCATION

TEXTURE BASICS

Budding builders can learn colouring and texturing on the grid.

When: Apr. 20, 18:00

Where: Nova Civis Caledon (174, 61, 36)



LIVE MUSIC

GRACE MCDUNNOUGH

The well-known SL artist performs a set of acoustic folk songs at the Freudian Slip.

When: Apr. 24, 18:00

Where: Seven Veils (19, 18, 23)



EXPO

SL BOOK FAIR 2008

Enjoy more than 50 exhibitors and 100 shops from across the publishing world.

When: Apr. 25-27

Where: Book Island (128, 128, 0)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

NEARLY NAKED PARTY

Multi-level club House Nishi hosts a unique party, with guests invited to arrive wearing as close to their birthday suits as they can manage. DJ Cheery Chippewa will provide the tunes.

When: Apr. 23, 16:00

Where: Fietzo (42, 64, 401)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in PDT



CONFERENCE

YBUSINESS EXPO

The expo opens for the first of four days, with the use of virtual worlds for marketing, education and commerce among the topics being discussed.

When: Apr. 24-27, 10:00

Where: Zebra HQ (12, 108, 26)



LIVE MUSIC

GIGI VONBAUM

The soprano singer makes her live SL debut at the Phantom Rose Opera House singing arias from Tosca and other famous operas. Formal dress is required.

When: Apr. 20, 13:00

Where: Phantom Rose (95, 156, 31)



ART & CULTURE

SOUNDS OF POETRY

Fans of poetry are invited to bring their own compositions to have them read out to the audience. Ada Radius will be behind the microphone.

When: Apr. 21, 15:00

Where: Cookie (139, 115, 23)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

EARTH DAY 2008 FINALE

Residents from all over the grid will converge for a dance session to celebrate the end of the Earth Day 2008 series of events. Guests are asked to wear blue.

When: Apr. 22, 22:00

Where: Yongwang (125, 214, 61)



LIVE MUSIC

ENNIV ZARF

The artist will be playing an hour of improvised piano music in what is sure to be a sensational live performance.

When: Apr. 21, 19:00

Where: Spirit Fens (9, 138, 581)

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.



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE

Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.

**RELAY FOR LIFE CHARITY CONCERT
SATURDAY MAY 3RD 2008**

**12 HOURS OF SECOND LIVES BEST MUSIC AT
COCONUT PALMS LIVE MUSIC VENUE
MUSICIANS SHOWTIMES BELOW**

10AM.. ELIZ WATANABE
11AM.. NOMA FALTA
NOON.. EYEWALL PAINE
1PM.. FROGG MARLOWE+JAYCATT NICO
2PM.. DJAI SKELLERUP
3PM.. CYLINDRIAN RUTABAGA
4PM.. EDWARD KYOMOON
5PM.. JUEL RESISTANCE
6PM.. HARPER MESSMER
7PM.. KIM SEIFERT
8PM ..MAXIMILLION KLEENE
9PM.. FORSYTHE WHITFIELD



**Coconut Palms... Live Music Venu, Kailua
Island (42, 213, 38)**

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

By ISOLDE FLAMAND



UTY PFEFFER

UTY IS THE LEAD ACTRESS IN 'WHITE SPOT', A MACHINIMA FILM
BEING MADE BY WELTBILD.DE, FOLLOWING A L\$500,000
N-WORLD COMPETITION TO FIND A SCRIPT.

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: UTY PFEFFER
BIRTH DATE: 8/9/2007

PROFESSION: Actress
ATTITUDE: Honest but chaotic

INTERVIEW

The AvaStar: What is your role in *Second Life*?

Uty Pfeffer: I am a multi-character girl who likes to play many different roles everyday.

TA: What is your best feature?

UP: I am honest, loyal, stable and very special to all my friends – but sometimes crazy and a little chaotic!

TA: How do you spend your time in *Second Life*?

UP: You can usually find me dancing, partying, hanging around with my friends and, most recently, spending a lot of time at the set of our *Second Life* movie, 'White Spot', where I am one of the main actors.

TA: What would you change about *Second Life*?

UP: My wish is that nobody would have written in their profile the sentence, "SL is SL and RL is RL," because for me *Second Life* is a part of real life and I can't separate them... can anyone really do that?

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

UP: The pictures of friends and all the memories of good and funny times.