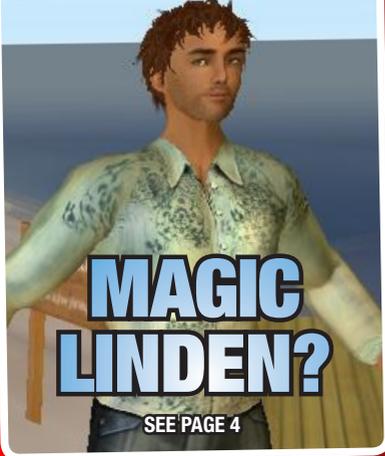


THE AVASTAR

Your World. Your Voice.

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Lab reveals new CEO:



WHJ MILLIONS AT RISK

L\$15M BOSS DEATH CHAOS

EXCLUSIVE: Investors fear losing all as mystery shrouds WHJ

By *KONSTANTIN WAECHTER*
INVESTORS are sweating over the fate of L\$15 million after the death of WHJ boss Cristopher Whitfield.

FULL STORY: SEE PAGE 3

INSIDE OPINION

"There is an informational overload when you first begin Entropia. We are now examining how we can streamline and organise this presentation of information."

MAGNUS ERIKSSON
p.12

"I don't think it's cheating to do anything you like online as long as you never make contact that would give up your RL identity. But if you don't feel comfortable with concealing it from your hubby, then don't do it!"



RANDI
BARRACUDA
p.20-1

THE AVASTAR

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NUMBERS OF THE WEEK

4

... days of meetings are taking place at the vBusiness Expo, a large scale public virtual business event.

5,000

... in L\$ will go to the winner of a contest to design in-world terminals for MetaRealtors.com, formerly SL-Realtor.com.

2m

... viewers have now looked at Torley Linden's online video tutorials at YouTube.com.

BEAUTIFUL BRIGHTON



SAMANTHA Lamont took this picture of the Brighton sim underneath a beautiful sky – perhaps a sign of brighter times to come under Linden Lab's new CEO.

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L\$15 MILLION AT RISK AFTER BANKER DIES

INVESTMENT FIRM IN CHAOS AFTER MYSTERY DEATH

By KONSTANTIN WAECHTER

INVESTORS are sweating over the fate of L\$15 million after the sudden death of WHJ founder Cristopher Whitfield plunged the company into chaos.

The details of the tragedy were revealed on the SL investment firm's website this week, with Whitfield, its RL manager, said to have died unexpectedly from a sudden and severe illness. Whitfield had invested over US\$55,000 of the company's funds in land, buildings, camping spots and other schemes, after Linden Lab's ban on banking forced him to dissolve the Bank of Whitfield and set up WHJ. A day af-

ter his death his RL brother, SL newbie Steffen Bolton, came into SL and vowed to try and rescue the company.

MYSTERIOUS

But many are now worried that they will never see their investments again, especially after the price of land plummeted last week. Sara Carr, who invested all her SL savings in the company, revealed to The AvaStar that even a member of the WHJ shareholders committee told her it was a lost cause: "The main shareholders want to continue, but they won't see their money again. They've got more chance of winning the lottery than that." Investors have also

been kept in the dark about the mysterious disappearance of the WHJ CEO, Banker Jenkins. Jenkins, who was sceptical about events surrounding the company this week, has not been seen or spoken to by colleagues, and all his posts on the website have been erased. LeaPatrizia Zemnach also resigned from the shareholders committee this week, following disagreements with the new manager, Bolton. One WHJ investor told The AvaStar: "Cristopher Whitfield died very suddenly. And the next day his RL brother Steffen Bolton takes over the company. Somehow that seems rather fishy to me."

NEWS BITES!

LAND STORE BACK

LINDEN Lab has decided to put the old Second Life land store back online. Residents will have to wait for the delayed introduction of server version 1.21 before the new land-store will open, but sims are available at the old store for the new, lower prices.

BBC SHORT FILMS

THE BBC Film Network will launch a theatre in Second Life to showcase award-winning short films. The first series of four films will be available for viewing from April 25-27.

FASHION AWARDS

THE Merovingi Fashion Awards are returning to SL after their success last year. Public voting for category winners will run until April 26, and money raised at the event will be donated to charity.

AFRICA DAY IN SL

AFRICA Day was celebrated in SL on April 24, with events held by phone giant Orange and non-profit organisation Uthango Social Investments. The day featured conferences, exhibitions and gigs.

LAB UNVEILS NEW CEO AS PHIL STANDS DOWN

MARKETING GURU SET TO TAKE OVER HOTSEAT AS SHARE RUMOURS FLY *By LEIDER STEPANOV*

RESIDENTS are predicting a bright future for Second Life after Linden Lab appointed a new chief executive officer to replace Philip Rosedale.

Mark Kingdon, who will be known in-world as M Linden, is currently in charge of digital advertising agency Organic, and will start his new role on May 15. Lab founder Philip will relinquish control of day-to-day operations to concentrate on product development and

strategy in his new position as chairman.

In an interview with Mitch Wagner for Information Week, Kingdon said: "When big corporations went into Second Life 12 to 18 months ago, it was probably the right place at the wrong time.

CREATIVITY

"It was a time when big brands were making a lot of investments or doing trials in all kinds of social computing and social media platforms, and they learned about what worked and what didn't.

"What is so intriguing to me about Second Life is that it's developing in largely an unfettered way, and I think that's a very good thing, because it sparks creativity, and lets the best things rise to the top."

FEATURES AND GLITZ

Kingdon also revealed in the interview that he has been a resident in SL for over a year, with an avatar called Markis Voom. His appointment is a "crossroads" for Second Life, according to one of the most influential figures in SL business. Master Quatro is the manager of Dreamland, owned by landbaron Anshe Chung. He said:



A NEW CHAIR: Philip Rosedale

"Philip Rosedale was skilled in bringing Linden Lab to this point – the entrepreneur that drove technological advancements, new features, and glitz.

FINANCIAL REWARDS

"The next stage for LL is the maturation into a 'real' company with some very specific financial goals driven by the investors. Linden Lab has arrived at a crossroads. The investors have been pumping money into it, now they want real financial rewards for their risk."



CROSSROADS: Master Quatro



BIG CHEESE: Mark Kingdon's new avatar, M Linden

'DIVAS' BOWS OUT WITH A BIG BANG

FIRST RUN OF SL'S BEST SITCOM COMES TO A SHOCKING CONCLUSION! *By COYNE NAGY*

THE first season of the hit SL sitcom DiVAS is set to end in dramatic fashion, according to its creator – who is now working on a unique new feature film.

Phaylen Fairchild is the writer, director and producer of the program, as well as an actress, and revealed that the sixth and final episode, which will premiere on April 30, would finish with a cliffhanger: "The ending will leave our audience shocked.

CRAZY SITUATIONS

"Something no one will expect in a million years is about to step in and change the lives of those in the cul-de-sac for a very long time." The series features Fairchild and a variety of co-stars, including



CLIFFHANGER: See Kit Maitland in the final episode

Kit Maitland, Evie Fairchild, Sally Roseburn and Allatu Augustus, as a group of fashionistas who end up in crazy situations.

FEATURE FILM

Phaylen, a film and novel writer who keeps her RL identity secret, invented the characters several years ago and finds Second Life the perfect medium for them, even without voice: "When I write I see things with intense clarity in my head, action, shots, expressions, reactions. This really transitioned well for me here, because I could utilise that here in much the same fashion, be as descriptive as I wanted without using dialogue."

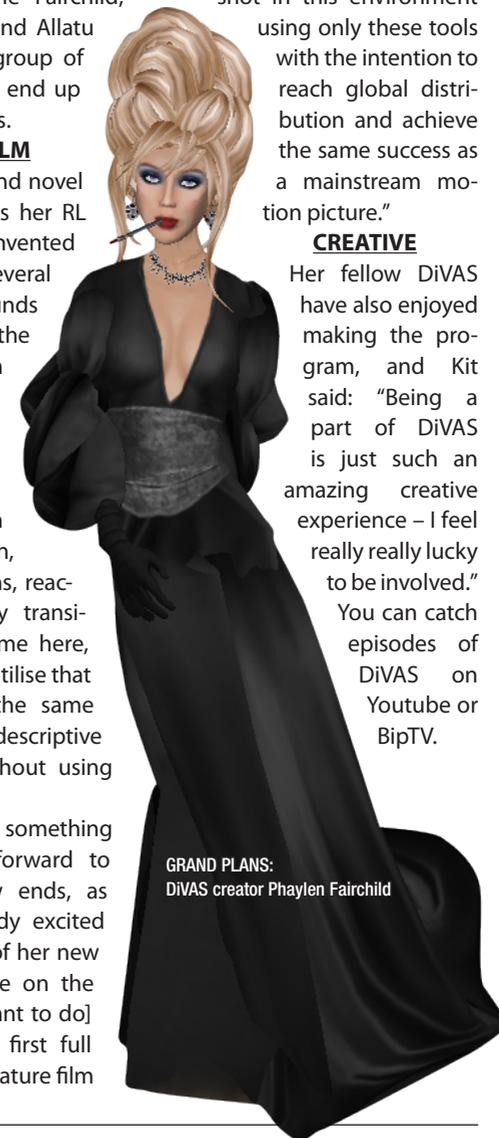
Fans will have something more to look forward to when the show ends, as Phaylen is already excited by the thought of her new project, this time on the big screen: "[I want to do] a real film. The first full length original feature film

shot in this environment using only these tools with the intention to reach global distribution and achieve the same success as a mainstream motion picture."

CREATIVE

Her fellow DiVAS have also enjoyed making the program, and Kit said: "Being a part of DiVAS is just such an amazing creative experience – I feel really really lucky to be involved."

You can catch episodes of DiVAS on Youtube or BipTV.



GRAND PLANS: DiVAS creator Phaylen Fairchild

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By MORRHYS GRAYSMARK

GRID SET FOR PEACE FEST

HIPPIES TO SMOKE THE GRID WITH LIVE MUSIC AND DANCE IN AID OF PEACE

A WOODSTOCK-STYLE festival to promote world peace will take place in Second Life in August.

PeaceFest '08 will be a massive multicultural event across ten sims, with more than 100 live music, theatre and dance performances as well as art exhibitions, panel discussions and a rally, echoing the legendary 1960s festival. Organisers Tonks Akina, Cotton Thorne and Siri Vita hope the event will help mobilise support for RL peace organisations

Akina said: "My vision was that the social capital in SL was spec-

tacular. The number of peace-oriented, inter-faith, multi-cultural and talented folks in SL



PARTY FOR PEACE: Tonks Akina, Cotton Thorne and Siri Vita

makes it an ideal place to effect global change."

Vita said: "I'm fascinated by the idea of using technology as a form for global outreach for causes that are meaningful and have an impact on humanity. I love being part of this both for the effort in establishing a format in virtual reality for a global peace initiative and personally because I feel this is a great and important cause."

All proceeds from PeaceFest '08 will go to good causes including Amnesty International, the World Peace Organisation and UNICEF.

MACHINIMA GURUS GATHER

TOP FILMMAKERS GIVE VIRTUAL LECTURE ABOUT CREATING VIDEO IN 3D By BABU WRITER

TORLEY Linden was among the guest speakers kicking off a series of lectures at the Campus Hamburg sim this week.

Machinima maker Susi Spicoli and blues musician Fabrice Crosby also took part in the lecture on April 22, entitled 'Machinima in 3D:

Creating video and more', for the University Hamburg. It was held in English with parts translated into German.

man, and host Xon Emoto broadcast the event to his RL students in Hamburg.

Torley wowed the crowds by creating a huge pile of water-

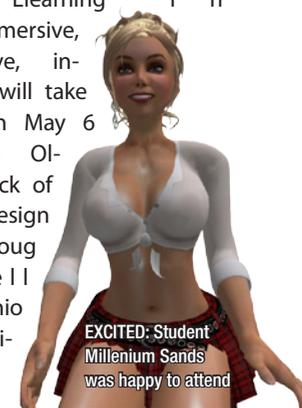


UNIQUE: Video tutorial guru Torley Linden as one of his many great avs

melon slices, and then donned several of his unique animal avatars.

The sim was launched last year as a joint venture with the Hamburg School of Business Admin-

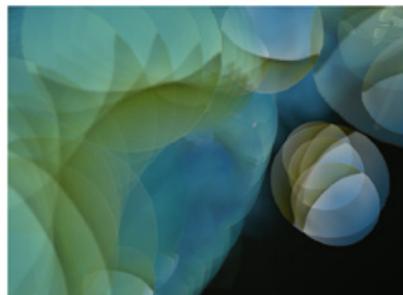
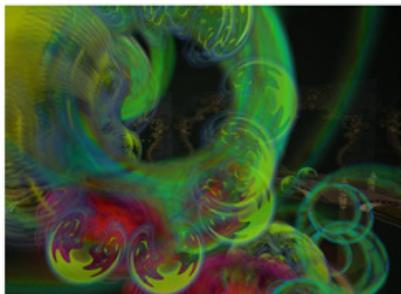
istration as an education and research project, and was the first sim from a German higher education establishment. The second lecture in the series, entitled 'Elearning in 3D - immersive, interactive, inspiring', will take place on May 6 featuring Ollie Kubrick of Unreal Design and Dr Doug Pennell from Ohio State University.



EXCITED: Student Millenium Sands was happy to attend

THE WHITE ROOM

– PURE SECOND LIFE ART



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

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

We have collected some of those pictures in our gallery.

THE WHITE ROOM

AKH 42,137,23



SL STAR KEIKO TAKAMURA SET FOR RL BREAK AFTER FEATURING ON MTV'S TRUE LIFE

SECOND Life singer to MTV star – it's the dream of every in-world performer.

For Keiko Takamura, who will feature in an upcoming episode of MTV's 'True Life', it has become reality. **REGIS BRAATHENS** caught up with the popular artist for a sneak preview of the show.

The AvaStar: How was the filming in SL with MTV?

Keiko Takamura: They just got shots of me chatting with friends, trying to show viewers what a day in Second Life might look like. They got footage of friends showing off the creations they have in their stores to illustrate that SL has an economy.

TA: Why did MTV choose you?

KT: I fit their demographic. I'm

a hip, young, 20-something who's doing something weird and they wanted to film it and show it to people.

TA: Do you think the program will help change negative impressions of SL?

KT: Ideally, I would love it if this would change the way people see Second Life and its residents. We're not all weirdos with fetishes for dolphins with 'fish ta-tas'. We're not training jihadists, and we're not psycho murderers who can access personal information a la CSI. I want people to see the really creative, collaborative aspects of Second Life.

TA: Should the mainstream music industry wake up to SL musicians – is the virtual world a good place to find

new talent?

KT: Second Life for musicians is probably like a step up from MySpace, if you're trying to promote yourself and get your music heard. On MySpace, you can put up samples of your songs and post a bunch of information and people can find you fairly easily; in Second Life, you can actually sit and listen to how the performer behaves on stage from the comfort of your own home. In that sense, Second Life might be a good way to scout talent.



Tonight Live

with

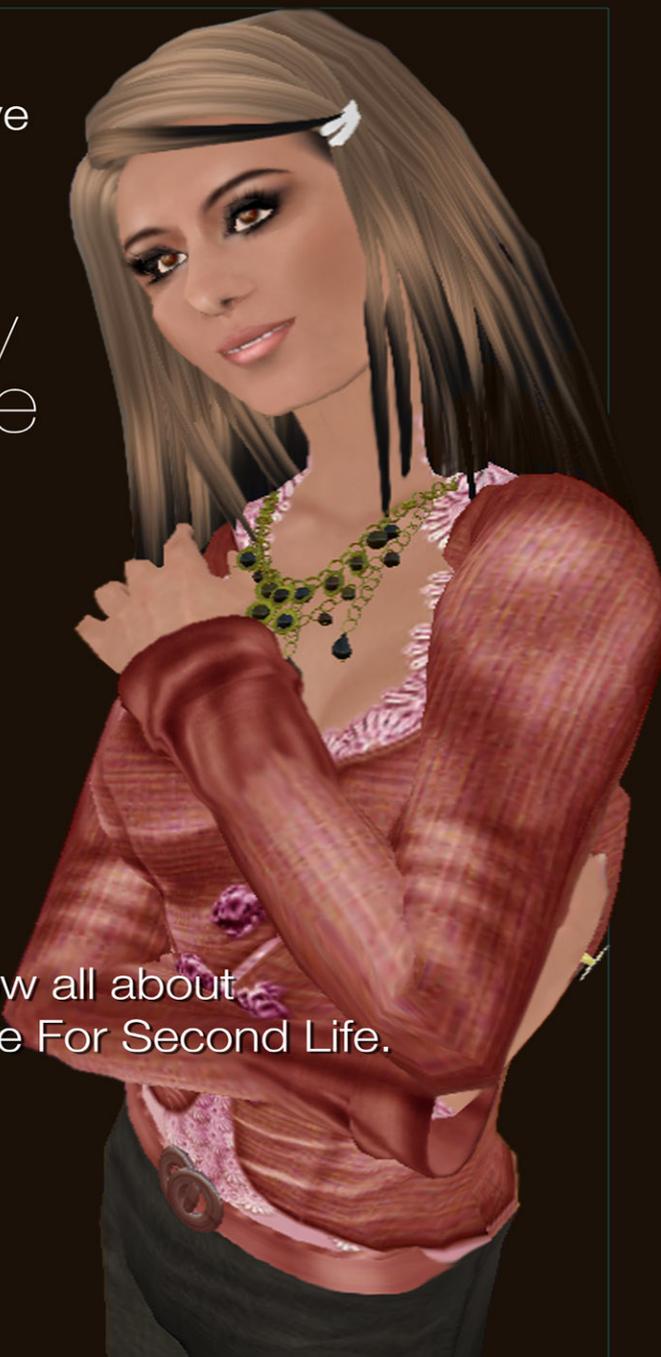
Paisley
Beebe

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highest rated
TV Show

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GORGEOUS:
Amelia Daffodil is a picture of beauty in this
cute red and white number



SULTRY:
Beauty Anyusha
Lilienthal



STUNNER:
Bells Semyorka in sexy
white lingerie

By LEIDER STEPANOV

MEET the gorgeous winners of our lingerie calendar competition – and what a tantalising trio!

These three lovely ladies will all receive a copy of the Second Life Lingerie Legends calendar as our contest winners.

And I think you'll agree, we made the right choices! **Amelia Daffodil**, **Anyusha Lilienthal** and **Bells Semyorka** are the foxy chicks who showed off their assets for The AvaStar – maybe they should be in the next calendar!

But don't worry, you can still get your hands a copy of the calendar, which was created by Scarlett Niven and features models including Graciana McMillan and The AvaStar's own Isabel Brocco, at Amazon.com.



META-NEWS:

ENTROPIA UNIVERSE SPECIAL – DISCOVER THE INSIDE STORY FROM GAME CREATORS MINDARK

CREATURES TO BE CLEVERER!



MOBS: Will they become more intelligent and more deadly?

CREATURE'S INTELLIGENCE AND BEHAVIOUR TO BE IMPROVED

By PINKY and REGIS BRAATHENS

IMPROVING the artificial intelligence used in Entropia Universe is one of MindArk's main priorities, according to the firm's chief development officer.

In the second part of his EXCLUSIVE interview with The AvaStar, Magnus Eriksson also reveals how MindArk plans to address the problem of retaining newbies, and how it will make finding friends in-world much easier.

The AvaStar: Noobs in EU often struggle with the complexity of the world and the lack of guidance. What plans do you have to tackle this?

Magnus Eriksson: We recently received an independent report from a university about the starting process. One of their most important findings was that there is an information

overload when you first begin Entropia. We are now examining how we can streamline and organise this presentation of information.

TA: Socially, EU is very backwards - you can't search for players who aren't your friends or see who is online, and communication in general is very limited. When are we likely to see big changes?

ME: The communications system is going to be upgraded with new features and possibilities. We are aware of the current systems limitations. It will be possible to befriend people you don't know and send them IMs.

TA: Are there any plans in place to improve the current level of mob artificial intelligence (AI), like not letting them walk into water unprovoked, essentially commit-

ting suicide?

ME: That's one small easy part that can be improved, but we have much greater plans for increasing mob AI. Today it's just basic survival AI.

TA: Are you able to share any of those future plans for AI with us?

ME: Group behaviour, possibility to plan strategies and weapons choice. The AI of the taming system will also be developed, allowing more interaction between the owner and the pet. Ageing of mobs is also on the cards.



MINDARK CHIEF: Magnus Eriksson in EU

HIGH RISKS FOR QUICK \$ PROFITS

SLERS KEEN TO TAKE RISKS IN HUNT FOR EASY MONEY By COYNE NAGY

THE financial sector in Second Life has been repeatedly rocked by scandals – but investors are still eager to pour money into mysterious enterprises.

Residents are queuing up to invest in the Metaverse Investment Fund (MIF), despite having no idea what CEO Shaun Altman is planning to do with their money, nearly L\$3m in total. Altman is refusing to reveal what type of trades he is making, and even his own staff are apparently kept in the dark to help protect what he feels is a unique market position. He says only that he exploits 'arbitrage' opportunities, where there is a price differential between markets, and insists the nature of the business ensures investors' money is safe.

AWKWARD POSITION

He said: "This is not a stock. This is an investment fund which relies on very short-term investments to generate profits. Seventy-two hours is more than enough time for any individual investment cycle to complete which would allow us to return, if necessary, 100 per cent of the funds assets to customers." Brandi Lane, vice presidents of inves-



LARGER RISK: Brandi Lane

tor relations at MIF, acknowledged the secrecy can put her in an awkward position: "It is almost certainly true that Shaun and I are larger risks than the actual trades... what I tell people is to look at the actual performance of the fund since its inception, and I point out the economics involved. The theory that Shaun might liquidate L\$6m and flee to Mexico is somewhat ludicrous since that probably wouldn't even get him all the way, much less make him rich once he was there."

And it seems investors are happy with their ignorance. Pablo Sienkiewicz said: "Not knowing kind of sucked for me but I've known Shaun since the first week I logged in. Plus he made a fortune out of the World Stock Exchange, I don't think he needs to defraud anyone for a couple dozen thousand US\$."

BIZ BITES:

GAME ON FOR SL

GLOBAL consulting firm McKinsey & Company has released a report for the business community arguing that Second Life and other virtual worlds are vital in reaching the video game generation.

IRON MAN COMP

PARAMOUNT Pictures is using SL to promote its new film 'Iron Man', which premieres on May 2. Residents can enter an art contest to win L\$100,000 by using a special Iron Man avatar which has been created for the event.

PITCH A NEW IDEA

STAFF at British phone giant BT can now use Second Life to pitch new ideas to senior management. Bosses at the firm believe this will encourage more workers to come forward with suggestions.

SOLAR FOR CISCO

CISCO held an in-world conference this week to discuss the use of virtual worlds in helping the US government improve the use of solar power. Solar Decathlon director Richard King was among those at the event.

a-stars



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

COSI FAN GIGI!

OPERA LOVERS: Star-soprano Gigi Vonbaum (left), opera lovers pack the sim (main), beauty in blue Lannorra Sion (below).



By LEIDER STEPANOV
Pics by PHIL SPACKLER

SOPRANO star Gigi Vonbaum made her SL bow in at the Phantom Rose Opera House on April 20. Culture-loving avs donned their finest formal wear and

filled the venue to the rafters to hear the renowned singer perform. Venue owner Lannorra Sion, who has her own balcony seating for the best view, said she was delighted with the event.

JEWEL OF A PARTY

By ISABEL BROCCO

JEWELLERY and art shared the centre of attention at a special two-day show last weekend. RL artists including Zephyru Zapedzki, who sells his work in-world, were on hand at the Monogram Tria sim to talk to art fans, while some of the finest jewellery on the grid was also on display. Event organiser **Anakalia Catteneo** said the show, organised by **Monogram Virtual**, had been a roaring success.

SUCCESS: Artist Zephyru Zapedzki (far left) and Anakalia Catteneo (left)



SAVING THE EARTH!

By ISOLDE FLAMAND & KONRAD HAK

PROTECTING the RL environment was the subject of Earth Day on April 22, which was celebrated across the metaverse.

Second Life residents marked the occasion – which has been held annually in RL since 1970 – with events across the grid, including a performance by **Max Kleene** at Etopia Island, a sim showcasing organisations which want to promote an environmentally sustainable world. Among the other events was 'Collaborations', a community art exhibition at the Shepherd sim where residents bought and decorated flags to add to the project.

Residents of other virtual worlds also celebrated Earth Day, with a design competition in Kaneva featuring nature-themed homes and hangouts. Kaneva's community support manager **Corelli** said: "If we can get people to think about the environment and how important and beautiful it is, that would be a definite bonus."

Ochele won first place, and 4,500 Rewards, for her hangout, 'Garden of Hidden Secrets', which included a solar-powered bar.



PARTY ON: Earth Day fans celebrate in SL



VOCAL SUPPORT: Max Kleene



WINNER: Ochele scoops the best hangout comp

NOT SO NAKED...

By COYNE NAGY Pics By KITTY OTOOLE

NOT everyone joined in the spirit of the 'Nearly Naked' party at Club Nishi but there was still plenty of flesh on show. Both men and women alike stripped down to the bare minimum, with little covering their birthday suits as they danced along to the tunes provided by DJ **Cheery Chippewa** at the event on April 23.



NEARLY NAKED: Liam Jarman, left, and Destiny Furse, right



FLASHING FLESH: Michsie Ansome



JUNGLE FEVER

By SOLANGE KORBASE

Jungle Monster
Costume L\$75
Bare Rose
Bare Rose (230, 80, 43)

Monkey Avatar L\$900
New Monkey Moon
Giarrda (127, 84, 22)

Birdwatcher Safari suit in
khaki L\$400
Casa Del Shai
Casa Del Shai (170, 144, 692)

Callie Cline's

STYLE HOTLINE

MOST SL MEN DON'T DRESS WELL

... BUT HERE ARE TWO WHO PROVE SOME GUYS DO HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO LOOK GOOD

MEN'S fashion in Second Life can be a hit or miss affair.

Everybody may tell you that bling is out, but It's not that there aren't enough great clothes out there for the fellas to look good in, but to actually see men who know how to dress well is a rare thing, and something I haven't seen much of lately. But that all changed this week when I met these two well-dressed young men while out shopping. Not only did they have a unique look, but they each had just the right amount of the personal touch which really caught my attention.

but who can deny that just a teensy little bit worn with the right suit can actually look good?

UNIQUE

I asked the two guys if I could take a photo of them, and if they had any other accessories to add for the snap – and these guns were just too cool! They should be an example to all you men out there – it's time to ditch those grungy, ripped,



GANGSTA: Callie with her two bad boys

t-shirts and jeans, and go out and try to find a new look for yourselves. Remember that girls LOVE men with a unique look, and we're always willing to help – just ask!

WHAT'S HOT! TAKE A PEEK AT THE HOTTEST NEW STYLES TO HIT SECOND LIFE

GO FOR SURREAL DRAMATIC LOOKS

By ISOLDE FLAMAND

BEAUTIFUL, quirky and funky clothes can make a fantastic look.



FUNKY:
Yarrow Ihnen

Yarrow Ihnen showed her unique sense of style recently, mixing and matching separates at a concert. The anchor pieces of the ensemble were a ragged skirt of many colours and funky stockings by LPG. Yarrow topped it off with a black shirt from Bare Rose. She also added belts, great stiletto shoes and some fantastic jewellery. The outfit certainly wouldn't be complete, though, without the surreal make-up on her pale skin. It's a look sure to catch your eye!



QUIRKY BEAUTY:
Yarrow shows off her
unique style

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK

By ISOLDE FLAMAND

CARINA LARSEN OF INSIGHT DESIGN REVEALS HER FAVOURITE STUFF



MY FAVOURITE ACCESSORY...

"...of all time is this painter's belt by Manna Yoshikawa of Manna. I found it just this week, and it cried out to me. I paint portraits in RL and now I can have my brushes and painting things with me everywhere. It's called Montmarte (Ladies)."



I ALWAYS WEAR...

"...these boots, called **Boot-alicious**, created by Onyx LeShelle at Maitreya. They are low enough that I can wear them without the boot tops peeking up through the pant legs. Also, the heel is nicely shaped and the detailing on the strap is nice."

wear them without the boot tops peeking up through the pant legs. Also, the heel is nicely shaped and the detailing on the strap is nice."

MY MOOD...

"...is reflected by this hair created by Truth Hawks of TRUTH, which is funny and a bit wild. Even though I was a blond girl in my first months here, now I have either black or brownish-red hair and this style suits me perfectly. It's a great match for this skin made by Khai Sinister of The Abyss."



TAKE TO THE SKIES



By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN

Pedelon

By JonyBlade Codesmith
Mocha (185, 38, 35)

L\$850



Helicopter C700

Black V4.2.2
By Apolon Obscure
Apolon Island (70, 150, 22)

L\$600



Abbotts Float Plane

By Cubey Terra
Abbotts Aerodrome (53, 39, 34)

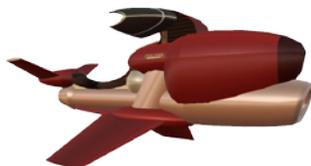
L\$550



Terra SkyBike

By Cubey Terra
Cass (84, 242, 57)

L\$350



Extra 300s

By Apolon Obscure

Royler (48, 50, 106)

L\$1,150



MY TRAVEL TIPS

By ISOLDE FLAMAND

MODEL Absinthe Primrose recently featured in the 'SL Lingerie Legends' calendar.

THE AVASTAR: Where do you like to relax?

ABSINTHE PRIMROSE: A few of my favourites are the Armidi sim, The Abyss sim, which is

on Sanctum Sanctorum sim.

TA: Where do you party?

AP: The 5th Element at the GOL sim, a club with DJs playing mu-



sic 24/7, and the Zoo Nightclub at the Ski Resorts sim, which has live DJs seven nights a week.

TA: What's your favourite sim?

AP: The Costa Del Pacifico Estate, 17 sims and growing! All are designed to showcase the

natural wonders of Costa Rica. It's owned by Giancarlo Takacs, and was created for nature, adventure, relaxation, pampering, romance and friends. It is an upscale community where beautiful and talented people live.

TA: Seen a great sim recently?

AP: The Best of SL Boulevard



a post-apocalyptic build that makes you go "WOW" and Relic

sim, which is the most exclusive shopping experience in SL.

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DEAR



AM I A LOVE RAT IF I SLEEP WITH SL MAN?



WIFE'S DILEMMA OVER AFFAIR WITH SECOND LIFE MAN – WHO'S NOT HER RL HUBBY

Dear Randi: MY RL husband has known I have been in Second Life ever since I first joined over a year ago. My problem now is that I have become very attracted to a guy in-world. We have had about a dozen romantic dates in which he took me dancing and to beautiful beaches and gardens. And now my conscience is start-

ing to bother me. Is it cheating on my RL husband if I tell my Second Life guy my innermost thoughts? And is it cheating if we make love in-world? — R.A.
Randi says: The answers to those questions depend on how good your relationship with your RL husband is, as well as how you feel inside. I once heard an expression that says,

“it’s not adultery if your spouse says it’s OK,” and that might be the case here. I don’t think it’s cheating to do anything you like online as long as you never, ever make the kind of contact with your SL friend that would give up your RL identity. But if you don’t feel comfortable with the idea of concealing it from you hubby, then don’t do it!

IT STARTED AS A FLING BUT NOW I WANT MORE GIRL'S NEW FRIEND IS RUINING RELATIONSHIP

Dear Randi: ABOUT a month ago I met a woman at a club in Second Life, and we went back to my place for what I thought would be a one-night stand. But she was incredible in bed, and afterwards she made me much more interested in her as a person. I made a date with her for the next Friday night, but she didn’t show up. And the next Friday night the same thing happened again. She has been very vague about why she didn’t show up either time. Should I be suspicious of something? — G.T.

Randi says: You should be suspicious of a couple of things. She is not good at keeping commitments, and that is no way to start a new relationship, and you have a right to know why she didn’t keep them. The likelihood is she has a RL boyfriend who wanted her attentions. Tell her your feelings were hurt, and if your talk doesn’t go well perhaps you should move on.

Dear Randi: I MET my Second Life fiancée not long after I first arrived on the grid, and we have been dating ever since. I have always liked how helpful she is to newbies. Back when I was new, she helped me a lot with clothes and the like, and I have seen her come to the aid of lots of others. But a few weeks ago she helped a new girl who latched on to her as though they were best friends. Every time we go dancing now, my fiancée invites her new friend along, and invariably the evening is boring for me. How can I get my girl to pay more attention to me? — S.W.

Randi says: Put your foot down. Tell her exactly what you have told me about what it is you love about her. But you must be very clear why you think three makes a crowd. Dates are for one-on-one time. Perhaps you have a male friend out there who could provide some company for your fiancée’s newbie friend as well.

RANDI

The Virtual World's
No 1 Agony Aunt

GIRLFRIEND'S HOT TUB ROMP WITH STRANGER

I USED TO TRUST HER COMPLETELY, SO SHOULD I JUST FORGET WHAT MY RL SISTER TOLD ME?

Dear Randi: I HAVE been dating the same girl in Second Life for several months, and until last week I trusted her completely. She said I was the only guy for her, and that she didn’t really get much out of being in Second Life unless I was in-world at the same time as her. But recently a good friend of her’s – whom unbeknown to my girlfriend

is actually my RL sister — got some pictures of her cavorting nude in a hot tub with a guy I had never seen before. Should I call her on it and demand she explains, or should I just forget what I saw? — N.L.

Randi says: Since you have some photos, I think it is OK if you decide to confront her. You need to discuss with her what

it is, if anything, that is missing from your relationship, or perhaps some new boundaries that would allow you to take other girls to hot tubs if you so wish. The problem here as I see it isn’t so much that she went to the hot tub as that she deceived you on what kind of girl she was. Now that you know, proceed as you will.

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THE GUIDE

TOP EVENTS AND
ENTERTAINMENT

THIS WEEK: ODD MUSEUMS

SHOCKING EXHIBITS
MUTATIONAL SCULPTURE

NORDIC NATIVE:
Viking Times



By GAETANA FAUST

THE STRANGE SIDE OF SL

EXPLORE SL'S MUSEUMS DEDICATED TO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING

MUSEUMS have been set up across the RL world in honour of just about everything, and the same is true in Second Life.

Step out of your comfort zone and go on a museum oddity odyssey. Start by seeing the Lindens stuffed at the **Linden Bear Museum** at Bowness (214, 58, 28). If you would like to snuggle up with a Philip or Torley doll, your dreams will come true here. If you've ever wondered about life as a Norseman, check out the **Viking Times museum** at Euryalus (9, 55, 21). A tableau shows Norse villagers quietly going about their daily business, fishing and keeping a neat and comfortable cottage. Theatre lovers will love the **Broadway Musical Theatre Museum**

at Broadway Live East (217, 58, 90). Stroll through a series of galleries depicting the evolution of the Great White Way and the shows that made it famous. The **World Tattoo Museum** at George 5 (164, 210, 21) is a church-like structure with tattoos of all shapes, sizes, and designs to look at and buy. If you enjoy museums about particular people, you'll find some fascinating options around the grid. Visit the **Bob Dylan Museum** of SL at Kaluga (110, 176, 29) to see a collection of photos and art depicting the musician's life, from black and white pics of performances in the 1960s to an image of Dylan as a Simpsons cartoon character. You can click the rug to receive a biography.



Learn about the weird and wonderful world of sculpted prims at the Museum of Mutational Sculpties.

Where: Scamp
(11, 11, 141)

FANCY MECHANICALS
MUSEUM OF ROBOTS



Robots from 'Star Wars' and 'Lost in Space' are among the mechanical exhibits on display.

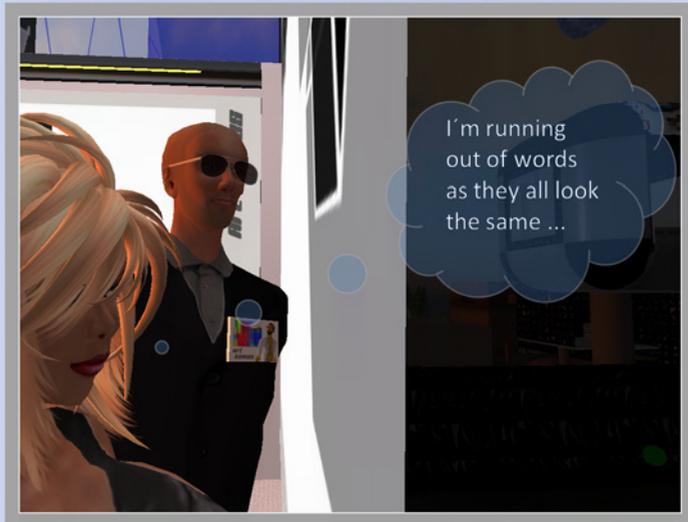
Where: Kubrick
(98, 161, 27)

AROUND SL IN 80 DAYS
JULES VERNE MUSEUM



Explore the work of the sci-fi visionary by taking a ride in a hot air balloon. Where: Jockeys Ridge
(134, 229, 23)

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 BEI ANNÄHERUNG DIGITALE KUNST©

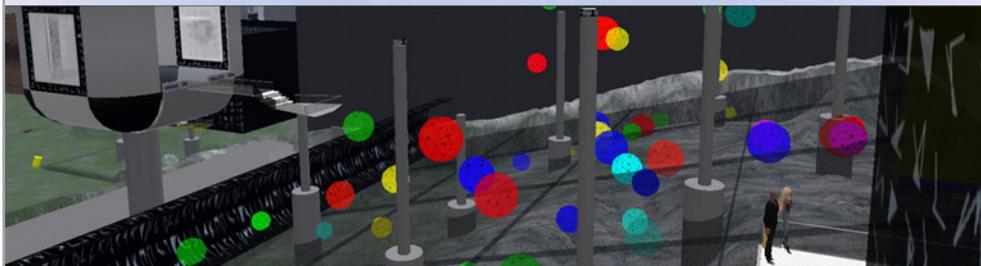


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4.25. - 5.1.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

All times are given in PDT



FASHION

LA BELLA VIDA

Check out some of the hottest new looks, with outfits from DK Designs, Swaffette Firefly, Chez Gabrielle, The House of Ryre and others.

When: Apr. 26, 14:00

Where: Bella Vida (122, 114, 25)



NIGHTLIFE

GRADUATE PARTY

The Master Jeweler label hosts a celebration for the latest graduates from its training course at the iZa boutique, and all are welcome to join in the treasure hunt.

When: Apr. 26, 06:00

Where: Gealain (192, 82, 115)



OPENING

LONDON JOURNALISM SCHOOL

Learn more about the media at a series of lectures.

When: Apr. 26, 01:00

Where: LSJ Student Union (172, 134, 41)



LIVE-MUSIC

MELODEE MCDONNELL

The musician will perform unique covers of pop and jazz songs.

When: Apr. 30, 20:00

Where: Jades Jazz Island (61, 148, 24)



EVENT OF THE WEEK!

FRANKFURT ROCK STAGE

Join DJ Toter Totenstille Aeon for a night of the best hard rock, from Gothic to heavy metal, to mark the launch of the rock stage at Frankfurt.

When: Apr. 26, 11:00

Where: Frankfurt Sued West (199, 93, 24)



ART & CULTURE

SECOND LIFE BOOK FAIR

Come and visit The AvaStar stand at the annual three-day fair.

When: Apr. 25-27, 14:00

Where: Publishing Island (99, 88, 36)



THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

By ISOLDE FLAMAND



ELIZABETH TINSLEY

ELIZABETH IS A SECOND LIFE PR GURU WHO MANAGES THE TEXTURES R US AND ETD FASHION LABELS AND PROMOTES RANDOM CALLIOPE'S JEWELLERY

AVA - ID CARD

NAME: ELIZABETH TINSLEY

BIRTH DATE: 6/2/2006

PROFESSION: PR and customer services

ATTITUDE: Shades of blue

INTERVIEW

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

Elizabeth Tinsley: Working. To be more precise I brainstorm and implement ideas, but mainly I herd cats. In other words I assist artistic types in navigating through a world that enjoys their creativity and vision but is sometimes at a loss for how to accommodate their eccentric behaviour.

TA: What would you change about SL?

ET: It would be nice if things worked reliably, but then what would we all have to complain about? Other than that, I would like to see people continue to explore SL as a creative medium. Having the power to give form to our dreams is amazing and one that I hope none of us ever takes for granted.

TA: What's been your funniest SL moment?

ET: Probably the funniest things are those that I am completely unaware of. Being caught in various levels of undress and in suggestive poses when from my view I look completely respectable. I refer to this as the 'Emperor's New Clothes' perspective and I'm sure that I have made a few people grin upon occasion.