



Walter Mencken's

# SD ON THE QT

Almost factual news

## Manne-CAN DO!

Grossmont College brings its SimMan automated mannequins out of the hospital room and into other educational arenas.

Manne-CONFRONTATIONS!

ON A GURNEY IN THE CODE BLUE ROOM, GROSSMONT COLLEGE HEALTH AND SCIENCE COMPLEX — The future of education has a new face, and it's made of plastic, rubber, and steel.

Grossmont College has already attracted attention for its use of SimMan automated mannequins in its nurse-training program. But technological innovations born within the East County community college's own hallowed halls may usher in a new era of experiential interpersonal training. Just ask Genie Reil, a Grossmont Hospital nursing specialist who works as a trainer at the complex.

It started simply enough. "One of the great features of the SimMan is that he can speak," says Reil. "We can select

phrases on a remote computer, and SimMan will say them. It's a wonderful training tool for the nurses — communication skills are a vital component of their work. We even have a randomizer — sort of like an iPod Shuffle — that prepares nurses to work with patients who are tweaked out of their skulls on methamphetamines.

"Anyway, back last year, a couple of professors from the school's Hotel & Restaurant Management program asked if they could borrow one of the mannequins to play the part of an angry, drunken restaurant patron," continues Reil. "They were having trouble drawing the correct level of splenic fury from student volunteers and hit upon the idea of having the SimMan go off on



The robots are the future.

students using recordings of actual tirades taken from hotel-restaurant security footage. Drinky McStumblebum, as we liked to call him, was a huge hit, and word spread around the school. Eventually, somebody from engineering suggested that it might be good if our guy could angrily sweep his table setting to the ground — he'd seen somebody do that at the downtown Omni after a Padres loss one time."

After that, the mannequins became a school-wide project. "Engineering set to work on the motions," recalls Reil. "The Drama Department started recording the transcripts, really turning the transcripts into performances. Before we started upgrading, the mannequins could already blink, drool, bleed,

breathe, urinate, speak, and emit realistic heart, lung, and bowel sounds. But our new model is amazing: he can flail about, spit, make rude gestures, projectile vomit, cover a room with arterial spray..."

Wait, what?

"Well, our new health-and-science complex already featured a blood-spatter room for our forensic technology students. They thought it would be fun to have Drinky actually 'paint the walls,' as they put it. They're a weird bunch, frankly."

Now, word is spreading beyond the school as well; Palomar Police Academy has expressed interest in utilizing Drinky's talents. "Dealing with incapacitated, belligerent drunks is a bigger part of a police officer's job than many of us would like to admit," says Palomar's lead academy recruit training officer D. Jackson. "Drinky McStumblebum could prove to be an integral part of effective officer formation, and I for one look forward to working with him in the near future."

## Party Like A Rock Star!

Following success of San Diego Museum of Art's combined wine-tasting/private tour of Toulouse-Lautrec French art posters, San Diego Museum of Photographic Arts holds total freaking blowout gala closing of its recent exhibit Taking Aim: Unforgettable Rock & Roll Photographs.



Shane MacGowan of the Pogues enjoys a refreshing beverage during a performance.

"Whatever they drank, you drink," explains tipsy host Patron McCovet as festivities get under way. "Have 'Beer for Breakfast' with the Replacements, guzzle 'Streams of Whiskey' with the Pogues, and knock back 'The Last Shot' with Lou Reed! Nobody gets out of here alive! Whooooo-HOOOOO!"

## Fast (Food) Times

San Diego Restaurant Week 2010 shifts focus in response to struggling economy, encourages patrons to "Go fast, go local!"

"San Diego has a proud history of locally founded — if not necessarily locally sourced — chain-restaurant operations," observes California Restaurant Association chairman Tom Ferdinandi. "From newcomers like Burger Lounge to longstanding operations like Jack in the Box to former rebels like Rubio's, this is clearly a town with a feeling for the flavor of fast food. Did you know that fast-food legend Ray Kroc lived here?"

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## WHO PLAYS WHO

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDITION



In *Glory*, **Matthew Broderick** played a Civil War officer who leads an all-black regiment into battle.



In 1999, San Diego City College president **Terrence Burgess** published *Involuntary Minorities and Higher Education*.



In *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, **Telly Savalas** played Pontius Pilate, a governor who seeks to put down an uprising.



Southwestern College president **Raj Chopra** suspended three teachers for their roles in a student demonstration.



In 2009, **Sarah Palin** played the part of a woman who had no plans to run for president.



In 2007, **Dr. Sunita Cooke** was actually made president of Grossmont College.