

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

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Minutes of Meeting

EspetuS

Thursday January 31, 2008

Assembling at the Bar

A business meeting of the Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs (DHSOS) was held January 31, 2008 at EspetuS Brazilian Steakhouse in San Francisco. This was our first meeting of 2008 and it involved a combination of literary dialogue and social association. As has become the customary pattern, the Procurer of Venues was first to arrive and he secured real estate for the Society at the bar and ordered a martini. One-by-one the other officers fought their way through the rain and secured their own libations. The last to arrive, accompanied by a cold, but no Burd, was the PREZ. But he had fought the traffic for 40 minutes to get there from downtown...in spite of his serious illness.

Professional baseball was the topic du jour, with mediocre expectations for the local teams. But for die-hard fans like the DHSOS, baseball is a love affair, and each new season brings fresh hope that things will improve.

A Manly Restaurant

This meeting was held at EspetuS, a Brazilian churrascaria steakhouse. This was different for the DHSOS, which typically meets at traditional San Francisco restaurants that were around during the days of Dashiell. But this place met our qualifications, because

Dashiell would have dined there had it been around and our wives would never set foot in the place. And it is a manly establishment, as evidenced by the abundance of red meat.

Churrascaria: A Brazilian Steakhouse

EspetuS bills itself as a “churrascaria,” which according to wikipedia is a Brazilian or Portuguese steakhouse. Churrasco is the cooking style, which translates roughly from the Portuguese for “barbecue.”

Distinctly a South American style rotisserie, it owes its origins to the fireside roasts of the gaúchos of southern Brazil traditionally from the Pampa region, centuries ago. In modern restaurants, rodizio service is typically offered. Passadors (meat waiters) come to your table with knives and a skewer, on which are speared various kinds of meat, be it beef, pork, filet mignon, lamb, chicken, duck, ham (and pineapple), sausage, fish, or any other sort of local cut of meat.



About EspetuS

(From the EspetuS website):

At EspetuS the fun starts after you sit down and spin your granite-topped table's little wheel to green ("Sim por favor"): suddenly a steady stream of handsome gauchos dressed in black poofy pants, white shirts, and distinctive ties descend upon your table, offering sword-like skewers of beef, pork, lamb, and chicken. With your nod, the gaucho will slice off a piece of meat which you can then grab with a pair of tongs and place on your plate. When your plate is full, spin your table's wheel back to red ("Não obrigado") to temporarily stave off the flow of meat until you're ready for more.

Call to Order

The PREZ called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. It was tough to get anyone's attention, given the roving gauchos in their "poofy" pants and the smell of cooked meat in the air. But the stern demeanor of the PREZ and his good management skills inspite of the undisciplined nature of the DHSOS soon brought the group to an orderly attention.

A Good Luck Toast

This meeting was held on the eve of knee replacement surgery for the Archivist of Knowledge, who has whined about his gimpy knee for a long time. The Studs raised their glasses and wished him good luck and a speedy recovery.

Hillary and Barack



We were in the middle of one of the most interesting U.S. presidential primaries of our lifetime (the

first one in a half-century that didn't include a sitting U.S. President or Vice-President) and the Democratic primaries were a very tight race between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. A spirited discussion of the merits of each candidate ensued, and the Procurer of Venues and Archivist of Knowledge wound up making a \$5.00 bet, which was sealed with a firm handshake.

This is a cynical crowd, and most were somewhat suspicious of some of the recent political shannigans, especially that of Hillary being reduced to "tears" during the New Hampshire primary. One officer even suggested that Hillary is as phony as a \$2.00 bill.

Steve Martin Sighting



The AgendaMeister and Mrs. AgendaMeister recently attended a talk at the Herbst Theater by comedian, actor, and author Steve Martin. They were impressed with his knowledge and his ability to relate to the audience. The mention of Steve's name evoked a flood of memories among DHSOS officers – especially of his days on Saturday Night Live in the 1970s, when everyone stopped what they were doing and watched him perform his signature skits like *King Tut* and *Two Wild and Crazy Guys*.

Anticipating Drakesbad



The DHSOS is anticipating our summer hiatus at Drakesbad, when everyone gets a chance to relax and hang out together. The PREZ announced that

the presidential daughter will attend Drakesbad, as usual, but this year she will not share a bed with her full-grown and somewhat gangly brother. Everyone nodded in understanding.

“Fine-Looking Ladies” at the Opening of the Ballet



The PREZ and Mrs. PREZ recently attended the opening of the SF Ballet, at the invitation of the presidential daughter (who works for the ballet). He described a wonderful evening, with everyone dressed to the nines, a fabulous ballet, and a great after-performance party at City Hall. The PREZ remembered the evening as a wonderful event, and commented that there were a lot of “fine-looking” ladies at the party.

Vicki’s Birthday Party: A Lotta Fun

There was a good deal of positive discussion with regard to the recent birthday party for Mrs. AgendaMeister. The Society toasted the AgendaMeister for a job well done and agreed unanimously that it had been a great party for a great lady.

Notable quotables from the Studs:

“Fabulous!”

“Just right.”

“Frustrating.”

“A lotta fun!”

Cholesterol Meds

A survey of Society members indicated that two officers are currently on cholesterol medicine, another has “creeping up” cholesterol levels, and

the other two are thus far within safe levels. After a lengthy discussion of which meds work the best, the PREZ asked for a change in topics, as he felt that discussion of medicines and blood pressure was not befitting this youthful and virile group. This was the one of the finest presidential actions he has ever taken, and it stupified the rest of the group into silence.

Best College Bowl Game?

So what was the best College Football Bowl game of 2007? The answer depended on your perspective:

Lee: Cotton Bowl (Missouri vs. Arkansas)

Ken: Liked them all

Geoff: Rose Bowl (USC vs. Illinois)

Bill: Capitol One Bowl (Michigan vs. Florida)

Dale: Emerald Bowl (Oregon State vs. Maryland)

And which conference did the best in last year’s college bowl games? The SEC, which went 7-2.

Just Home from China

The Communication Czar was fresh back from China; I mean he had just landed that afternoon, and he still had a little China hanging off of him. This latest trip to Beijing by the Honorable and Powerful Noakes Geoff occurred at an interesting time in China.

While he was there, China was preparing for their annual Lunar New Year, the one time each year when most of the millions of transient workers take time off and travel home to be with their families. This year, China is experiencing one of the worst winters in history, with huge snow storms and massive crowds of stranded people, frozen transportation, and near riots.



Hundreds of thousands of desperate travelers, some hoisting terrified children or baggage over their heads, pushed their way onto trains as service resumed after the worst winter storms in decades paralyzed China.

SuperBowl

One of the best SuperBowl games ever was played February 3, with the New York Giants upsetting the New England Patriots and in the process spoiling the Pats bid for a perfect season. It was an exciting, well-played game, and the Studs enjoyed it; most had rooted for the Giants. But not the Prez, who cheered adamantly for the Michigan quarterback grad, Tom Brady—go blue!

GLENDAL, Ariz. — The Giants were not even supposed to be here, taking an unlikely playoff path through the behemoths of their conference and regarded, once they alighted on Super Bowl XLII, as little more than charming foils for the New England Patriots' assault on immortality.



But with their defense battering this season's National Football League's most valuable player, Tom Brady, and Giants quarterback Eli Manning playing more like Brady than Brady himself, the Giants produced one of the greatest upsets in Super Bowl history Sunday

night, beating the previously undefeated Patriots, 17-14.

-- The New York Times

The PREZ's Porsche Tour

Question: Who planned the following tour?

- a. The PREZ
- b. Mrs. PREZ
- c. The Presidential Daughter
- d. Someone the PREZ met at a party



The PREZ proudly announced that his Porsche factory tour had come through, and he and Mrs. PREZ will be journeying to Germany this April to: (a) tour the Porsche factory, (b) visit three towns in Germany named Diefenbach, (c) visit a Diefenbach cousin in Berlin, (d) spend a couple of days in Paris, and (e) visit Dr. Ted Miller in France.

Note: The correct answer is a. The PREZ

The Haunted House Next Door

What would you do if the house next to you suddenly went to hell in a hand basket? That's what has happened to the Communication Czar over the past couple of months.

The elderly woman next door passed away, and her children sold her house to a developer, who obtained a permit to make "minor" repairs to the house. The developer took the roof off and prepared to add another floor to the house, at which the Communication Czar and Mrs. Czar raised an objection.

So work temporarily stopped on the house, storms came, and rain poured

into the house, and eventually into the Noakes' house.

The developer then installed the "biggest goddamn tarp you've ever seen" over the top of the house, but winds tore up the tarp, and the rains once again poured into the house.

When the rains let up the construction workers came back, and again started to add another floor. So the Communication Czar again did his communication thing, and this time a large sign was installed on the work site: "Stop Work: Earthquake Retrofit Needed."

There's no tarp on the house now, so rain is again pouring into the house.

Damage to the Noakes' house was mitigated by their quick action – fixing the leak, bringing in fans, and taking a soaked carpet to be dried. Payment for the damage, promised by the developer, has failed to materialize. The Czar is looking for a lawyer.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the DHSOS will take place Thursday, April 3. Lee will send out choices of venues for votes by society members.

Adjournment

It had been a manly night, with an appropriate mix of good food, strong drink, and noble friends. So we paid the check, issued hearty handshakes all around, and walked out into the rainy night air.

That's it for now, Man.

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