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

Officers

President (DUH PREZ)	Bill D_____
Communications Czar (Czar)	Geoff Noakes
Procurer of Venues (PoV)	Lee Tyree
AgendaMeister (ListMan)	Ken Monk
Archivist of Knowledge (Notes)	Dale Fehringer

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Minutes of Meeting

Sam's Grill

Thursday, November 20, 2014

DHSOS is a San Francisco-based literary society dedicated to camaraderie, good food, and strong drink, and influenced by the life and contributions of Dashiell Hammett.

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A Good Hang

Sam's Grill is a DHSOS kind a place – a joint where you can hang with buds. It has history, dating back to 1867. It has a bartender who mixes good drinks and knows how to join in your conversation without stepping on it. It has waiters with Italian accents who take care of you without smothering you. And it has good food without serving fancy-smancy bits-and-bites.

> *As I dine at Sam's I think about all of the business deals done here on napkins at lunch.*
>
> - *Trip Advisor*

Sam's menu says they are the fifth-oldest restaurant in the country. It originally opened as an oyster saloon and "in its early days," the menu says, "its most popular dishes were breaded turtle steak and green turtle soup."

The bartender at Sam's liked our style, and he joined in our conversations about fantasy football and the Giants. The manager put us in a private booth with a curtain. The waiter was talkative, but not overbearing.

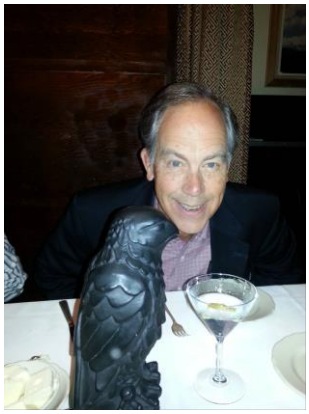
This is a good place for the DHSOS. It was a good hang.

Present and Accounted For

As is our tradition, the DHSOS met in the bar. The lunch crowd was just leaving, and they looked spent. Da Czar and Notes were the last to drag in, dripping from the evening rain.

All officers were present and accounted for. DUH PREZ called the meeting to order at 6:16 PM, and we raised our glasses in a toast to being together and to the PoV for choosing Sam's Grill. Two additional toasts were proposed: to Lew Monk for being a good guy, and to Notes for successfully officiating the wedding of DUH PREZ's favorite son.

Da Boird

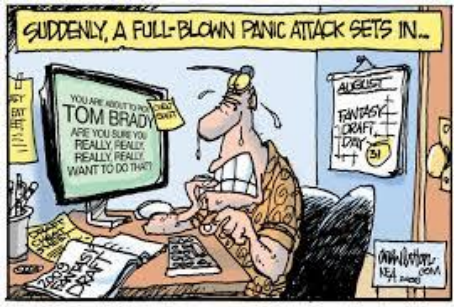


Da Boird joined us for the evening. He sat quietly most of the time, minding his own business. Our waiter was not impressed, but since it was Sam's and not John's we excused him for missing the significance. The rest of us **were** impressed and we were pleased to see Da Boird back in action!

Tennis Elbow

ListMan asked us about tennis elbow, which he claims he got from lifting suitcases. Others who have had similar complaints assured him that it will go away, and in the meantime they advised lots of ibuprofen and drinking with the other arm.

A Football Fantasy



The PoV proudly reported that his fantasy football team is 11-0 and leading the league. He has his eyes on winning the division and has already figured out how he will spend the winnings.

College Football Report

ListMan noted that the DHSOS has been unusually quiet about their favorite college football teams this season. That was greeted by more quiet. Finally, the PoV announced that his team, Missouri, is on top of their SEC division and heading to the SEC playoffs. The rest of us remained quiet.

School	2014 Win/Loss Record
California	5-7
Michigan	5-7
Missouri	10-2
Nebraska	9-3
USC	8-4

Drakesbad

Now that the DHSOS has made reservations for Drakesbad (for 2016), a discussion ensued about some recent concerning developments. Has a movement begun, for example, to impose an age limit on who stays in the Lodge? Have certain families been "snatching up" the cabins? And who exactly will run Drakesbad from now on?

These are questions that haunt the DHSOS. We feel somewhat entitled at Drakesbad, but now we are faced with a new generation of DHSOS offspring moving into our Drakesbad traditions. After much discussion and several toasts, we agreed it's all good, and we demonstrated our extreme flexibility by drinking a toast to the next generation and to the Missouri Muleskinner who we think will be the new Drakesbad manager.

As to our typical pre-Drakesbad trip, we agreed to do something a little different next year. We plan to find a place somewhere between San Francisco and Drakesbad large enough to hold all of us (and potentially Da Offspring), and we will stay there, take day trips from there, and have communal meals there. The PoV volunteered to try to locate one or more prospective places.

Offspring Update

As our loyal readers know, we're crazy about our shared offspring, and tonight we discussed their latest comings-and-goings, (of which there have been many). We toasted them, and agreed they are all doing well, despite our advice. DUH PREZ reported on the wedding of his favorite son and on his latest efforts to help Da Beckster install a gas-powered BBQ (and how son-in-law Andrew came to the rescue). Da Czar proudly reported Miss K's business successes and discussed her upcoming stint in culinary school. And the DHSOS unanimously agreed that the Perfect Child (DUH PREZ's favorite daughter) continues to be perfect in every way.

The DHSOS raised our nearly-empty glasses in a toast to all of our offspring.

Trip Reports

Notes, DUH PREZ, and ListMan gave reports on their recent trips to Vietnam, Russia, and Europe. All were good trips with very interesting stories. There were a few questions, but for the most part the rest of the DHSOS used this as an opportunity to visit the restroom and catch up on their wine.

World Series De-Briefing

Photo Credit: Beck Diefenbach, special to the DHSOS

The San Francisco Giants recently won their third World Series in five years, and the thrill of victory was still fresh in our minds.

Each of us told our favorite World Series moments, which were many, and re-living them brought huge smiles to DHSOS faces. There were stories of superhero Madison Bumgarner, Travis Ishakawa, Michael Morris, Joe Panik, and Buster Posey. And there was a lot of talk about the terrific photos of those moments by Da Beckster. We were equally proud of Da Giants and Da Beckster.

- The PoV told of seeing Michael Morris' tying home run, followed by unrestrained celebrations in the stands that included hugging and kissing perfect strangers.

- ListMan talked about key defensive plays by Joe Panik and Brandon Crawford.

- DUH PREZ told about Beck's incredible photo of Travis Ishikawa and declared the photo was a more remarkable achievement than the home run.

- Notes talked about the final game of the season and how Hunter Pence got the team and crowd cranked up for the playoffs: Yes! Yes! Yes!

- Da Czar was at game 2 versus St. Louis and remembers how Pence and Sandoval peaked at just the right time to help the Giants win.

- The PoV told a very entertaining story about being in San Francisco when the World Series was in Kansas City and in Kansas City when the World Series was in San Francisco. He told about listening to a World Series game narrated by Kansas City announcers, and about being "lustily boo'd" when he was introduced to speak at an Historical Society meeting in Kansas City and the crowd found out he was from San Francisco.

Halloween

DUH PREZ reported on a successful Halloween Party at his house with 800 trick-or-treaters, plenty of adults to give away the treats, and loads of help getting set-up from the PoV, Da Beckster, and Andrew. He also issued a special attagirl to the Perfect Child for her help. We raised our now-nearly-empty glasses in a toast to DUH PREZ and his staff of lackeys for conducting a successful Halloween Party.

Road Trip

The DHSOS re-visited our quest for a Giants road trip, inspired by our outing last season in San Diego. We now have our eyes on two possible dates in Denver: April 24-26 and September 4-6. Notes and ListMan will check the game times, work on trip logistics, and report back to the DHSOS.

49ers Stadium

The Czar reported on a recent field trip to the new 49ers stadium. It's quite a place, he reported, with a tremendous museum and lots of meeting rooms. The PoV is working on a possible tour of the stadium for the DHSOS.

In Other Words

Each year, the Oxford Dictionary adds one or more new words that are so commonly used as to become part of the English language. This year, ListMan reported, they added "***vape***," as in "Inhale and exhale the vapor produced by an electronic cigarette or similar device." Runners-up were ***bae*** (used as a term of endearment for one's romantic partner), and ***budtender*** (a person whose job is to serve customers in a cannabis dispensary or shop).

Some of the DHSOS were not up-to-date with these words, which could make them ***dappy***, (silly, disorganized, or lacking concentration).

Clothes and Shoes

DUH PREZ's shoes

Listman's shoes

Da Czar's shoes

ListMan reported that studies have shown the average American has a lot of clothes – probably more than can be worn – and he asked the group to estimate the number of shirts, pants, and shoes we own.

We were generally surprised after we thought about it, and all but DUH PREZ admitted to having more clothes than we needed. Regarding pairs of shoes, our range turned out to be a low of five pairs (Da Czar) to a high of 14 pairs (Da PoV), with a mean of 9.4 and a median of 10. But, we all agreed, we got nuttin compared to our wives!

Adjournment

It had been a terrific evening in an excellent venue with an appropriate mix of good food, strong drinks, and noble friends. We enjoyed Sam's and promised to return. We walked out into the rainy San Francisco night, issued fist bumps all around, and made our way to our cozy homes.

That's it for now, man.