

THE AVASTAR

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FREE COPY

“COPYRIGHT? I DON'T CARE”

FAKE branded goods are a timebomb waiting to explode in Second Life's face.

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SIMS PLAGUED BY CAMPERS

- TELEPORTING IMPOSSIBLE SAY RESIDENTS
- BUSINESS OWNERS SLAM LACK OF ACTION

By LEIDER STEPANOV
CAMPING sites are killing off sims across SL like 'weeds in a garden', according to a business owner who has lost thousands.

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INSIDE OPINION

"We should concentrate on what we do best – creating. There is so much potential, so much imagination, we don't need to rely on what has already been dreamt up elsewhere."

LEIDER STEPANOV
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"There is lots of excellent machinima now being made by a growing number of talented producers. IT can only be a matter of time before Machinima gets the widespread recognition in the real world that it deserves."



REGIS
BRAATHENS
p.8

WRITE FOR THE AVASTAR

HAVE a story? Got an exclusive? Want to work for The AvaStar and earn big Linden bucks? Come visit us at The AvaStar Island 107.210.81, send an email to newsdesk@the-avastar.com, or visit www.the-avastar.com

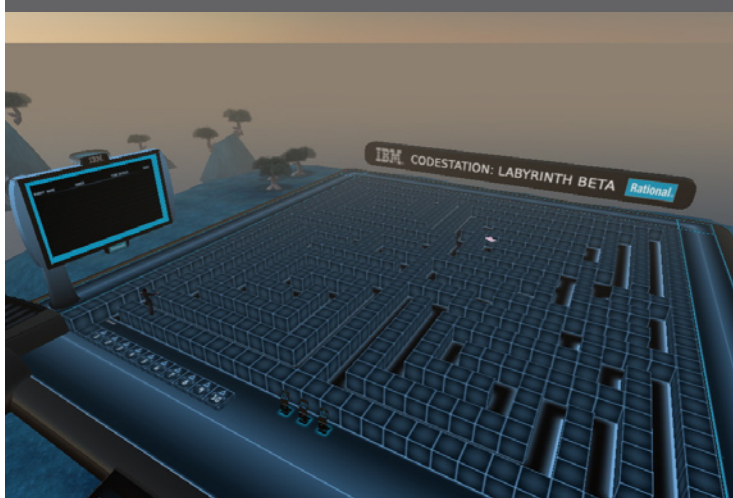
YOUR Photos

yourphotos@the-avastar.com

L\$500

Did you spot something unusual? Have you got exclusive snapshots of a SL celebrity? Were you at a great event or party? Have you seen something new that you want to share with others? Then send us your photos and you could earn yourself Linden Dollars. For each photo published in the newspaper the author will receive 500L\$.

A-MAZE-ING NEW IBM SIM



AN exclusive pic from Deeep Witte of the new IBM Codestation sim, featuring a labyrinth and hovering auditorium. It will cater to developers and programmers.

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CAMPING KILLS SIMS

SHOP OWNERS WHO LOST THOUSANDS SLAMS 'WEEDS IN A GARDEN'

BY LEIDER STEPANOV



Rows of campers are a common sight in SL.

CAMPING sites are killing off sims across Second Life like 'weeds in a garden', according to a business owner who lost hundreds of thousands of L\$. Lillani Lowell says she was forced to relocate her shop after campers at a club used up the entire traffic allocation of their shared sim, which prevented anyone, including her customers, from teleporting in. She claims her business was so badly affected she was forced to move, but not before she lost more than US\$1,000. "I'm moving onto a private island and I'll be avoiding the mainland like the plague it is becoming", she said. "Usually, the people who set up these sites own an eighth

of a sim at most... and they use up the entire resources for that sim, while everyone else who lives there is stuck with a useless tier payment because of one person's personal greed for traffic." Lillani had encountered the problem before, and unsuccessfully tried to prevent it happening again. She added: "I intentionally moved into a foggy, snow-bound sim because it was the least likely to lure clubs or casinos into setting up. "But a few months later a club bought into the sim, and the amount of traffic they were bringing in choked off traffic in my shop. Customers couldn't teleport in, sales went down.

"The sim had gotten to a point where moving was like a snail through molasses on a cold January day." After failing to enlist the help of the Lindens in resolving not only her own problems but the issue as a whole, Lillani is still angry about the situation. "I think LL should introduce a hard limit on the number of people you can have on your property based on the amount of square metres you own in any given sim. "More importantly, they should change the current traffic system, which is based on an old calculation of the number of people and the amount of time they've spent there."

ABIDE BY THE DCMA

LINDEN LAB OPPOSE COPYRIGHT BREACH DESPITE SECOND LIFE PRACTICE *By TAM WYLER*

IT is wrong to use intellectual property belonging to someone else without their permission – that appears to be the official position of Linden Lab. A statement in the ToS reads: ‘You will comply with the processes of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act regarding copyright infringement claims covered under such Act.’ Yet despite this, there are still plenty of SL stores selling clothes adorned with big name RL brands like Gucci, Puma or Versace. One shop owner, who

wants to remain anonymous, does not think breaking RL copyright laws in SL is a problem. She said: “I know that it is wrong but it doesn’t hurt anyone. These companies are not losing any money from my sales in this world. I think they get a good promotion actually if other players see someone wearing their clothes walking down the street.”

Shopaholic

In fact it seems to be the general consensus among residents that large RL companies can handle small-scale

SL piracy, but there are other problems related to the issue. One shopper said: “I’m a shopaholic here in Second Life and half the clothes in my wardrobe are rip-offs of famous brands like Gucci and Versace. I’m not proud of this but I just love clothes and let the names guide me. “Just recently I have discovered the growing range of user-created brands here in SL and now I am crazy for clothes by Starley and Aimee Weber. It is designers like them that lose most on brands

from RL being copied in SL since people forget that this is a world with a lot of new creators and designers.”

Copy

Tina (PetGirl) Bergman owns the [EXAKT] lamp shop. She said: “Why would you want to bring in a copy from the real world when here you have the possibility to create something unique? “There is no need to bring something from real life in here because in here we can do just about anything.” It would seem that Linden Lab agrees.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

“There should be some laws to prevent copyright because real money is involved. If I ‘kill’ someone like in a game it’s fine in here, but if you steal or destroy stuff it’s not a game anymore.”



ARTEFAX JERICHO

“I think anything that is protected by copyright laws in real life should not be copied here. They should apply for everyone involved with copyright items. It hasn’t come to that here yet, but I think eventually it will.”

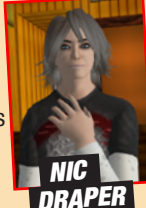


GINGER MARSAILLE



RICKY JUA

“I have a Lacoste top and have bought specially made sports tops and paid extra to get them made as a one-off. It takes a while to make, even with the wonders of photoshop, but I do it because it’s hard to find cool men’s clothes.”



NIC DRAPER

“I find it very hard to shed a tear for a few Lindens lost by a multinational brand. It seems silly to go into a bar to order a Guineez or a Bundwiser. I hate the MINE MINE MINE! attitude.”



AIDIA DOJOJI

“I really dont think that they can police copyright here. It’s impossible to monitor and a waste of time too. Plus, its everywhere: I have a Warhol in my SL flat, am I breaking the law?”

COPY BY DESIGN

SECOND LIFE NEEDS TO CHANGE ITS WAYS TO AVOID DISASTER



By LEIDER STEPANOV

In truth the practice of reproducing RL things in SL, whether it be the Eiffel Tower or a Prada handbag, is well established and accepted by residents. But it is a practice which big business will not stand for. Currently, companies are pouring money into SL. That was the advice an old SL hand gave me hours after I first entered Second Life when I said I was going to buy a shirt bearing the name of a famous RL brand. Slightly disgruntled but willing to trust an ‘oldbie’, I abandoned my plans. It wasn’t long before I started to see his point.

It is a point which I now hope will be taken on board by the masses, otherwise Second Life could be in trouble. SL has always been about creativity and, crucially, originality. We can all see how the very nature of our world is changing as it develops so rapidly. One of those changes will see a crackdown on legal issues - including copyright infringement.

er it be a high-tech movie piracy operation or an innocent flag draped over an advert at a sports stadium. So how long will it be before they cotton on to the fact that SL is a hive of piracy? They residents do what they want, create anything they like regardless of RL rules. The result could be a spate of legal action against individual residents or companies in SL, with knock-on effects for the whole of our society.



In fact, it could be disastrous. Instead, we as a world should concentrate on what we do best – creating. There is so much potential, so much imagination, we don’t need to rely on what has already been dreamt up. Besides, I’m sure that before too long, those who do long for RL products in SL will be able to purchase them straight from the source.

into SL but don’t quite know what to make of it all. They are standing nervously at the edge like a shy boy at a school disco, waiting until they are confident enough in their new environment to start making waves. Large multinationals are notorious for cracking down on perceived threats to the stature of their brands, wheth-

RL BRANDS NOT ILLEGAL IN SL

KING Pascale sells clothes branded with familiar RL names like Gucci, D&G and Chanel from his shop, Luxury Fashion. He told The AvaStar why he would carry on stocking the popular designs.

TA: Is selling these clothes legal?

KP: I don’t do anything illegal. Producing articles and use of real life brands is forbidden. However, I only sell on what other people create for me.

I got it in writing officially from the Lindens that it was not illegal to sell on RL brands.

TA: Do you fear that RL firms will come in and sue SL because of residents copying their goods?

KP: They can try it but they will probably fail.

TA: Why did you start selling these goods?

KP: After I earned my first money in SL, I started looking for businesses which sell such brands, unfortunately it was pretty rare.

Because I find the selling of luxury items interesting, I decided to make a job out of it in SL.

TA: Have you had any negative feedback?

KP: No designer has ever said to me that they think my clothes are bad, in fact the opposite.

VANISHED INTO SIM AIR

POPULAR ski resort Wolf Mountain was one of a number of sims which lost business when prims began to vanish last week. Many chalet-owners and customers were affected, including a couple who had rented a honeymoon suite. Peach Fizz, the owner of the sim said: "It was a disaster. I was beside myself...The honeymooners were inside enjoying a hot tub and POOF, half of the items in there, the tub and the bed included, just vanished." Peach contacted Linden Lab about and almost all the missing items have since been returned to her, but she is still unsure why it happened.

Avalanche

Two weeks ago Peach faced another problem when the land form of the mountains changed suddenly and dramatically. Piles of snow had mounted up on one half of the sim like an avalanche causing mountain goats to float in the sky, with skiers thrown sideways. Builder Kaan Roy helped repair the first incident. "After a lot of work I still couldn't put everything right. My guess is the two incidents were connected but it's hard to prove."

WSE IN CHAOS

WORLD STOCK EXCHANGE'S ONGOING PROBLEMS ANGER TRADERS

By REGIS BRAATHENS

THE World Stock Exchange was plunged into chaos this week as investors' accounts were wiped and trading was suspended. The exchange was shut down due to technical problems, with disappearing account balances and share holdings provoking anger among traders. Despite high hopes from founder LukeConnell Vanderverre at its launch in mid-January, the WSE has hardly been open since. Having already delayed last week to Tuesday February 6, the WSE managed only to last one day before further technical problems brought the system to its knees. Many traders have labelled it a farce and some have begun

to jump ship to a new rival stock exchange, the Virtual Commerce Exchange, run by Van Ames. Tseng Weir said: "I bought PCL at 3.75 and after the UPDATING crap it's now 3.00. I find it unfair." **Excuses** Felowen Dodge, who worked for LukeConnell, has decided to quit trading with the WSE, voicing his frustration at "a lack of professionalism, lack of communication and other business management mishandlings". He said also suffered from having his account balance temporarily emptied and was outraged at the excuses given: "It's been a tough 24 hours. Slow internet, slow computer, cat attacked me" said LukeConnell on Wednesday.

funds in the main WSE accounts for traders' withdrawals bouncing, although the money was still removed from their account. "I'm going through the process of resetting everyone's account to zero, and then re-building the share and money balances based on the transaction history" said Alexis.

Concerns

However, a further email, revealed the extent of the chaos: "If you have an idea of what your balance should be in any company, please let me know via email and i'll ensure that is your balance prior to opening". With additional concerns over the regulation of the exchange and the status of the IPOs, many traders have now lost hope. "People are selling for what they can get" said trader Shaun Altman. But LukeConnell is still confident. "There are usually one or two bad apples to spoil the rest", he added.

Alexis Enfield has been drafted in as CFO to help the ailing exchange. An explanatory email blamed a lack of



Swedish Quality Design



[EXAKT]

The household name for elegant, modern design. By Tina (PetGirl) Bergman.

[EXAKT]

currently features four product lines

**SPOTLIGHTS
LAMPS
INDOOR FURNITURE
GARDEN FURNITURE
ACCESSOIRES**

(handbags, vases, scripted fans, rugs)

Bring some light (and modern elegance) to your (Second) life. Just visit my shop in:

EXAKT MAIN STORE, Verloren (216, 30, 33)

If you can't find what you are looking for or you want one of my designs in a different color, texture, smaller, larger.... whatever... just send an IM to PetGirl Bergman.



Verloren 216, 30, 33.

www.exakt.biz | Copy: Deidre Boyer, Anmark and Photo: Tina (PetGirl) Bergman



REGIS BRAATHENS

MACHINIMA BREAKING OUT IN REAL WORLD

IT can only be a matter of time before Machinima gets the widespread recognition in the real world that it deserves.

The machinima making a splash this week was a promotional video for the American sitcom 'Two and a Half Men' made in-world by Electric Sheep Company. The SL-made ad even secured a spot on prime time TV during the Super Bowl pre-game show on CBS.

Another hilarious machinima by Decomposing Monstre has sadly finally been removed from Tube, as the powers that be probably did not take kindly to the images of virtual sex. However, with its 1930s voiceover and hilarious imagery it was great fun to watch.

There are now lots of excellent machinima being made by a growing number of talented producers. Next step Cannes?



TWO and a half avatars

LOVE IS IN THE AIR FOR GENEROUS RESIDENTS

VALENTINE'S MESSAGES IN AID OF SICK RESIDENT FLOOD IN

SECOND Life may be virtual, but the generosity of its residents is real.

This week we asked our readers to help raise money for the popular and long standing resident Ayeshe Millions, who has an acoustic neuroma tumour in her brain that requires constant medical attention. As well as the proceeds from the advertising in the special being donated, AvaStar readers were encouraged to send in Valentine's messages and give L\$100 to the cause.

Auction

The response has been fantastic. Messages have come flooding in with many people donating far more than the required amount to participate. Some resident designers got in touch to see if they could donate clothes or other items to be auctioned off or could get involved with fu-

ture fundraising.

"It is amazing how generous SL residents are", said Susan Pegler, organiser of Ayshe's Angels, the group founded by Simone Stern to help raise money through events and fundraisers inworld for her friend, such as the bachelor and bachelorette auction next week.

Diversity

The response to the Valentine's Special in aid of Ayeshe Millions has really highlighted the amazing spirit, friendliness and sense of togetherness in the Second Life community. If you walked into a bar in real life and just started talking to random people, you would be most probably regarded as strange and ignored. But in Second Life it is normal, and how most friendships are formed. Despite its diversity and fragmentation, our community is one

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO:
regis@the-avastar.com

that pulls together in a common direction. The messages printed in the supplement at the end of the paper, also reflect this. Poems written to loved ones and friends, messages of support, thanks and best wishes, and words describing the wonderful friendships and loves that have been founded in this world.

Joy

Valentine's Day is a tradition which has been adopted from real life, and it seems to have found a real home here. In Second Life Valentine's Day has managed to rise above the commercialisation with which it is publicised in the real world. It leaves me to wish all our readers and especially Ayeshe Millions, a very happy Valentine's Day.



your mail @

YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

PRICE FALL NOT ALL BAD

Hey Regis, I feel terrible for all those people that lost out in the land price plunge last week.

I do, however, think that land was overpriced anyway. Some of us, me included, were actually toasting the Lindens that day. Sims were going for almost half the usual prices at the auction because forty new sims went on the market at once. This meant that new sims could be af-

forded by buyers, even newbies, rather than being monopolised by big businesses. That is great news for residents because it brings variety.

Investing your time and money in SL is a risk. It's a gamble. Last week's sudden land market

price deflation provided a good example of that. But as some lose out others look to gain. That's what makes the world go round!

However, I was frozen in my jump for joy. Having thought that I was going to get my own land, I was disappointed to find that the bargain territory was not going to be so easy to get my hands on after all - it was all whisked up by other buyers.

By Thierry Snook

E-MAILS OF THE WEEK

500 LINDEN DOLLARS

WRITE TO: YOURMAIL@THE-AVASTAR.COM

Hey Regis, I went to the Jimmy Carr gig last Saturday, and it was only a partial success.

There were predictable jokes about 14 year-old-boys wearing the avatar of a supermodel dressed as a hooker (is that your Second Life fantasy Jimmy?), and the gig was, not surprisingly, directed more towards the RL audience.

Let's face it, a real belly laugh must be more satisfying for a come-

dian than someone typing "Ha Ha Ha".

The gig can only be described as partially successful, as the Second Life lag was ever-present and seemed to affect the animations

that Jimmy's avatar was using (although I suspect his av was being controlled by someone else) which often surprised him more than the SL crowd.

The one animation



SEX PAYS - BUT IT'S ALSO FUN!

Dear Regis,

Yes, sex in Second Life does pay but I don't think that's the main reason why lots of people do it here.

SL is a platform for fantasy enactment before it is a place for money making. If SL reflects some of our conscious and unconscious desires, then of course there is going to be lots of creativity and quite a bit of sex - and where these two meet it becomes very fun.

By Alfred Schroeder

that did work well was when Jimmy produced a distinctly phallic gun (which again seemed to come as a surprise to him) and shot the crap out of the audience, something that must be every comedians fantasy.

On the whole, an interesting experiment and one that bears repeating - as I'm sure the synchronisation between the two worlds will improve with practice and better preparation.

By Gaynor Gritzi



YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
ASKBIZ@THE-AVASTAR.COM

ask BIZ!

ENGINES DOING THE HARD SELL

How do I sell SL goods without a shop?

BIZ! says: Consider opening an account with <http://www.slexchange.com> or <http://www.slboutique.com>. Both shopping engines offer you the ability to sell stuff on the web in SL without having a shop. The results are very promising. Start by making an account and linking it to your avatar. Both shops offer easy in-world registration terminals, where you can create your accounts and link it to your avatar. Remember: NEVER EVER use your SL password on these websites. If the website gets compromised, your account will be open for hackers to loot. Once you are registered both websites offer a very powerful set of tools to list your products.

HUNTING FOR THE RIGHT PRODUCT

How can I easily find the product I need?

BIZ! says: A quick and rudimentary hunt is done using the Search button at the bottom of the

BANKING on success



INVEST WISELY

How can my savings help the Second Life economy?

BIZ! says: A golden rule in economics is that what goes around comes around; i.e. if you spend, people will come and buy. So if you have a million Lindens in your pockets, then you might be better off investing the money somewhere in order for

the economy to thrive. One option is to cash your spare Lindens, this will give Linden Lab a chance to spread the money around over other accounts, but beware that extracting too much money from the economy could have devastating effects. So be careful! A wiser move is to invest the money in SL banks or funds. They offer an

investment horizon suitable to how long you want to invest for. This goes from money market investments for days or weeks, to venture capital-style investments in infrastructure, business and projects. So if anyone brags about having a million Lindens on his account, tell him that he is not doing the economy any good.

WRITE TO: ASKBIZ@THE-AVASTAR.COM

screen, but this often results in either millions of hits or none at all. It is hard to get a precise listing based on specific search criteria. This is because Search only scans pure text based on the info supplied.

But if you are looking for green trousers with pink polka dots, then you will need to keep on looking! Enter two search engines to the fray: SLQuery.com and Second411.com, both of

which offer an intriguing set of tools to catalogue your creations. Just drop your works of art into their boxes which will churn out the details and post them on their websites for the world to see.

ZOOM ZOOM INTO VIRTUAL WORLD

FIRMS SEE BENEFITS OF SECOND LIFE FOR LAUNCHING NEW CARS

By REGIS BRAATHENS

THE virtual world is becoming an increasingly attractive stage for Real Life car companies to unveil their new models.

The Mazda Hakaze will be the latest RL car to hit the streets of Second Life, with the concept model set to be unveiled at the launch of the firm's Nagare Island next week. It will follow hot on the wheels of Toyota's Scion XB and its brand new Scion XD which it launched during its first parallel universe press conference on Thursday.

Since Nissan entered SL last year to promote its Sentra model, car giants including Toyota, Pontiac and BMW have all flocked to the virtual world. The Real Life press hype surrounding a product launch in Second Life has acted as a major pull. There is also a desire to reach a new audience of what Toyota spokesman Mark Templin calls "true trend leaders". Yet Mazda's new global design director, Laurens van den Acker, sees another reason: "Feedback on our concept cars has always been very positive. There has been only one



TOYOTA Scion launch this week

downer: they wanted to own and drive these cars immediately. Second Life enables us to let a huge audience do just that." The aims of the different companies have been largely reflected in their inworld presence, with Nissan and Toyota remaining rather inactive in comparison to the activities of American firm Pontiac. Mixing real world promotion such as the launch of the Pontiac G8 this week, with Second Life entertainment provided by the successful Motorlympics and the Pontiac race track, has made their concept different. "To be a success we had to become a part of the community", said Razen Nefarious, the Creative Director of Campfire Media which built Motorati Island. Mazda wants to take the same approach: "Unlike other companies, we do not intend to simply buy an island, put advertising on it and wait for happy customers to start buying products in First Life", Laurens added.

"Zoom-Zoom is our spirit and that's what we want to bring to Second Life, which is already Zoom-Zoom in many ways."



EXCLUSIVE pic of Mazda design director Laurens van den Acker on Nagare Island

VISTA DELAY FOR SECOND LIFE

RESIDENTS who snapped up the Microsoft Vista software after its official SL launch last week, were shocked to discover it is not compatible with the virtual world.

Despite the fanfare accompanying the launch of the new computer system, it will be a while before residents can use it to run Second Life. When questioned, Sam Linden said: "Unfortunately, Second Life is not officially compatible with Vista at this time. The reason is poor OpenGL support from Microsoft with Vista, and as Second Life uses OpenGL, we cannot guarantee the compatibility with Vista for now."

Disaster

Residents left out of pocket after paying for the new system software are angry that this incompatibility was not mentioned at the launch celebrations which took place in SL. Beatrice Boisblanc said she felt let down, labelling the failure a "disaster".



CELEBRITIES & GOSSIP

OPEN MIC NIGHT A HIT

By **TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN** this week were Rambo Dean, Fridwulfa Laszlo, Nomad Rovio and Johan Hoard.

NATALIE Moody's performance at Open Mic Night at The Plaza in Menorca this week was pretty spontaneous. The host was looking for artists to play, and Natalie simply jumped in and grabbed a spot, helped out by friend Ross LeShelle. Open Mic means any musician can sign up for a 20 minute spot with a chance to get their music heard. Among the other guests



SINGER: Natalie Moody

GOOD VIBES: Hitting the dancefloor

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY

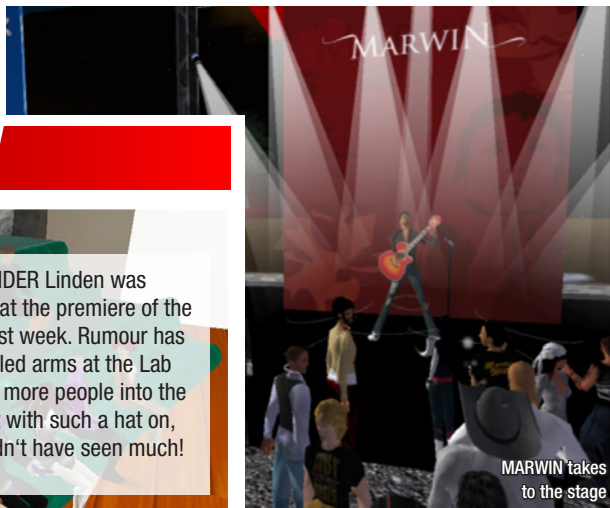
HAPPY Birthday to Tao Takashi, machinima expert and blog guru, who celebrates his first birthday on Wednesday – Valentine's Day! Here's to a romantic celebration, Tao.



BIRTH OF A STAR?

THE much-hyped premiere gig of Marwin Vacano took place yesterday in Apfeland. Already labelled as a 'superstar' the

German singer gave a live performance of his debut single 'Love letters'. A total of 300 people listened in at 3 venues.



MARWIN takes to the stage

SPOTTED!



HATS off to the ballet dancers

PATHFINDER Linden was spotted at the premiere of the ballet last week. Rumour has it he pulled arms at the Lab to allow more people into the sim. But with such a hat on, he couldn't have seen much!

CELEBRITIES & GOSSIP

MMMMMOTORATI!

Photos by **JANE CALVERT**
By **LEIDER STEPANOV**

PONTIAC'S Motorati Island revved its way into official existence with a rip-roaring good launch party. Events were kicked off with a gameshow called Let's Make a Dealership presented by Gideon Television, followed by a pop culture trivia game. In total, more than L\$50,000 were given out in cash and prizes. Revellers then had the chance to get down to

some great tunes at the after party. Organisers said the event had gone off without a hitch, with more than 55 avatars packing the sim at one point.



KEIKO ROCKS

THE BEACH

Photos by **Rocky Sassoon**

THE tropical Island Cocololo was officially opened this week with a concert by the lovely Takamura Keiko. The owner of the sunny new beach paradise, Rocky Sassoon, said the event was such a success he plans to organise live music events there every month. Keiko's rocking sounds, the beautiful palace on white sand and the display of sexy swimwear all made for a brilliant evening.



FUN at the beach

DAZZLING STORE

By **PETRONILLA PAPERDOLL**

A LITTLE edgier and a little younger is how Ginny Talamasca defines her new collections, now available at the new Last Call shop from Dazzle Haute Couture. The store, with all of Dazzle's subsidiary departments, was opened with a bang on February 8 when the sim was plugged into urbansoul-nation.com's streaming



THE lobby at Dazzle

WEDDING BELLE

THE AVASTAR'S FASHIONISTA, ISABEL BROCCO, IS PREPARING FOR HER OWN WEDDING. SHE HAS SCOURED SL FOR THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WEDDING GOWNS TO MAKE YOUR BIG DAY EXTRA-SPECIAL. IN FACT, AS THE GLAMOROUS BRIDE-TO-BE MODELLED THESE PICTURES ON AVASTAR ISLAND, SHE WAS PROPOSED TO YET AGAIN BY A PASSER BY!



Wedding Dress
Ageha
Feminine lacy details like the gloves will make you a princess bride
Bare Rose (154,19,30)

Dress by Nonna Hedges
Dress Theodora casual; Train from nonna L\$ 250
Two Teird veil L\$ 300
Picasso (203,43,22)

Hair by gurl 6 name Affair
Comes in packs of four
GuRlyWood (110, 108, 22)

Shoes by Minx
These white strap-py heels are high enough to lift your trail. *Shepherd (28, 64, 108)*



L\$500

Jannessa wedding gown by Pink
It has wonderful flexy movement to make the most of your first dance.
Spinolds flat (70,180,59)

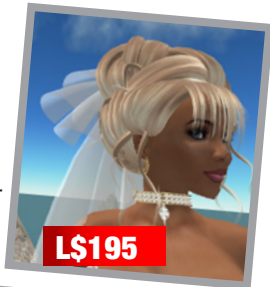


L\$2000



L\$450

Bracelet by Whittenton
This beauty comes with matching choaker.
Freshwater dAlliez (155, 176, 26)



L\$195



L\$165

THE AVASTAR Fashionista Isabel Brocco

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

FASHION SHOW

By CARRIE SODWIND, PHOTOS By FORSETI SVAROG five Lu sis- ALL good things come in threes - Paper Couture, caLLie cLine, and Simone!, some of the leading labels in SL, were exhibiting their hottest new looks back to back this week at the Girl's Night Out Fashion Show in iVillage. Their different styles complemented one another beautifully. Paper Couture, owned by the

Can Fly' boots and skinny span- dex trousers. The look went down with woops from the crowd,



CUTTING EDGE: Fashion show crowd



STYLISH: Dress by Simone

Bianca Darling, owner of Aspire Models, effortlessly strolled down the catwalk with her guitar in hand wearing Callie's new '1



ARMY Baby by caLLie cLine (front) and Cherie by Simone

shionista Torrid Midnight. Callie's silver army hot-pants, with jacket and pilot army hat, is another popular look, which she calls 'Army Baby'. Callie has been designing for under a year but is taking the Second Life fashion world by storm. Her new campaign called 'Fashion Compassion' will be next in a line of charity raising efforts. Simone Stern's range of Valentine-themed red and white ball gowns were a bubbly and playful finale.

INVENTORY SNEAK PEEK WITH PUKKABEL OF FIRST IMPRESSIONS:

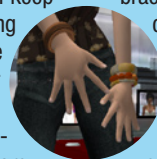
Ginny Jeans from Dazzle

I have a pretty large clothing inventory, but when I take off my business clothes, I keep finding myself wearing these jeans. They're nice enough to wear with my dressier tops and have that high quality everyone expects from a Dazzle item.



Bangle More! collection from EARTHTONES boutique

I am in love with ALL of the bracelets and bangles in this collection, especially the wooden ones. I love how they come stacked or as separate pieces. Another item I pull out just about every time I get more casual.



Alex Gator from Chicaney

My crackagator is squeez-able, huggable and has a wiggly tail! He was a gift from a good friend and business partner to remind me of fun times exploring together and our inability to say goodbye like normal adults.



GREEN FINGERS



TAKE CARE OF THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME - MAKE YOUR LIFE A LITTLE MORE BEAUTIFUL, SAYS **TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN**. YOU DON'T EVEN NEED TO WATER THE FLOWERS IN THE GARDEN!

Strelitzia - FLEXII!

By Maximilian Milosz
Maximum Minimum (210, 136, 23)



L\$125



L\$349

Tropical snake potted plant

By Sister Hearths, from Heart Garden Centre
Plush Iota (134, 95, 23)



L\$65



L\$65

Corn plant with a silver base

By Wisper Patel, from Whispering Waters
Koleamoku (21, 142, 31)

Tropical Cheeseplant

By Sister Hearths, from Heart Garden Centre
Plush Iota (134, 95, 23)

BALLERINAS WOW CROWD

By DEEEEEP WITTE

A BALLET specifically written for Second Life was performed for the first time on Sunday. Dancers from Australia, the Americas and the UK took to the stage at the Quat sim for 'Olmannen', which tells a moving story of love, sacrifice and rebirth. The ballet would be impossible to perform in RL, with dragons and dancers flying on and off the stage and the

prima ballerina turning into an old woman during the first act. Every animation and movement is a separate action, and timed and coordinated between the dancers. The moves, all Balanchine accurate, were handmade by Inarra Saarinen, a dancer and choreographer in RL. The music was composed by Alazarin Mondrian, and Amber

Shablin - who first started dancing in RL at the age of three - was the prima ballerina.

Performances take place every Wednesday and Sunday in February at 4pm SLT.



BEAUTIFUL: Ballet dancers take to the stage

DESIGNERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Kazuhiro Aridian

SL Birth Date: 11/9/2005
Famous for: Original Avs, building for a good cause



@RGANIC: Kazuhiro Aridian

BY LIONILA LIGHTFOOT
LL: How would you describe your style?

KA: I like working with a lot of organic designs, generally even my mechanical designs tend to end up very organic. I grew up in a very natural environment and I've always been fond of nature in that way. I'm very interested in insects, animals and plants; I think that's reflected in my work a great deal. But I'm also very interested in technology, and with the natural base, it seems to meld when I work.

LL: What do you like about building in SL?

KA: I like the freedom as well as the limitations. Other 3D building programs have many more options for building things, but in SL, building limitations force you to be more inventive with simple

shapes. It's like solving a puzzle.

LL: Do you have a design philosophy?

KA: Creating things that are truly new is an utterly amazing feat and I hope that more people can come to this in SL because new things drive the mind!

LL: What are your tips for design in SL?

KA: A ton of prims doesn't always mean quality! Particles are neat but can become obnoxious very quickly.

LL: How would you define quality?

KA: A quality work minimizes prims, maximizes custom texturing, and has scripts that supplement its function, while looking the very best it can be for its purpose.

LL: What do you dislike about culture in Second Life?

KA: It saddens me to see how much things like sex and guns and money still dominate the minds of people, even when they can do anything they want. I'd like to find a way to overcome this with something fantastical.



Kazuhiro in action

ADVERT

SELL THE AVASTAR!

The AvaStar is offering YOU the chance to install one of our stylish vending machines on your land and earn L\$!

To get involved with distributing Second Life's favourite tabloid, IM Ikarus Santos or email advertising@the-avastar.com.



BREATHTAKING

EXPERIENCE THE BEST VIEWS SECOND LIFE HAS TO OFFER

By LIONILA LIGHTFOOT

SPECTACULAR:
Northern Forest

THEY say that sometimes you can't see the wood for the trees, and the best way to get the big picture in SL is to head for some of the amazing viewpoints which challenge your climbing skills but reward you with beautiful sceneries.

The Northern sim sisters Menglin, Mengshan and Menghai are a beautiful composition of Chinese landscapes with many viewpoints around rocky mountains and opening to the ocean. Walk from one viewpoint to another and discover the little hidden details on the paths.

If to you a viewpoint means getting as high as possible, climb up Mount Meru at Kanin (128, 184, 291) and you will be rewarded with a breathtaking view that will surely make you shiver. But remember getting there is half the fun so take the time to climb up to the high-

est point. There is, however, a chairlift for those suffering from back problems. But Mount Meru is more than an iceberg, it is the ultimate pilgrimage destination for Buddhists, Hindus and Shamans in Asia. You can start your climb with a prayer half way up at Seefeld (141, 23, 165).

At the Northern Forest (Woods, 240, 98, 26), you won't get around climbing your way up to a beautiful viewpoint. It lies at the feet of a waterfall on top of a dense forest with goats all around. Take this trip



HOT AIR:
Enjoy the view from a balloon



CHINESE DELIGHTS:
Menglin

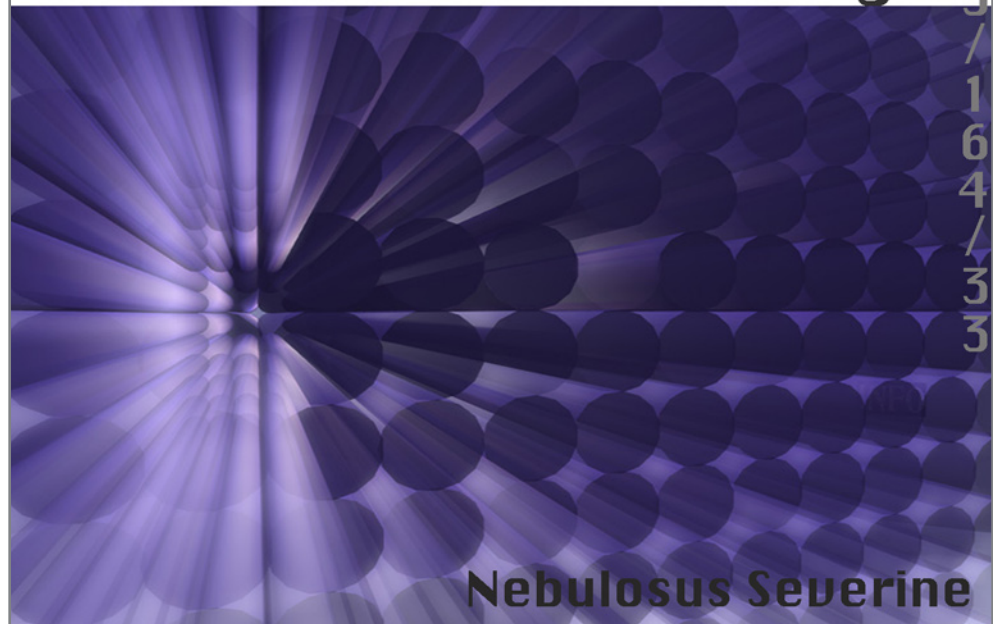
with your lover to enjoy some romantic bathing on top of the living forest. While you enjoy the view don't be surprised to see some cavemen and women running around: The sim's theme is Gorean Roleplay which implies primitive lifestyle.

Another fun way to enjoy nice views is the Shelter Balloon Tour that starts and ends at Isabel (211, 211, 47). The balloon will take you around 28 sims in 18 minutes. You can have a seat with up to seven friends in the balloon, chat away and take pictures while checking on possibilities for your future home along the coastlines. If getting your scenic buzz in a balloon is your thing you can go to Teal (126, 59, 517) and customize your own balloon as well as place it at your desired destination.

Arahan Claveau



SALON DU DISRUPTIF @ The Heldscalla Gallery



Nebulosus Severine

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dAlliez Private Estates
Java dAlliez

YOUR NEXT HOME IN SECOND LIFE

1/2 the estate is protected land
 for your enjoyment
double prims on all six islands

FOR SALE

Java dAlliez (38, 51, 24)

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

DEAR RANDI



BACK TOGETHER

OLD FLAME WANTS TO REKINDLE ROMANCE DESPITE BREAK-UP

Dear Randi: When my ex-girlfriend and I broke up around Christmas, we said we wanted to remain friends. That might sound like an old cliché, and it was a pretty painful time for me in Second Life, but I learned how to forgive and forget and we are indeed still quite close to each other. She still wants to hang out with me all the time, and told a mu-

tual friend she might be falling for me again. I still care about her a great deal, but I am having mixed feelings about re-starting our relationship. I'm utterly confused. What should I do? — J.M.

Randi says: Follow your head first, and only then, after some clear thinking, should you follow your heart. Ask her directly about the situation instead of

trying to talk through friends. If she says she wants you back, tell her you need time to think about it.

If things have changed for you, then perhaps you could give her another chance. But if you decide it is best to let your relationship remain in the past and tell her no, break it off quickly and firmly - it will ultimately be less painful for both of you.

RANDI'S PHOTO CASEBOOK

Raif tries to fend off Danie's advances...



No! I love you, and I know you love me!

I don't! So just go in case Flora turns up.



I KNEW it! You're cheating on me with her!

to be continued...

MAID OF HORROR A SPECIAL DATE

Dear Randi: I was recently invited to the SL wedding of an old friend I haven't seen much of lately. When I looked at the guest list, I noticed the maid of honour is someone who thinks of me as a mortal enemy even though I don't have a problem with her. Should I hope bygones are bygones and attend, or should I stay away and make sure there is peace on the wedding day? — P.B.

Randi says: Give a plausible excuse, and stay away from the ceremony. The happy couple deserves to have a wonderful day. Express your best wishes for them, and give the couple a small gift a few days after the nuptials.

Dear Randi: I met a newbie girl on her first day in SL about three weeks ago, and find our relationship growing deeper every day. I want to do something unique for her on Valentine's Day to show her how much I care about her. Every guy gives flowers and chocolate and takes his girl to a fancy club, but I want to be different. Any suggestions? — E.J.

Randi says: Write a poem for her! You'll find you have the words somewhere. Compare her to the most beautiful things you can imagine, and improve it over a few drafts before getting a trusted female friend to read it. Your words may sweep your girl off her feet.

Dedric Mauriac's Gadgets

Message Board
Visitor Counter
RSS Reader
Work Requests
Digital Clock
Item Dispenser
Web Browser
Password Generator
USA Timezone Clock
Feed Display
Comment Drop Box
Sim Land Owner Scanner
Regeneration Chamber
Particle Lab
Victorian Dunking Booth
Druid Staff
Victorian Game Clock
Lava Lamp
Tech Bug
Grave of Lost Souls
Spinning Globe

Currently located in Higgins (240, 200) or just search places for "Dedric Mauriac"

THE GUIDE WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK!

THIS WEEK: RESTAURANTS

FINE DINING

THE TOP EATERIES FOR THAT PERFECT VALENTINE'S DAY DATE



By GAETANA FAUST

CONTEMPORARY: The Sea Side Club

If you're looking for the perfect place to take your special someone for Valentine's Day, there are a multitude of dining options to make the date memorable. Baileya (78,71,21) is home to Prok's Seafood, owned by SL pioneer Prokofy Neva. Salsa music plays while diners enjoy fresh lobster or hot dogs. Anyone who's been to the New England coast can relate to the picnic tables, weather-beaten pier, and tank of fresh crabs. Another waterside dining option is the SeaSideClubatGrant

(236,24,22). Style and sophistication rule at this contemporary club. Diners can use the buffet and dine at modern glass tables on black and chrome chairs. The tables overlook the boardwalk where dancing is a must after a night of good food, wine, and company. Sublime Restaurant in Sunwi Do (186,140,114) offers several options for diners, but at a price. There's a shop where you can purchase some sushi and a bottle of wine. If you'd prefer having a sit down meal, you have choices. A self-service dining area

TROPICAL TIKI HUT

Mare Mare



The tiki torches and free food offer a fun and simple Valentine option.

Where: Hikuelo (92, 112)

ROMANCE BY THE RIVER

Riverside Restaurant

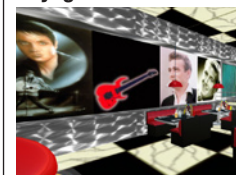


Reflecting pools, fireplaces and an intimate deck for dancing under the stars all add up to romance at the Riverside, which has a varied buffet.

Where: Holt (6, 189)

GREASE IS THE WORD

Skylight Dinner



Enjoy oldies on the juke box as you order a burger with James Dean and Elvis posters looking on.

Where: Penrith (183, 27)

2.09. - 2.15.

'DON'T MISS!' –**MUSIC****Mardi Gras**

A parade with floats built entirely by residents will kick off Mardi Gras, followed by a night of entertainment from Sebastian Jacks and Uncle Seth.

When: February 13, 16:00

Where: SoHo (111, 161)

**ENTERTAINMENT****Confessions of a Phone Girl**

Postponed from last Saturday, the one woman show featuring Noelani Mahana has performances for audiences in Europe and North America.

When: February 10, 11:00, 18:00

Where: Djork (76, 223)

**MUSIC****Ricardo Sprocket**

The unique piano and vocal stylings of Ricardo Sprocket. **When:** February 11, 14:00 **Where:** Barcelona del Oeste (169, 69)

**MUSIC****Star Yue Live on the Piano**

Concert which Elton John fans can't afford to miss.

When: 15 February, 18:00- 19:00

Where: The Lily Pad Lounge, Clyde (128, 159)

**NIGHTLIFE****Opening of Worlds End Tavern**

A friendly pub with leather sofas, so come and meet new people.

When: 12 February, 10:00- 13:00

Where: Taglia (140, 81)

**EVENT OF THE WEEK!****Bachelorette Auction**

Come along for an opportunity to buy yourself a date with a sexy single lady for a good cause. Proceeds go to Ayeshe's Angels charity.

When: February 9, 18:00

Where: Usability Island, (47, 196)

EVENTS OF THE WEEK**ART AND CULTURE****7,000 Words**

The debut exhibition in SL by artist Osiris, an international DJ, designer and consultant in RL, which will run for two weeks at the Intuitions Gallery.

When: February 9, 20:00

Where: Cetus (217, 93)

**GAMES****European Friendly Primtionary**

Come and have a go at the SL version of Pictionary - rather than drawing a sketch of something, you have to build it with prims for others to guess what it is.

When: February 12, 14:00

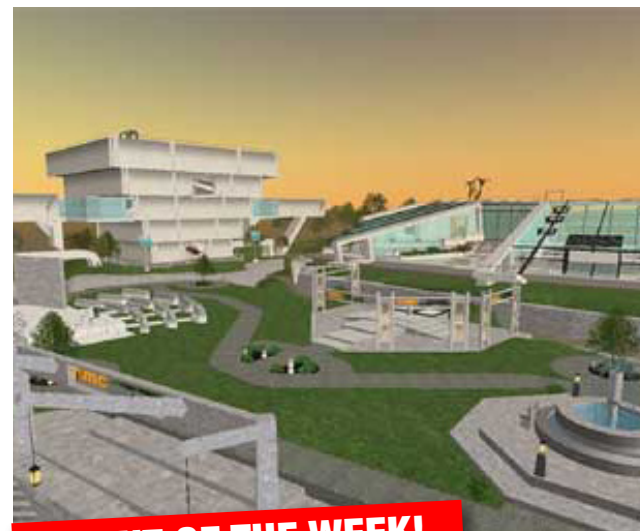
Where: Asim Zahra (187, 177)

**DISCUSSION****Asperger's Syndrome**

Come along for the weekly discussion of Asperger's Syndrome and other conditions on the autistic spectrum. Everyone welcome.

When: February 14, 17:00

Where: Dreams (128, 128)

**EVENT OF THE WEEK!****Get together through art**

A huge four sim arts event at New Media Consortium's campus.

When: 11 - 13 February

Where: NMC Campus (go to <http://www.nmc.org/campus/NMC-Campus> regarding membership)

**ART & CULTURE****Reception for Selaras Partridge**

Paintings, table-top installations and sculptures by the renowned artist on the theme of Aqua. The show is installed within the pools and architecture of Villa Bilbao.

When: 15 February, 18:00- 20:00

Where: Zeuzera (107, 167)

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.

EXPLORE AND DISCOVER

By CARRIE SODWIND

Stephane Zugzwang owns Virtual Reality Room and a chess and games room. He supports using RL experience in SL to help you become a leader.

THE AVASTAR: How was your first day in Second Life?

STEPHANE ZUGZWANG: It was June 2004. SL was much smaller than it is now and everyone knew everyone. I would walk around, stumbling on beautiful girls.



LEADER: Stephane Zugzwang

TA: What was your most embarrassing moment as a newbie?
 SZ: I had the

usual 'box on a head' moment and IM confusion. I also had a realization while playing around with friends, and someone dear to me told me I was being selfish and not paying attention to others. That hurt but was quite true. It took me some time to act on the fact that there was a real person behind each Avi.

TA: What is your advice to newbies?

SZ: SL is a place of freedom - I'm always surprised when they ask "where can I get a job". You don't need a boss here, or some kind of permission to work. Just explore, discover the world, see what's done, and then imagine further. Don't wait for someone to give you work.

TA: Where should a newbie go?

SZ: The best sims, builds and places. Svarga, your own Avastar offices (I'm in AWE of Aimee), Naughty Island and The Ivory Tower of Primitives.

DIARY OF A NEWBIE

THE CIRCUS OF SECOND LIFE

I HAD heard so much about Second Life over the previous few weeks that I just had to take the plunge and sign up.

After trying to learn the ropes at Orientation Island, I decided to go and meet some new people. The best way to do that, I reasoned, was simply to open the map and click on somewhere at random.

That was how I found myself at a horse racing track, where there were two other avatars - the sim's owner and, rather bizarrely, a clown. Nonetheless, I started chatting with them, and it proved to be a lucky landing. The clown spent the next hour giving me some to SL tips, including taking me to his private home to show me how to build things.

Needless to say, I'm not very good at it - yet! But it goes to show how friendly a place SL can be, and how just being outgoing and asking for help can reap benefits.



Clowning around

DO'S AND DON'TS: SNAPSHOTS

By GAETANA FAUST

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>DO +</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Take photos of your friends and other interesting things you see with the Snapshot feature. + Use the Camera Controls to focus your picture. + Use Alt-left mouse button to zoom in on your subject before taking a photo. + Put your favorite photo on a prim as a texture if you'd like to frame it and display it in your home. + Share a snapshot with a friend by dropping it on him or his profile. | <p>DON'T</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upload tons of photos unless you're willing to pay L\$10 for each one. - Forget to rename your photographs from the default 'Snapshot' label. - Take too many wide-angle shots with lots of people, as close-ups are usually more exciting. - Save your snapshot to the hard drive unless you want to use it offline. - Forget that if sound effects are on, others will hear a sound that tells them you're taking snapshots. |
|--|--|

THE AVASTAR OF THE WEEK

NONNA HEDGES

THE GREEN EYED BEAUTY IS ONE OF THE BEST KNOWN GOWN MAKERS IN SL. SHE TOLD THE AVASTAR ABOUT PUTTING HER CUSTOMERS FIRST, AND ALSO REVEALED HER KEEN SENSE OF HUMOUR.



By CARRIE SODWIND

PROFILE

NAME: Nonna Hedges
 BIRTH DATE: MAY 26 2004
 PROFESSION: Fashion designer
 ATTITUDE: Driven but sweet

THE AVASTAR: What is your best feature?

NONNA HEDGES: Being a creative person. I am driven by creativity and inspiration. I end up not working for months if I'm not inspired.

TA: What is your favourite place in SL?

NH: My sim in Picasso. I love it - being surrounded by my

friends and my work. I get to hear the lovely things people say about my work and how it touches them. It makes people happy, I get a lot of satisfaction from that.

TA: What would you change in SL?

NH: The lag - it eats my textures. I am in love with SL, the people, the creativity, the freedom. I suppose I would take out some of the design restric-

tions, make clothing really interesting.

TA: How do you spend time in SL?

NH: Making and selling clothes. Also exchanging work methods with the artistic community here and learning from friends.

TA: What personal SL achievements are you very proud of?

NH: My store. I am very proud of all my clothes, especially

my Devine Sarah Bernhardt wedding dress.

TA: What is your most precious inventory item?

NH: A fountain in my sim which is a little boy peeing. It's child-like, fun and classic.

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

NH: Mash Mandala, a very good man and friend. He is charitable and kindhearted.



THE
AVASTAR

Valentine's Special

**SEXIEST
LINGERÉ
P.29**

**VALENTINE
GIFTS
P.30**

**DEAR
RANDI
P.31**

**GORGEOUS
SINGLES
P.33-34**

**LOVE
STORY
P.35**

**LOVE
MESSAGES
P.36-42**

Valentine's Special

SLIP INTO LINGERIE

By ISABEL BROCCO

SLIP INTO THE SEXIEST LACE LINGERIE THIS VALENTINE'S DAY TO BRING OUT THE ROMANTIC TEMPTRESS IN YOU. THE AVASTAR PRESENTS AN ENTICING SELECTION OF NAUGHTY BUT FEMININE DESIGNS. THEY OFTEN COME WITH MATCHING STOCKINGS AND GLOVES WHICH COMPLETE THE LOOK NICELY. FOR THE MEN, LOOK NO FURTHER FOR THE PERFECT GIFT FOR THE GIRL YOU HAVE YOUR SIGHTS ON THIS FEBRUARY 14!



Purity Babydoll
 NYMPHETAMINE Boutique
 The Sirens Grotto (162, 101, 26)
 Nymphetamine has some really simple but beautifully made designs. This classic all-in-black look is lined with a fluffy rim to make you extra soft - and irresistible! Dress it up with some delicate jewellery.



Madame bijouset
 NYMPHETAMINE Boutique
 The Sirens Grotto (162, 101, 26)
 This can make a risqué evening outfit as well as a beautifully embroidered courset.



Soie Seduction
 French Gallery-Haute Couture Designs
 Pickerel (176, 182, 130)
 A very French number. The detailed silver texture sets off grey eyes beautifully.



Stardust
 Nomine (80, 245, 90)
 This is a really unusual shape. The small areas of exposed skin and the see-through fabric of the dress are very sexy but leave just enough to the imagination to make it interesting. Looks great on dark and mysterious women.

Valentine's Special

PERFECT GIFT IDEAS

By TINA (PETGIRL) BERGMAN



Valentine Gift Bag #3 with Balloons
 By Jinger Curie
 Kane 195 229 127

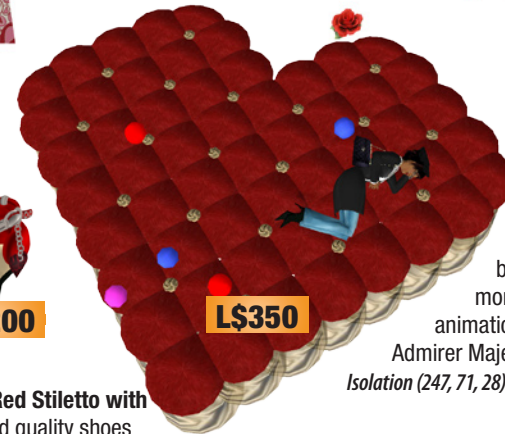


"Charmed" Heart/Red Stiletto with a cute heart Deep red quality shoes with a sexy heart at the ankle. By Sylfie Minogue, Sylfie's Prim Seduction ~ East of Eden, Sylfie (49, 34, 23)



Happy Valentine's Day Cards - choose from 18 varieties, and send a card to the one you love.
MobVend,Dance Pa,
 Sinaburoe (235, 169, 52)

Valentine Egg
 in five different beautiful and romantic designs - give your partner a real surprise this Valentine's Day! By Cadence Tanner, Sinaburoe (249, 176, 52)



Down Pillow Top Romantic Bed
 A fantastic heart-shaped bed for those special moments. With lots of creative animations in-bullit. By Secret-Admirer Majestic. Isolation (247, 71, 28)



Versace Farah Gown and Bling Jewelry. Be the life and soul of the party in seductive red, mixed with Sylfies show and you are the queen of the show. Versace Milland. By Blue Crew, Blue Crew Mall & Entertainment, Noul (33, 107, 153)

L\$525

Valentine Table for Two in your choice of red, black, white or, of course, pink. By Casandra Jackson Chairs and table L\$50 each Chair scripted by Craig Altman Voti (217, 11, 23)

Valentine's Special

ROMANCE - CELEB STYLE!

HOW THE FAMOUS SPEND VALENTINE'S DAY

By CARRIE SODWIND



In Kenzo

Common Cure, my partner, likes to take me dancing at goth and industrial clubs but I'd be so happy to curl up by the waterside at the new ManorMeta and relax. Sort of a stay-at-

home night for the hard working SL developer. Sue Stonebender made a great tub for two at my new home, and I would like to try that out. Other cool places include 'Peace, truth, wisdom, chaos and beauty'.



My dream SL date would show up at my door and say 'Hey Kit! Shopping spree on me!!' He of course, like any gentleman, would tote around all my bags & boxes, after which

we would return to my place so I could try it ALL on. We would do Celestial Studios, Luminosity, ETD - the list goes on! THEN I'd put on the most fabulous gown I had bought that evening and we'd go dance at the Lost Gardens until dawn.



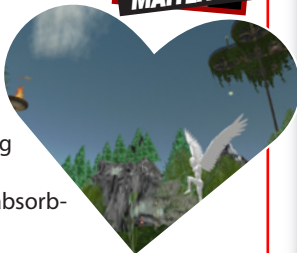
KIT MAITLAND:



JUELL RESISTANCE

If it is the right person, then the perfect place is wherever you are! I would be near water, and open sky, sunset. I would be naked and free, unconcerned about anything

but being in that moment. One of the most romantic places I have been was at a cabin in the woods, cuddling in a fat overstuffed leather chair, listening to jazz, and absorbing his mind and soul.



Dear Randi

SERVE UP THE PERFECT DAY

By RANDI BARRACUDA

Use these tips

for an unforgettable Valentine's Day:

Take a personal day away from work. Make sure to have a new outfit or two for the day. Serve your special guy breakfast in bed. Go for pastry with strawberries and cream and chocolate. Take a morning walk together or snuggle by the fire. Surprise her by treating her to a wonderful lunch,

perhaps at a pleasant cafe or restaurant. Attend an afternoon sporting event together — but make it tennis or horseracing. Guys, save the team clashes for July 4 or Boxing Day. Have dinner reservations for your favourite restaurant, preferably one with a dress code. Take her dancing or to a concert, maybe smooth jazz or classical or light rock. And gentlemen, don't worry about

overdressing. This is your night to dress to impress! Have a new outfit for bed. Ladies, go with red and black or pink and white depending upon your personal style. Guys, wear black or red in satin or silk. Do ask her for a first kiss, but don't try for your first time in bed together. Gentlemen, wait a day to propose. And ladies, wait for another night to lose your virginity. Savour the day!



Valentine's Special

SINGLES INTERVIEWS

LOOKING FOR A VALENTINE'S DATE? CHECK OUT OUR GORGEOUS SINGLES *By RANDI BARRACUDA*

BEYONCE BREYER

How would you describe yourself?

I'm fun-loving, outgoing and love to meet new people.

What do you do for fun in Second Life?

Clubbing and shopping!

Where are your favourite places to hang out in SL?

The parks, the malls, and the Ivory Tower.

Describe your dream date.

My dream guy would be online a lot, have a nice skin and be adventurous.

How would you describe yourself?

I'm a very understanding person. I care for my fellow humans, and I try to make the most of what I've got! I'm easy-going, a comedian, artist and a musician.

What do you do for fun in SL?

I like the people and endless possibilities for relationships in SL. I love to build and create as well.

Where are your favourite places in SL?

Midnight Reflection and Svarga. They're really beautiful!

Describe your dream date.

She's compassionate, smart and has a sense of humour, because I like to laugh lol! She's caring and honest, and of course she's got to be a looker!



ALAA LAA



ADRIAN WILLIAMS

How would you describe yourself?

I'm a passionate, fun-loving woman. I love life and all that it is. I'm patient, understanding, and I love good conversation.

What do you do for fun in Second Life?

I love to dance, make new

friends, and shop!

Where are your favourite places in SL?

Paris and Rome. Those are places I have not seen in RL and I really enjoy going there in SL.

Describe your dream date.

He's tall, dark, handsome, and rich! I also like a man who is passionate and can hold an intelligent conversation.

How would you describe yourself?

I'm somewhat serious and sometimes funny. I'm self-absorbed at times, but I try to correct all my mistakes!

What do you do for fun in SL?

I like walking with someone I want to know better; to let her know I'm human and my heart is out there.

Your favourite places in SL?

A place called "Support for healing". It's an island full of pretty flowers and trees and places to make love.

Describe your dream date.

My dream girl does not have to be perfect, but have a style that makes her one hundred per cent a lady with beauty inside and out.



GINO SNOWDROP

Valentine's Special



HOLLY RIISER

How would you describe yourself?

Sexy, easy-going and fun-loving.

What do you do for fun in SL?

I like to go dancing, shopping, socializing with friends and hanging out at the beach!

Where are your favourite

How would you describe yourself?

I'm kind, gentle, humorous and thoughtful of others.

What do you do for fun in SL?

Explore, learn to build and script, and work with international people.

Your favourite places in SL?

My casino, Las Vegas. It is one of the best in SL, and I strive for it to be second to none!

Describe your dream date.

My dream date is with a girl who is not after my money, but after my friendship.



NATURELLE SANTOS

How would you describe yourself?

I'm an ambitious, complicated, kind but selective black woman.

What do you do for fun in SL?

I'm trying almost everything here except shooting. I love my modelling job! And I like to sail in my boat.

How would you describe yourself?

I'm smart, stylish, friendly, ambitious and loyal to my friends.

What do you do for fun in SL?

I work really hard at my job!

Where are your favourite places in SL?

One of the nicest places for me is

Svarga. It's beautifully designed. A must-see place for all! And I like Apfeland and AvaStar Island too.

Describe your dream date.

She should be intelligent, cute and maybe she speaks German!



RAINA EMMS

How would you describe yourself?

Cute, flirty, affectionate, best friend, giving, trustworthy, fun, and oh yeah — flirty!

What do you do for fun in Second Life?

I'm starting up a photo studio. I love shopping, spending time with my best friends, and more shopping.

places in SL?

I hang out at Paradise Lost, a dance club. And I have a thing for fast vehicles, so I'm on the road a lot racing my sports car or motorcycles.

Describe your dream date.

Someone who is very romantic, sweet, and easily able to express feelings.



INYUR ORBIT

Where are your favourite places in Second Life?

Every day I find an amazing new place. I can't say just one. Some are beautiful for the nature and others for the architecture.

Describe your dream date.

He must be sweet and strong, but never rude and never vain.



JOERG GARMES

Where are your favourite places in SL?

Gardens of Apollo, Woman's Touch, Damselmy, Blaze, Phat Cats and Femme Gardens.

Describe your dream date.

My dream date would be friendly, willing to share her life with others, affectionate, passionate, willing to share interests, and beautiful on the inside as well as out.

Valentine's Special

WEDDING BELLS:
Marriage bliss for
Nikkola and Iceberg

By RANDI BARRACUDA

TRUE LOVE PREVAILS

A SECOND LIFE TALE OF ROMANCE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILIES WITH A HAPPY ENDING

WHEN Nikkola Thatch first saw the man she would eventually marry, the experience literally almost bowled her over.

That's because newbie Col-das Iceberg, in just his fourth day in Second Life, had yet to perfect his walking skills. The dashing builder was looking for a house last October when fate brought their avatars together.

"I ran right through her," Iceberg said.

"He not only ran into me, he dragged me for I don't know how many metres!" according to Nikkola.

"Right into a wall", her husband added, laughing.

It didn't take her long to forgive him. After a short engage-

ment they married on December 8 in a private ceremony on Enchanted Isle with just her two sisters present, and on January 15 their daughter Jacqueline Rebecca Iceberg was born.

The family now lives in a spacious eight-room home 300 metres off the ground in Sumatran. And Thatch, a former DJ and event planner who had three SL relationships including a one-year marriage before meeting Iceberg, said they don't really need to go out much now. They just like sitting around the pool with their new baby.

Nikkola also had a history of boyfriends in SL.

"Those were practice for the

real thing," she said with a laugh. "He is totally 'it' for me. He is truly my soulmate." Iceberg said he fell in love with Thatch's strength of character. "I think her independence, and knowing what she wanted in life," he said of what attracted him to his bride. "I feel safe and loving with her."



BABY MAKES THREE:
The happy family

Valentine's Special

READERS' PERSONAL MESSAGES

PROCEEDS TO AYESHE'S ANGELS (AYESHESANGELS.BLOGSPOT.COM)

- ♥ **Deeep Witte:** "My Lovely Butterfly and Muse in SL... You make this second life worth living every second. Deeeep."
- ♥ **MarkTwain White:** "To Nber Medici. Baby, you are my beloved. From MarkTwain White."
- ♥ **Baba Coen:** "MelaMia, I love you so much. You are such a sweetie and I love everyday that I am with you. Can't wait to live with you. Hihi!"
- ♥ **Deep Voight:** "I LOOOOVE Lillani Lowell! She's beautiful, brainy and the best Big Brother girl ever! And Dictatorship rocks! Happy Valentine's, from DV"
- ♥ **Regis Braathens:** "Happy Valentine's to all of the AvaStar's fantastic readers and to the hard working editorial staff for making it possible! Thanks to you all!"
- ♥ **Carrie Sodwind:** "Dear Valentino Schnabel, The AvaStar Island is really empty without your big fat belly, it used to make me giggle how it wobbled just like jelly. Visit soon, Carrie xx"
- ♥ **Paul Bumi:** To Keala Kanloops: See ya on the water – hangloose

ADVERT

SAY
GOODBYE
TO
THE
GRIDHOPPING

CATWALK
CITY

Valentine's Special

LOVE MESSAGES

From Tina (PetGirl) Bergman:

- ♥ **To Deir** - My lovely GF that is always in my mind and close to my life in SL & IRL
- ♥ **To Pham** - Thanks for all your support - my great friend and mentor!
- ♥ **To Osprey** - I know you are always out there
- ♥ **To Finn** - A Real Gentleman in strange place called Cyber you are unique
- ♥ **To April** - I miss you a lot in SL
- ♥ **To Est and Yosh** - Friends from the start - hope we will be for a long time
- ♥ **To Juro** - My inspiration in building
- ♥ **To Swedish People in SL** - soon we take over completely - Keep on!
- ♥ **To Sylfie** - The queen of shoes - and I love shoes!
- ♥ **To Alexa, Leck and Taco** - You will for ever be in my Heart - and you know why
- ♥ **To Kapital and KTH** - You are the fighting spirits - Keep ON!
- ♥ **To Tina Karlfeldt** - You are great but prob you cant accept that - my friend!
- ♥ **To Anna Engel** - I miss you too
- ♥ **To all my lovely kind special secret alts** - H&K to you all 124147854 ones!
- ♥ **To Second Sweden and Johan** - so new to me but already a part of me
- ♥ **To Script Shark** - My so special man - still my friend.. my X
- ♥ **To Ichinisan Muromachi** - You Made it! - The world is yours...
- ♥ **To Second Citizen** - SC - You are all lovely - lets ROCK!
- ♥ **To Transparant** - Yepp not longer away when I need support than an IM - Du är en pärla!
- ♥ **To Princess Nina, Nikki, Ara, Craig, Jerusha and Jimbo** - Old times that are still in my Heart
- ♥ **To Linden Lab** - You make it possible – don't forget to do that tomorrow too
- ♥ **To All my shoes** - a special Valentine's Greeting to you all. You have a very special part in my heart.
- ♥ **To The AvaStar Gang** including all of us that do it. Keep on we are needed
- ♥ **To M2 and KK and P2**... you are needed to :-)
- ♥ **To All of Second Life** - without You all we dont have a (second) life - K&H to you all
- ♥ **To Dana** - TKS for ALL support since years back!
- ♥ **To All you that left SL** - Come back please
- ♥ **To All that i forgott** - Please forgive me!
- ♥ **To You two pillars that are gone** - All forgiven please come back to my inventory!
- ♥ **The asset server of LL** - please please i forgive all have a nice Valentine's Day!

Valentine's Special

To Carla Fonda, my partner:

*There are shadows surrounding me,
But as far as I can see.....
I want to share my life with you.
I love you more than I can say....
With my meagre words,
and I believe in you completely.*

Rit Tracer Feb 2007



Valentine's Special

LOVE MESSAGES

- ♥ **Wirxli Flimflam:** Tea Chenille - although your zebra stripes make people think your world is black & white, I know my love for you is always blurred due to some irrational purple haze - Luv, Wirxli
- ♥ **SpindaRella Stella:** You're my Sweet Valentine. I love you baby and I can't wait to become your wife. You're my heart and soul, can't wait to begin my life with you as one ;)
- ♥ **Randi Barracuda:** To my special secret angel: You're the only one forever and always. All my love, Randi.
- ♥ **Isabel Brocco:** DJ, You brighten My days more than I thought possible. Thank you for you. Happy Valentine's, love You Isa.
- ♥ **Martin Mounier:** I am sending love to Kestrel, my oldest Online friend, Dina the warm Dutch heart and wonderful Sandy.
- ♥ **To my beloved Schokostern** – My love was for free, my friendship costs you yours – Hugs and Kisses, Sincerely yours Bohemian.
- ♥ **moo Money:** I'd like to thank the Machinima community for working hard.. Every day is a new adventure and I'm glad to be growing and learning with you. <3 moo
- ♥ **Vanessa Larsen:** When we came together, I had nothing. You offered me your heart, and now I have everything. Your soul is within mine. I will love you for eternity, Boo. Nessa.
- From Simone Stern:**
- ♥ **To Shaun Altman:** What are we gonna do today, Brain? Looking forward to another full year of foxy plotting! Happy V Day!
- ♥ **To Susan Pegler:** Happy V Day to Susan 'Gibraltar' Pegler, the woman who can weather any storm, and does it all with style!
- ♥ **To Nerine Kasei:** *passes you a memo in triplicate that reads, scrawled in red Crayon: "Happy V Day!"**
- ♥ **To Forseti Svarog:** "It is one of the blessings of old friends that you can afford to be stupid with them." - Ralph Waldo Emerson
- ♥ **To Brace Coral:** "My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me." - Henry Ford I lub you too, Stephen rolls his eyes, and Squeaks says hi!
- ♥ **To Tashie Oddfellow:** Happy V Day from your friend, the seppie. ;D
- ♥ **To hyasynth Tiramisu:** "Fate chooses your relations, you choose your friends." - Jacques Delille ... thanks for choosing me; you're more prized to me than a vintage beaded purse. ;D

Valentine's Special

LOVE MESSAGES

- ♥ **To Prokofy Neva:** "I do not wish to treat friendships daintily, but with the roughest courage. When they are real, they are not glass threads or frost-work, but the solidest thing we know." - Ralph Waldo Emerson
- ♥ **To Shyone Lehane:** "Friends have all things in common." - Plato I'm so glad I know you, Shy, you're canned sunshine, girl! ;D
- ♥ **To Raven Callisto:** Happy V Day to my friend, the work of art: "A Friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of Nature." - Ralph Waldo Emerson
- ♥ **To Fallingwater Cellardoor:** If friends are like diamonds, strong, brilliant, rare, and valued, then you've enhanced my life beyond measure. You're 'two' of a kind, love you both!
- ♥ **To Shiryu Musashi:** I'd say you were like a brother, but then we'd have to fight more often. ;D Happy V Day my friend! ;)
- ♥ **To Bianca Darling:** Just remember, I'm the friend who saw the intelligent smartass FIRST.... ;D Thank you for being the pink Prada in a world full of beige Coach bags.... ;D
- ♥ **To Hosequeen McLean:** You know that one friend who makes you laugh no matter how bad you feel, makes you hurt less when you feel like hell, makes you see daybreak... thank you. ;)
- ♥ **To Candace Sullivan:** You don't write, you don't call....and I still love ya. ;D Happy V Day! ;)
- ♥ **To Sammy Stewart:** YOU'RE STILL OLDER! (Pasta, and shopping, promise?) Looooove you! Happy V Day ;)
- ♥ **To Jade Jensen:** Happy V Day to one of the most gifted people I know. You're all that and a side of cheesecake so hush. ;) Love you too!
- ♥ **To Salome Strangelove:** "The best mirror is an old friend." - George Herbert ... The longer we're friends, the better lookin' I get! *hides* Happy V Day!
- ♥ **To Carl Metropolitan:** The sexiest male model EVAR. ;D Seriously, thank you for all you do, for all of us. Happy V Day!
- ♥ **To Ava Cartier:** Some people, you just click, you know it's 'real' no matter what. So yeah, my friend, no matter what. :) And *I* am the cuter one. -.-
- ♥ **To Ciera Bergman:** You one stink-a....(Ok, seriously, you know. *drivebytacklehugstobits* U R TEH SCHIZNIIIIIT!)
- ♥ **To Stephen Psaltery:** D00d. Totally. Whu'evur. STFU. zOMG yer such a dork. *hands you Cuddles, the gassy cat* Let's watch some Stargate, ,k? ;)



Valentine's Special

LOVE MESSAGES

From Simone Stern:

To Ayeshe Millions:

At words poetic, I'm so pathetic
That I always have found it best,
Instead of getting ,em off my chest,
To let ,em rest unexpressed,
I hate parading my serenading
As I'll probably miss a bar,
But if this ditty is not so pretty
At least it'll tell you
How great you are.

You're the top!
You're the Coliseum.
You're the top!
You're the Louver Museum.
You're a melody from a symphony by Strauss
You're a Bendel bonnet,
A Shakespeare's sonnet,
You're Mickey Mouse.
You're the Nile,
You're the Tower of Pisa,
You're the smile on the Mona Lisa
I'm a worthless check, a total wreck, a flop,
But if, baby, I'm the bottom
You're the top!

Your words poetic are not pathetic.
On the other hand, babe, you shine,
And I can feel after every line
A thrill divine Down my spine.
Now gifted humans like Vincent Youmans
Might think that your song is bad,
But I got a notion I'll second the motion
And this is what I'm going to add;

You're the top!
You're Mahatma Gandhi.
You're the top!
You're Napoleon Brandy.
You're the purple light
Of a summer night in Spain,
You're the National Gallery
You're Garbo's salary,
You're cellophane.
You're sublime,
You're turkey dinner,
You're the time, the time of a Derby winner
I'm a toy balloon that's fated soon to pop
But if, baby, I'm the bottom,
You're the top!

You're the top!
You're an arrow collar
You're the top!
You're a Coolidge dollar,
You're the nimble tread
Of the feet of Fred Astaire,
You're an O'Neill drama,
You're Whistler's mama!
You're camembert.
You're a rose,
You're Inferno's Dante,
You're the nose
On the great Durante.
I'm just in a way,
As the French would say,
„de trop“.
But if, baby, I'm the bottom,
You're the top!

You're the top!
You're a dance in Bali.
You're the top!
You're a hot tamale.
You're an angel, you,
Simply too, too, too diveen,
You're a Boticcelli,
You're Keats,
You're Shelly!
You're Ovaltine!
You're a boom,
You're the dam at Boulder,
You're the moon,
Over Mae West's shoulder,

I'm the nominee of the G.O.P.
Or GOP!
But if, baby, I'm the bottom,
You're the top!

You're the top!
You're a Waldorf salad.
You're the top!
You're a Berlin ballad.
You're the boats that glide
On the sleepy Zuider Zee,
You're an old Dutch master,
You're Lady Astor,
You're broccoli!
You're romance,
You're the steppes of Russia,
You're the pants, on a Roxy usher,
I'm a broken doll, a fol-de-rol,
a blop,
But if, baby, I'm the bottom,
You're the top!

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT

THE AVASTAR