

*Minutes of Meeting
Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs*

*Harris' Restaurant
San Francisco, California
Thursday, April 29, 2004*

The April meeting of the Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Diefenbach. Present, and drinking from plastic cups, were Officers Diefenbach, Tyree, and Noakes. Officer Fehringer arrived shortly thereafter with a feeble excuse for being late. More drinks were poured, and exquisite hors' d'oeuvres were offered. However, it was observed that the mixed nuts had been picked clean of all macadamia and cashews, as those are the favorites of the Prez.

The "Tribute to Old SF" educational theme continued, as Officer Tyree led an historic review of the 100-year-old Flood Building. In addition to being interesting and expanding the horizons of Society members, this event gave us something to respond with when our wives asked us, "what did you talk about?" (Note: The Prez reminds all officers that strict confidentiality is required at all times for the following reasons: (1) Loose lips sink ships, (2) Secrecy makes us feel more important, and (3) It drives our wives crazy.)

At 7:15 PM, the Society re-convened at Harris' Restaurant, where Officer Monk had been holding down a barstool and a blonde. Drinks were delivered in tiny wooden barrels, and the Society was

seated at a round table in the Founder's Room. Herb Caen in a cowboy hat and his ex-wife watched over the rest of the proceedings.

As is proper, the first order of business was baseball. No one was bragging about their team, though Officer Noakes had less of a scowl than usual during this discussion. Officer Tyree offered the following prediction, and bet his house on it. "We will never see Nen pitch again."

Officer Noakes gave a good report on the health of his spouse, following recent successful surgery, which Society Members toasted.

There was a heated discussion regarding venue selection and notification that resulted in near name-calling. The issue was taken under advisement by the Procurer of Venue and has since been resolved when venues and meeting times for the next six months were sent to all Society members.

During the Literature Review section it was noted that the most popular books among Society Members are the *Da Vinci Code*, a book purchased at a garage sale, and *The Two Faces of Islam*. The ensuing conversation was brief.

A committee report on the M60BP indicated progress, and Society Members freely offered feedback on places and possible entertainment. Dates (2/25-2/27) and a general location (northern California) were offered.

Officer Tyree gave a report on his planned road trip with Becker. After hearing Lee's plans, all Members agreed that Lee will enjoy it more than Beck. Beck's letter to the U of Illinois newspaper was discussed and all agreed it was a courageous act that was also quite Stud-like.

A motion was made that Becker be offered an "intern" DHSOS membership for the summer. There was general agreement that any such membership would have to be contingent on Beck's ability to attract young, nubile women to the Society.

The Prez gave a Christina update, and indicated she had received a job offer and has a boyfriend. The Members wished them both well, and toasted them. The Prez looked like he had been hit in the stomach.

An In-Law Comparison was conducted, and it appears that all in-laws offer challenges, but only Lee's are known to appear in public bare from the waist down.

The "Safety Never Takes a Holiday" discussion centered on smoke detectors and fire extinguishers, with the Prez emphasizing the need to have plenty of both working and readily available.

Officer Tyree forgot to bring up a discussion of a group called LimeWire, but covered his butt by calling it a carry-over item to the next meeting.

There being no further items of interest, and half of the membership having fallen asleep face down in their meals, the Society adjourned at 10:15PM.