

**Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs (DHSOS)  
San Francisco International Headquarters**

**Officers**

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| President (DUH PREZ)           | Bill Diefenbach |
| Communications Czar (da Czar)  | Geoff Noakes    |
| AgendaMeister (ListMan)        | Ken Monk        |
| Archivist of Knowledge (Notes) | Dale Fehringer  |

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**Minutes of Meeting**

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Izzy's Steaks & Chops

**Call to Assemble**

It was the Czar's turn to host, and he sent out an invitation:

"Studs, this schedules our next meeting," he wrote. He is a man of measured words.

**Izzy's Steaks and Chops**

As instructed, we gathered at the bar at Izzy's Steaks & Chops. Da Czar and Notes arrived first, and they grabbed the two available bar stools; the others stood behind. Martinis were ordered from the bartender, whose receding hairline, sloping forehead, and grizzly beard reminded us a little of Bluto in the Popeye cartoons. He had a dry sense of humor (telling us he was "out of vodka," then pulling a bottle from the bar), but he made a decent martini and filled the glasses to the brim.



~  
"Izzy's is a dump."

- Herb Caen

**It'd Been a While**

The DHSOS had met before at Izzy's, but it'd been a while – the last time was January 5, 2017. Before that we had dined there on January 12, 2006.

During our meeting on January of 2017, we were planning our group trip to Cabo (February 4-11), and that took up much of that night's agenda. "Most of the plans for the trip have been completed," our minutes indicated, "including airfare, rental cars, and rental house."

**Drakesbad and Gray Eagle**

We discussed our recently concluded annual glamping trip, and we weighed the pluses and minuses of Drakesbad and Gray Eagle. We reminisced that we had a respectful and appropriate ceremony at Drakesbad to honor our dear friend Misty, and we raised our glasses to her.

While some improvements have been made to the conditions at Drakesbad, we reluctantly concluded that we will stay at Gray Eagle next year, while we measured from afar the progress Drakesbad makes in developing a pool, improving their food, and hiring better employees.

~  
"I deserve all the love you can spare me. And I want a lot more than I deserve."

- Dashiell Hammett

### Duh Prez's Windows

Duh Prez's back windows were an interesting topic of conversation, both at the bar and later during dinner. It's a major effort to replace all 17 windows on the back of his house, and it's causing a significant amount of disruption to his days (and his bank balance). As he so adroitly put it, "My backside has been blowing for three days."

### Center of the Room



At our appointed hour we were escorted into the dining room and seated at a center table. It was noisy, but we were surrounded on all sides by beautiful ladies who kept a close eye on us.

### Da Burd

DUH PREZ had brought Da Burd, and he carefully removed him and stationed him in the center of the table, where he rotated to face whoever was speaking. Our waiter (did anyone get his name???) respectfully approached us and asked about "the Maltese Falcon." If there was a prize for most Hammett-informed waiters, this guy would have won it hands down. He not only knew about "the Maltese Falcon," but he was also aware there were falcon replicas around San Francisco.

When DUH PREZ asked him about the rather wild murals on the restaurant wall, he replied that they were from the movie, "The Time of Your Life," written by San Francisco's own William Saroyan and starring James Cagney and William Bendix.

He even brought DUH PREZ some literature about the murals and the movie.

### Call to Order

DUH PREZ called the meeting to order at 7:03 by banging his knife against his martini glass. We were off and running.

### Milan and Lake Como

ListMan gave a spirited update on our 2027 trip to Milan and Lake Como. All plans are now made, he reported, including airfare, transportation, lodging, and activities. He updated some contingency plans being made to see "The Last Supper" in Milan and checked in to see what travel plans each of us have for after Como. He then related a story about his summer travels to Europe in the 1970s, and how he had been "ditched" by his travel companions when he went to see "The Last Supper."

### Baseball Talk

This was an abbreviated conversation. The Giants, who are our usual favorite pro baseball team, were in the pits, and no one except Da Czar wanted to talk about the Dodgers. Notes did encourage everyone to walk past and observe the Giants "Wall of Fame" located on the exterior brick wall of Oracle Park along King Street. This tribute honors players with at least nine seasons for the Giants, five seasons with an All-Star nod, Three World Series titles with the team, or extraordinary franchise impact. The latest inductees are Brandon Belt, Brandon Crawford, Joe Panik, Buster Posey, and Pablo Sandoval.

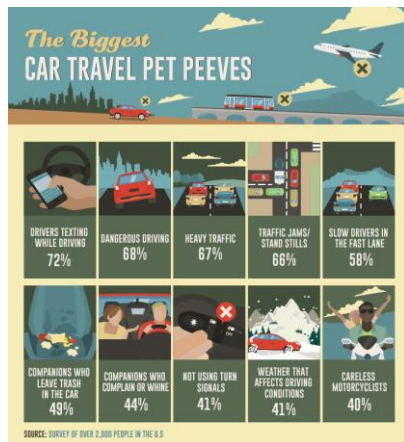
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"Hunter Pence is like my brother, and Bruce Bochy is like my dad."

- Pablo Sandoval

## Driving Pet Peeves



ListMan asked what pet peeves we have while driving, and there were many. Among those mentioned were:

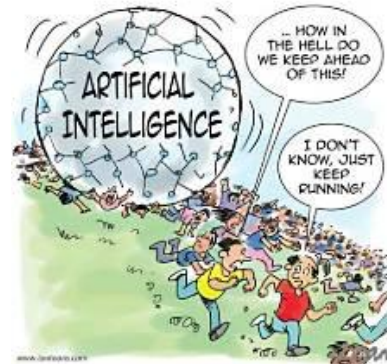
- Gigantic pickup trucks tailgating on the freeways
- Parking space “hogs” who return to their cars then sit in the parking spot and read their phones
- Non-stoppers at stop signs and stop lights
- A-holes buzzing by stopped cars on their scooters
- Late (and non) signals for left turns

## Clothes and Fashion

“Where do you guys get your clothes,” ListMan asked, thinking that there must be some secret “mature man” clothing store. The responses he got in reply were disappointing -- “My wife buys them,” and “Amazon.” He went on to another subject.



## Artificial Intelligence



This is an ongoing discussion with the DHSOS, as well it should be. It's the most talked about subject going now, and the DHSOS is a very “with-it” group. There are mixed feeling about AI among us; some welcome the help it provides to research, plan, and write, while others “hate” what it is doing to workers and teachers, among others.

An AI-related topic that came up was related to “The Sandbox Concept” that involves a secure computer space to keep AI separate from the internet and other networks. According to AI (get the irony?) the main fears of escape are: hidden tricks, where AI might appear to be safe while secretly planning a breakout, finding unknown computer bugs to slip through digital walls, and AI copying its code onto outside servers before anyone notices.

This topic will surely be continued at future meetings.

## Into the Night

It had been another stellar outing with a group of friends that has endured for more than 30 years, and tonight's meeting involved an appropriate mix of good food, strong drink, and noble friends. We stood in the parking structure just south of Chestnut Street and marveled at how the fog was keeping everything cool and damp, while much of the rest of the U.S. was baking under summer sunshine. Twenty-somethings walked by below us,

caught up in the halo of a few too many adult beverages. Tourists were enjoying pizza (and San Francisco) across the street. We had just spent an enjoyable evening with good friends in one of the most popular cities in the world!

We exchanged hearty fist bumps and wandered off to our cars. It had been another stellar evening!

### **Next Meeting**

Da Czar has scheduled the next gathering of the DHSOS for Thursday, November 5. ListMan will be the acting PoV.

That's it for now, man.

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