

# Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs San Francisco International Headquarters

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Communications Czar  
Procurer of Venues  
AgendaMeister  
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## Minutes of Meeting

Hayes Street Grill

Friday March 13, 2009

### Unique Field Trip

The DHSOS has had field trips before, to some very interesting places. But this one, which was organized by the Procurer of Venues, topped them all.



We met for a tour of the National Guard Armory in the heart of San Francisco's Mission district. This 200,000 square foot reproduction Moorish Castle was completed in 1914 and was used as a National Guard facility until 1976. It is full of period detail including cavernous dungeon-like basements, stone staircases, sweeping corridors, and a gigantic drill court that spans almost an acre. During rioting in San Francisco in 1934, it served as both a barricade and safety point for officers. ([visit link](#)). In the 1940s, boxing matches were held there, and the site became a west coast version of Madison Square Garden.

In 2007, the building was sold to Kink.com, an S&M movie studio, and the location is now used to shoot movies. This has caused controversy in the neighborhood, as one would expect, and it also caused a stir among the DHSOS.

Here's an article about the conversion to Kink.com, from the San Francisco Bay Guardian:

## SFBG SAN FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN ONLINE

### San Francisco Bay Guardian

February 7, 2007

The sale of the former National Guard armory on Mission Street has caused a flurry of concern about the plans for the site of the new owner and developer, Kink.com. Most of the columns and editorials in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Examiner*, and *BeyondChron.com* have been reactionary and politically opportunistic. It has given the cheerleaders of runaway market-rate development a new reason to knock affordable housing advocates in general and the Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition (MAC) in particular.

Immediately after the Kink.com story broke, writers such as Ken Garcia blamed MAC for directly causing the sale to what other papers are calling a "porn production company."

In 2000 a multimedia office complex proposal was approved by the Planning Department and later dropped. The armory was then going to be a server farm. The server farm was approved by the Planning Department again (contrary to what Garcia has written), but the company went under. A local financier retained control and proposed an outlandish and financially risky housing proposal.

The luxury housing proposal went into the planning process, and an environmental review

had begun, but instead, the owner sold the site to Kink.com

MAC didn't know the owner was secretly negotiating the sale of the armory. Had the financiers been honest with the community, perhaps the city or some other entity could have come forward and put the armory to better use. But at this point, the sale of the armory is complete, and there's no further process necessary for the new owners to set up shop. That means it's difficult for the community or city to stop the proposed use.

Now the community finds itself responding to this purchase and to opportunists who are taking advantage of this situation to use the current plan as a wedge issue to attack MAC and other affordable housing activists who have had concerns about high-end market-rate housing development in the Mission. The Mission is both the heart of the Latino community in San Francisco and home to other communities. For a healthy and sustainable community, a measuring stick for a development project is whether it will lead to displacement of residents and community-serving businesses and contribute to gentrification.

MAC will continue to fight for equitable development through the People's Plan and the Mission rezoning process and will continue to challenge all projects that have the potential to negatively impact our community.

**Kink.com** (from their website)



Kink.com was started in 1997 by bondage enthusiast, [Peter](#), who was a PhD student. After realizing consensual BDSM games were more exciting than finance, he left academia to devote his life to subjecting beautiful, willing women to strict bondage. The result was [Hogtied.com](#), Kink's first site. Hogtied now has an enormous archives of videos depicting many tightly bound women.

Through adhering to our [core values](#), kink.com has grown into a respected company which has attracted talented employees.

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Kink's team of more than 90 people is now dedicated to bringing you the most imaginative fetish material. Each of our [unique websites](#) is directed by a webmaster who is heavily kinky. Each webmaster's passion is to bring their kink to life to deliver authentic fetish footage. Our models are never told to act or artificially struggle.

#### **Mission Statement**

Kink.com seeks to demystify and celebrate alternative sexualities by providing the most ethical and authentic kinky adult entertainment.

BDSM is about respect and trust. When you watch a Kink.com movie, you are watching real BDSM-loving people play in this context. We at Kink.com pride ourselves in the authentic reproduction of fetish activities enjoyed by those in the BDSM lifestyle.

#### **Assembling at the Bar**

The Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs (DHSOS) walked to dinner from the National Guard Armory, discussing what we had just experienced. We agreed that the National Guard Armory was indeed an historically interesting building.

We met in the bar at the Hayes Street Grill at around 7:15 pm. We were still buzzing about our field trip, and the conversation centered primarily on that subject. We sipped our drinks and reviewed an application for a male "model" at Kink.com. Among the information requested was:

- ☒ Stage name
- ☒ Orientation (gay, straight, bi)
- ☒ Role: BDSM (dominant, submissive, switch)
- ☒ Role: Sex (top, bottom, versatile)
- ☒ Physical description
- ☒ Hair color
- ☒ Why interested?

## Hayes Street Grill (from their website)



Hayes Street Grill is a neo-traditional fish house in San Francisco's Civic Center district, across the street from the Performing Arts Center, opposite Davies Symphony Hall and a block from the Opera House and City Hall.

Patricia Unterman recalls, "Richard Sander, Anne Haskell, Robert Flaherty and I opened the grill because in 1979 there simply wasn't a good choice for dinner before the opera, ballet, or symphony. We wanted such a place ourselves, so we created a restaurant that would prepare unfussy food, casual enough to work before a performance, but substantial and tasty enough to be a main event. We drew inspiration from old San Francisco grills like Tadich and the old Jack's, but we took the grill concept a step farther by seeking out local ingredients and cooking them in a modern style."

Currently Dick Sander runs the dining room, and Patricia Unterman oversees the kitchen with chef Rob Zaborny.

First thing in the morning, the grill chef calls the fish man (Paul Johnson or Tom Worthington of Monterey Fish) to find out what looks good that day, and we base our daily menu on that.

The Hayes Street kitchen is divided into three areas: a pantry or salad station, the mesquite grill, and a sauté station. The cooks collaborate on dishes to make a balanced and tempting menu.

We use an international mix of recipes, unified with a theme of fish and seafood. Above every other consideration, we want the freshness and pristine quality of the fish, produce, and naturally-raised meats to speak for themselves. Though our dishes may be inspired by Southeast Asian, Italian, French, Mediterranean, American, Indian, or Latin American recipes, they are always simple, allowing the ingredients to shine.

Many of the cooks, waiters, and maitre d's have worked at the restaurant for twenty or more years, and a good portion of our customers have been coming regularly for just as long. The Hayes Street Grill's walls are covered with autographed photos of the artists who consider the restaurant their club. Though we've remodeled since our opening 27 years ago, the original brass coat hooks along the walls remain, as does our founding philosophy of cooking only the food we would serve at home to our families, albeit dressed up a little, with a religious dedication to wholesomeness.

## Call to Order

Duh Prez called the DHSOS to order at 7:49 pm with a clang of a knife on his martini glass. All officers were present, but Duh Burd<sup>1</sup> was not, as it had the night off.

## Who Knows the Truth?

How can you tell if stories that circulate on the Internet are true? That question has haunted members of the DHSOS for some time, and it came up again during our meeting.

One option is to believe nothing you receive. Another is to believe half, which was Benjamin Franklin's advice ("Believe none of what you hear and half of what you see").

A third approach is to check everything out with a service that verifies Internet stories:

- [snopes.com](http://snopes.com)
- [TruthOrFiction.com](http://TruthOrFiction.com)
- [About.com:Urban Legends](http://About.com:UrbanLegends)
- [Suite101.com](http://Suite101.com)
- [Political facts.com](http://Politicalfacts.com)

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<sup>1</sup> Da Burd is the DHSOS' mascot. It is an authentic replica of the Maltese Falcon, which is on temporary loan to the Procurer of Venues.

## Future Outings

We discussed several possible future field trips for the DHSOS, including:

- Giants game at AT&T ballpark
- Hike in a SF neighborhood
- Hike Crystal Springs Reservoir
- Hike Mt. Diablo
- Audubon Society outing to Bodega Bay
- Hike Mt. Tam to Muir Beach

The Communications Czar is attempting to organize the next outing for the DHSOS.

## Katharine's College Decision

Miss Katharine is looking for a college, and Geoff gave an update of her efforts. She recently toured several schools in Washington and Oregon and is not interested in them, and her father plans to take her to the East Coast in April to look at schools there, including Skidmore. He promised to report back to the DHSOS at the next meeting. The DHSOS requested that Katharine select a school in a city that would be fun for them to visit.

Lee recounted how when he was seventeen and had graduated from high school his father "broke his plate" and informed Lee that he was no longer going to be fed at home. Lee joined the Navy shortly thereafter.

## Home Improvements

The DHSOS all live in "mature" houses and we all have recently completed or are in the process of updating these homes:

- Ken is considering a bathroom update. Some DHSOS officers protested, saying they like the pink tile in his bathroom, but Ken stated that "the 50s look is out!"
- Lee is kicking off a kitchen remodel, which he plans to have finished before Thanksgiving.
- Dale just finished a bathroom remodel and is in the midst of a major exterior paint job.

- Bill recently finished reworking his floors, interior lighting, and completed a major interior paint job.
- Geoff recently finished remodeling two bathrooms, and has one to go.

## Beck Tries to Keep the DHSOS "With It"

The favorite son of the DHSOS is trying to keep the DHSOS current. He's got a big job ahead of him. Here's his latest attempt:

I've been meaning to send out a list of links I thought you guys might like to check out if you want to be seen as "with it."

First off, there is one piece of Internet speak I should explain. **NWS** mean Not Work Safe. This acronym is used next to a link that may not be suitable to open while at your work desk. This could be due to either objectionable content, or if the link takes you to a site that may be construed as inappropriate (i.e. Playboy.com). **NSFW** (Not Safe for Work) is also acceptable.

### Afghanistan

I follow about 30 photo blogs, written by friends, newspapers, or wire agencies. The Big Picture, a photo blog by The Boston Globe, is one of the best. Here is a recent one on the current state of Afghanistan. It's **NWS** for violent images and such.

[http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2009/04/recent\\_scenes\\_from\\_afghanistan.html](http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2009/04/recent_scenes_from_afghanistan.html)

### Rednecks

One of my friends from U of I is now studying photojournalism at University of Ohio's grad school. He recently spent a lot of time documenting the lives of Hollars, who are isolated people who live in the valleys of the Appalachian Mountains. Many of them are without electricity or proper heating. Most don't even have cellphones.

<http://joshbirnbaum.blogspot.com/2009/03/down-in-holler.html>

"Turning me on" is one of the most popular songs on the rap radio stations right now. It's Keri Hilson featuring Lil'Wayne. Keri is new, but Lil'Wayne is very popular. He won a Grammy

this year. Just another reason why the Grammys are meaningless. It's **NWS**:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=foppm4voock>

Honda robots are taking over our bodies it won't be long until they begin to revolt.

[http://www.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1886076\\_1857761,00.html](http://www.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1886076_1857761,00.html)

Nintendo just came out with a version of the Wii for women, the Shii. It's in French, but you'll get the joke at the end, no problem. It's **NWS**:

[http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x8uczsh\\_shii-enfin-une-wii-pour-les-femmes\\_fun](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x8uczsh_shii-enfin-une-wii-pour-les-femmes_fun)

### **Instapaper**

If you regularly read online periodicals and need a way to keep track of good stuff you want to read but don't have time for, Instapaper is a great tool. For example, let say you came across a new Popular Science article which explained how asteroids were gonna kill all the overpopulated countries lacking in drinking water but weren't in a situation to read it. You could attach it to your Instapaper account (free) for future use. It's sort of like slowly creating your own newspaper through out the day until you have time to read it.

<http://www.instapaper.com/>

### **The Maltese Falcon**

Beck also found and forwarded a new review of the movie The Maltese Falcon in the New York Times. Here's a link:

<http://video.nytimes.com/video/2009/03/30/movies/1194839024645/critics-picks-the-maltese-falcon.html?8dpc>

**"I'll tell you right out I'm a man who likes talking to a man who likes to talk."**

– Kasper Gutman to Sam Spade, in "The Maltese Falcon"

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the DHSOS will take place Thursday, June 25, 2009.

### **Adjournment**

It had been a unique night with an interesting mix of the bizarre, good food, and noble friends. We paid the check, issued hearty handshakes all around, and walked out into the clear night air.

That's it for now, Man.

