

**Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs  
San Francisco International Headquarters**

Officers

President (the PREZ)  
Communications Czar  
Procurer of Venues  
AgendaMeister  
Archivist of Knowledge

Bill D\_\_\_\_\_  
Geoff Noakes  
Lee Tyree  
Ken Monk  
Dale Fehringer

◆◆◆

Minutes of Meeting

Sauce

Thursday July 17, 2008

**Diversity**

*Diversity: Including a variety of people of different persuasions in a group or organization.*

The DHSOS is a diverse group – not so much with regard to race, or age, or sexual orientation – but of opinion.

Sauce is next door to the Albion Hotel, within walking distance of the Van Ness Muni Station. Regretfully, it does not have a round table and our wives “might” actually set foot in it. But the food is good and the bar is excellent, and that’s what would have been important to Dashiell.

**New Places to Meet**



A business meeting of the Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs (DHSOS) was held July 17, 2008 at Sauce Restaurant on Gough Street in San Francisco.

Why Sauce? Because the Procurer of Venues said so. Early in the evening he reminded us of the recent DHSOS survey about preferred venues -- in which everyone approved mixing in new venues with the old tried and true places. So this was a new venue and the type of place Dashiell would have chosen. So the DHSOS raised their glasses and toasted the Procurer of Venues for procuring this venue.

**About Sauce** (from their website ...)

At Sauce we serve what we like to call "Social Cuisine" — American comfort fare so good you'll want everyone at the table to try a bite. It's shared food without the tiny plates. Come sample Chef Ben's creations along with some drinks in the intimate Supper Club; cozy up to the beautiful redwood bar for a signature cocktail; or enjoy a meal in the bustling main dining room.

Experience what happens when Comfort Food meets California Cuisine — it could be our Tomato Bisque with white truffle grilled cheese sticks; Portobello mushroom fries; or our signature applewood-smoked-bacon wrapped meatloaf, something is sure to tickle your fancy. Located just a few blocks from the civic center in Hayes Valley, Sauce is the welcoming result of three partners' desire to create a

comfortable spot for drinking and dining. Pre-Show, post-show and for all your private events Sauce is the place. Stop by for dinner any night between 5pm and Midnight and see for yourself; what's cooking at Sauce.



Ben, Nathan, and Trip ... the owners of Sauce

### **On the Precipice of Technology**

Social networks and blogs are today's rage in interpersonal connectivity, and in keeping with our standing on the precipice of today's technology, the DHSOS invites you to watch and listen to the owners talk about Sauce at:

<http://www.brightcove.tv/title.jsp?title=1352465324&channel=33019413>

### **Assembling at the Bar**

The order in which the DHSOS assembles is becoming predictable. The Procurer of Venue is typically first to arrive, which is appropriate since he picked the place. Geoff is usually next, having commuted from his "home office" in Cole Valley, and he and the POV are usually deep in a discussion when the rest of the gang arrives. Ken is often next, and he typically wins first place in the "farthest distance" contest.

Dale normally arrives next, having completed his lengthy commute from Noe Valley. And last, usually by quite a bit, is the PREZ. Tonight, true to form, the PREZ was last to arrive, at 6:23 PM. He offered a flimsy excuse about having to attend some work-related thing.

By the time the PREZ arrived, the POV and AOK had settled their \$5 bet on the winner of the Democratic presidential primary; and a new \$5 wager had been made between the POV and Communication Czar on whether Gavin Newsom will be elected as California's next governor.

We discussed Beck's blog, concluded that he seems to be having a great time in Europe, and raised our glasses in a toast to the Beckster.

The PREZ contributed to a discussion of possible sites for future DHSOS meetings by offering Schroeder's German Restaurant (our least favorite previously-attended venue) and Asia SF, where the waiters are cross-dressing "gender illusionists."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kO6W-u3htds&NR=1>

### **Where Was Da Burd?**



Readers who follow the DHSOS know that our mascot (an authentic replica of the Maltese Falcon) typically accompanies us at our meetings. Permanent residency of Da Burd has now been established at the home of The PREZ, and he has agreed to bring it to all DHSOS meetings. But it was not at this meeting. Where was it – home sanding the presidential floors?

## **DHSOS Offspring**

The offspring of the DHSOS seem to be having good summers. Christina continues to enjoy her job and is looking forward to Drakesbad, Beck is having a great vacation in Europe, and Katharine is recovering from shoulder surgery and was currently enjoying a mini-vacation with her Godmother in Colorado.

The DHSOS continues to be proud of its offspring and takes full credit for their successful upbringing. We raised our glasses and toasted the continued well-being of our collective children.

Note: See Beck's blog for more information on his trip to Europe:

<http://beckdiefenbach.blogspot.com/>

## **Call to Order**

The DHSOS adjourned to the restaurant's party room, where we had the entire space to ourselves. (Did someone tell the management about us?) The PREZ called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

## **Reviewing the Agenda**

The AgendaMeister called attention to tonight's agenda and referred to the list of approved topics. The DHSOS expressed their appreciation to the AgendaMeister for a job well done and raised their glasses and toasted his well-being.

## **Update on Katharine**

With her shoulder surgery behind her, (Daughter of the Society) Katharine Noakes is pretty much recovered. She has ditched her sling, has resumed driving, and is currently undergoing

physical therapy. Her arm is pretty much recovered, but she still has somewhat limited motion and hasn't yet been given the OK to start volleyball.

The DHSOS raised their glasses and wished her a speedy and full recovery.

## **The Great Grand Canyon Adventure**

Several members of the DHSOS recently rafted for a week on the Colorado River in Arizona, through Marble Canyon, Grand Canyon, and Lake Meade. They reported it was not a comfortable journey, as they were restricted in what they could take (i.e., no martinis) and slept on the sand, peed in the river, and pooped in a can. The days were long, the nights short, and the weather so hot that a drenching of ice-cold water from the rapids actually felt good.

But the views made up for the inconveniences, as they floated through majestic canyons, hiked to beautiful waterfalls, and experienced nature in one of the most unique places on earth.

Would we do it again? Maybe – if there was a bartender, martinis, sleeping bunks on a luxury yacht, and a covered, air-conditioned boat. But we raised our glasses to having completed the trip, and toasted our mutual good health.

## **Drakesbad**

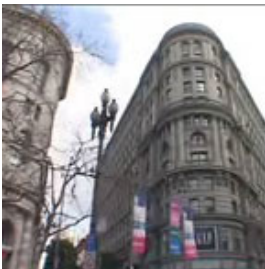
DHSOS members are looking forward to our annual sojourn to Drakesbad. We talked about Sam, a member of the next generation of DHSOS studs, who will join us at Drakesbad, and who is on a solo hike around the Tahoe Rim, proudly wearing a DHSOS cap.

And we discussed the schedule for this year at Drakesbad, which includes hikes and time at the pool. We reviewed this year's visitors which will include Bill's cousin, Jamie, and his wife, Gail, and Norm and Kathy Smith who will join us at Morrison's Lodge. And we agreed to not discuss the invited guest of the presidential daughter, who is also known as the perfect child of the DHSOS.

We reviewed drink assignments for the trip and discovered that the Archivist of Knowledge and his spouse had none, so they were assigned the task of supplying drinks during the nights at Morrison's Lodge. This is considered a probationary assignment, after the experience with Chili Beer a few years ago.

The Society agreed that we are all looking forward to Drakesbad and raised our glasses and toasted an upcoming great time.

### Visitors to Lee's Office



Lee described a dichotomy in attracting young ladies to his downtown San Francisco office. Katharine Noakes readily approached Lee's "Man Cave," had lunch with Lee, and described it as a "very good experience." But Katie Herman, who works one floor above Lee, has not called him, come to his "Man Cave," nor had lunch with him. Lee seemed nonplussed, saying, "It's her loss."

The DHSOS raised their glasses, toasted Lee, and wished him continued success in his Man Cave.

### Car Shopping

The AgendaMeister continues to search for the perfect second car, and has narrowed his search to two possibilities: (1) an Audi A4, and (2) an Acura TSX.

He asked the advice of the DHSOS but unfortunately received none that was even remotely helpful. Lee tried to sell him Misty's used Porsche and the rest of the members tried to talk him into buying cars they would like. It was wasted energy on the part of the AgendaMeister.

Note: Since the meeting, the AgendaMeister has secured a car. It's a dark blue Acura TSX. His comment: "It's a chick magnet."



### Found Money

The PREZ reported that his sister had recently told him about a website where people can see if a state is holding unclaimed money for them. When he checked his name, there were several unclaimed funds in his surname, but unfortunately, he is not eligible to claim any. But he encouraged other DHSOS officers to check their names, and he passed along the website address:

[www.Missingmoney.com](http://www.Missingmoney.com)

The DHSOS thanked the PREZ, raised their glasses, and wished him better luck in the future.



## Remodels

It seems that DHSOS members have a diverse manner of handling home remodels.

Lee wants to have what he calls a “turnkey” solution to his upcoming kitchen remodel. By that, we assume he means he doesn’t want to do any of it himself.

Geoff has interviewed contractors to help with his bathroom remodel, but he and Nancy plan to buy all hardware themselves and they will do as much of the handiwork as possible.

Bill, who is currently having his floors sanded, hired a “cheap” firm to do the dirty work, but is doing the moving and clean-up himself.

## Noakes vs. Muhawieh (Round 4)

The Communication Czar updated the DHSOS on the construction at the next-door house.

The “Mess Next Door” has been torn down to the studs, and a new foundation seems to be developing, with rebar and lots of noise. Geoff has met with the architect and was shown a new plan that appeared to be for a four-story house with numerous bedrooms and bathrooms.

Without prior approval, the construction crew started to tear down the fence (on Geoff’s property) between the Noakes’ and the Mess Next Door. Geoff asked what they intended to replace it with and was shown plans for a fence with horizontal slats. Geoff put a stop to it and informed the other neighbors of the plans. Now he’s being told that a two-sided fence will be built instead, with vertical slats on the outside and horizontal ones on the inside.

## “End of the World” Survey

On their recent drive from Indiana to California, Lee and Beck discussed a list of potential threats to life on earth. Based on the collective input of those two great minds, the DHSOS was asked to rank order the list in the order in which we think presents the greatest threat to life on earth. The list was:

- artificial intelligence
- asteroids
- global warming
- HIV
- malaria
- shortage of drinking water

This engendered a lengthy discussion of what “rank order” means, how to complete the survey, whether these were the right choices, and several other unrelated topics. The long and short of it is that no one completed the survey prior to the meeting.

After considerable discussion, we engaged Liz the waitress to help settle the debate. Her number one threat (de-forestation) wasn’t even on the list. When Lee threatened her tip, she reluctantly completed the survey and the rest of the DHSOS then also did so.

Since the meeting a flurry of emails has gone back and forth between DHSOS members regarding the list, the past and likely future occurrence of atmosphere-penetrating asteroids, the significance of overpopulation, etc, etc, etc. Some opinions were fact-based while others seemed to have no basis at all.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFA5GljknJw>

In the end, the DHSOS arrived at a diverse list of top potential worldwide threats:

The Prez	Overpopulation
Procurer of Venues	Asteroids
Communication Czar	Muhawieh
Archivist of Knowledge	De-forestation
AgendaMeister	Crop Circles

So what will become of the survey? Lee guaranteed that the results will be published in a future issue of *National Geographic* magazine. Other members of the DHSOS assumed this will be the last we will hear of it.

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/>

### Online Banking

As follow-up to an item discussed at an earlier DHSOS meeting, the AgendaMeister reported that he has successfully signed up for online banking. He reported satisfaction with his experience and indicated a sense of accomplishment at joining the 21<sup>st</sup> century of high-stakes finance.

### Baseball

This may have a first for us: there was no mention of baseball at all. This may be because of (1) the Giants and As lousy teams, (2) the Dodgers being tied for league lead, or (3) we just plain forgot.

### Luddite

After displaying lack of knowledge on some technical issue, The PREZ was recently called a “Luddite.”

Unfortunately, he wasn’t familiar with the term. Research has indicated that it has specific historic roots, but it has now come to refer to someone who isn’t quite “with-it” in regard to some technical issue.

#### Luddite

(historically): One of a group of early 19th century English workmen who destroyed laborsaving machinery as a protest;  
(broadly): One who is opposed to technological change.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the DHSOS will take place Thursday, September 18. Lee will send out instructions on the venue when he is good and ready.

### Adjournment

It had been an interesting evening, with an appropriate mix of good food, strong drink, and noble friends. But we were out of drinks and getting tired. So we paid the check (Lee carefully counted out the cash for Liz), issued hearty handshakes all around, and walked out into the damp night air.

That’s it for now, Man.

☺ ☺ ☺

