



Galactic Patrol Gazette

An entropic publication of the
Lensmen of Boston in 2004,
protectors of fandom, fun, and
ravening beams of coruscating energy

Issue #5

Boston, Massachusetts, Tellus

Spring 2001

We want you to compare the sites

Site selection filings are now in for the 2004 Worldcon race, with two bids in contention: Boston in 2004 and Charlotte2004. Filing papers must include agreements with facilities, copies of the bylaws and articles of incorporation for each bidding group, and lists of the bid committee members.

Below is some of the information provided in those filings:

Boston in 2004

Closest hotel: Sheraton Boston
Distance to convention center: 0 feet
Price per double room: \$129
Function space: \$0
Furthest hotel: 900 feet from CC
Highest price for double room at any convention hotel: \$129
Bidding group: MCFI
Bid committee members who worked on Worldcons at division head level or higher: 17
Bid committee members who live within 25 miles of proposed site: 24
Guarantee? Yes. Signed contracts with both Boston hotels.

Charlotte2004

Closest hotel: Hilton Charlotte
Distance to convention center: 400 feet
Price per double room: \$139
Function space: \$17,500 per day
Furthest hotel: one mile from CC
Highest price for double room at any convention hotel: \$150
Bidding group: SCFI
Bid committee members who worked on Worldcons at division head level or higher: 0
Bid committee members who live within 25 miles of proposed site: 0
Guarantee? No. Letters of agreement for 9 of 11 hotels (one hotel unbuilt).

Boston is generally considered one of the favorite tourist and travel destinations among cities of its size in the United States. Travel into the city may be by air (Logan International Airport has 1200 flights per day), train (with a new high-speed train along the Eastern corridor), automobile, bus, cruise ship, or tall ship (several East Coast tall ships offer passengers the chance to make port in Boston, including *Rose* and *Bounty*). Although it is one of the country's most historic cities, it is also one of the most significant centers of high- and future-technology research. One international source (see: <http://www.greatestcities.com/boston/>) claims it is one of the five greatest cities in the U.S.

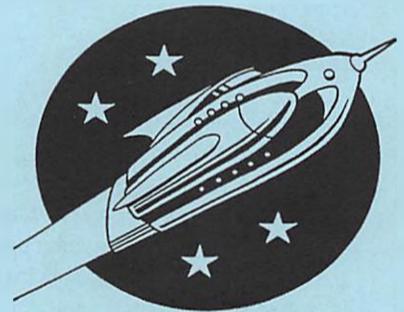
Transportation to Charlotte is possible via Charlotte-Douglas International Airport (500 flights per day), standard train service, automobile, or bus.

Boston's comprehensive public transportation system (the "T") offers subway, bus, commuter rail, and commuter boat connections throughout the entire metro area. The city is also considered one of America's "most walkable" cities, with shopping, attractions, and conveniences located close to each other. (See: <http://www.greatestcities.com/boston/>)

In-city public transportation service in Charlotte is provided by the city's bus system. An historic trolley (capacity 38) is available on a limited run; although expansion of the volunteer-run trolley was announced two years ago, none has yet begun. According to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, Charlotte can no longer be considered a "walking city." (<http://www.cmhpf.org/S&RR/sheppard.html>)

And visitors to Boston can walk in comfort. Over Labor Day weekend (the proposed date for a Boston in 2004 Worldcon), the high temperatures average a balmy 75 degrees with 77% humidity and ocean breezes. One week earlier (the date proposed by Charlotte2004), Charlotte stands at 86 degrees, 89% humidity, and no ocean nearby. Boston's facilities are all connected via air-conditioned comfort. Charlotte has no climate-controlled connections between its main facilities.

Boston in 2004 has made its filing papers completely public by posting the full filing on the web at www.boston2004.org/bostonfiling.html. All bids are required to provide copies of their respective filings to any supporting or attending member of the 2001 World Science Fiction Convention (the Millennium Philcon) who requests a copy.



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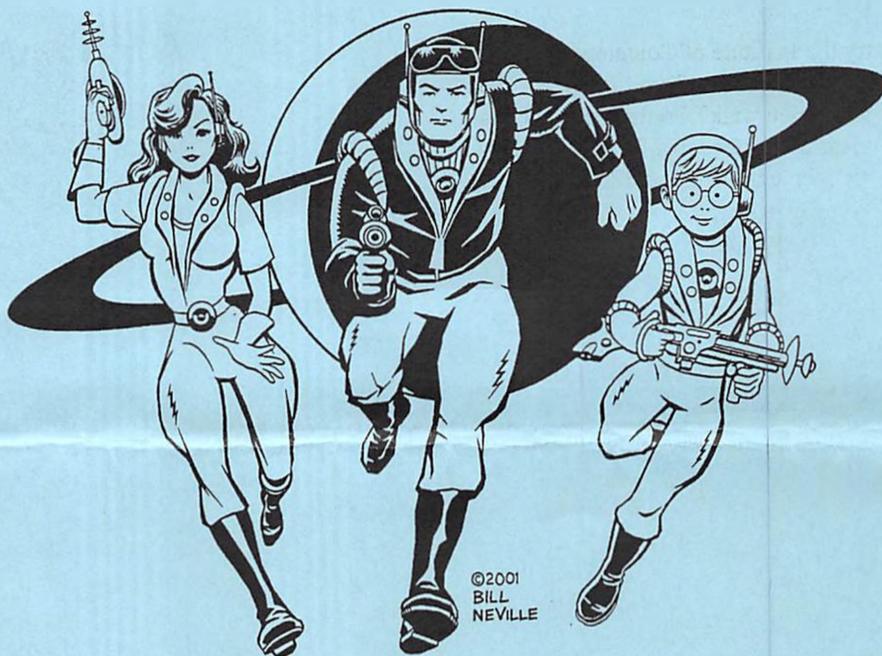
Boskone returns to the Hub

After more than a decade afield, Boskone, New England's oldest regional SF convention, will return to Boston in 2003 for a long-term stay. The venue will be the Sheraton Boston Hotel, one of the two hotels to be used for a 2004 Boston Worldcon.

NESFA, the SF club that puts on Boskone, looks forward to the easy transportation, good food, and excellent facilities that Boskone attendees enjoyed in Boston in the past. And of course, the overlap of NESFA and MCFI membership will provide the important chance to work with this facility prior to the 2004 Worldcon.

More — yes, more! — of the 2004 reasons to vote for Boston

- 570: Union Oyster House—the oldest continuously operating restaurant in the country (since 1826!)
- 942: Ancient & Honorable Artillery Museum
- 471: Memorial plaque to Faulkner character Quentin Compson, on the bridge he jumped from on June 2, 1910 (nobody knows who put it there!)
- 351: Central Artery Tunnel Project Visitor Center—see how the largest dig in history is done
- 289: Walden Pond
- 1941: Alcott-Orchard House (where Louisa Mae lived and wrote)
- 1600: Ghosts & Gravestones of Boston tour
- 246: Whites of Their Eyes Museum
- 482: *Make Way for Ducklings* statues (an item of affection for tots; and, curiously, occasionally stolen by adults)
- 606: Nation's highest per capita consumption of ice cream
- 676: Swan boats (not to be confused with the Duck (DUKW) tours)
- 1719: NECCO Wafers (can you decipher the acronym?)
- 1357: The House of the Seven Gables
- 224: Click & Clack—the “Car Talk” guys
- 642: *Grinders, tonics, spas*, and other words not heard outside the area
- 703: Bull & Finch Pub (the model for *Cheers*)
- 181: The Quilt Museum
- 169: Permanent exhibit of large-scale practical jokes at the M.I.T. museum—how and why the lesser dome has been decorated with everything from a cow to a police car



Family fun begins in Boston!

Boston is full of attractions for children and their parents. Here are some of the ones inside the city limits:

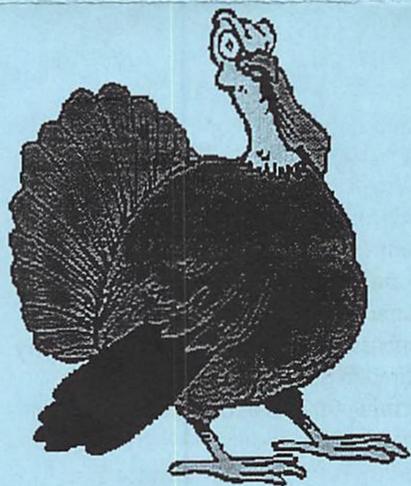
The world-class New England Aquarium, with its huge central shark tank, will delight all ages. It also opens at 9am, for those early-waking toddlers (and children under 2 are free). The Museum of Science has everything from a gigantic (and noisy) van de Graaff generator to an Omni theater. Another stop on the parent circuit is the Children's Museum, with multi-floor tube tunnels, bubble room, special infant/toddler play area, Grandma's Attic, and a ride on the Japanese subway. The Children's Museum often features kids' characters, such as Arthur.

Closer to the convention center is a ride to the top of the Prudential Tower for an outstanding view of the Boston area. Even closer, in the Christian Science Center, is the

Mapparium: an inside-out, lit, stained-glass map of the world. The Swan Boats in the Public Garden are a nearby outdoor classic that all little ones will delight in (and they're cheap, too). Stop by to say hello to Mrs. Mallard and Jack, Kack, Lack, Mack, Nack, Oack, Pack and Quack: kid-friendly-sized statues from the classic book *Make Way for Ducklings!* All book lovers should visit the Boston Public Library—the oldest free library in the country. There's an art gallery and a children's room in this magnificent edifice.

For the older kids, the Museum of Fine Arts has an extensive Egyptology section, and many artifacts from ancient Asia. It also has a thorough collection of artwork of all types. Nearby is the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, which has a fine collection of art, mostly post-Renaissance to pre-Modern. For something more modern,

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**Presupporting
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Boston in 2004

Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc.

P.O. Box 1010

Framingham, MA 01701 USA

Family, continued from page 2

try the Institute of Contemporary Art, just up the street from the Hynes. Want just a nice walk? Go through the Fens (near the Museum of Fine Arts) and visit the community gardens—and the excellent rose garden.

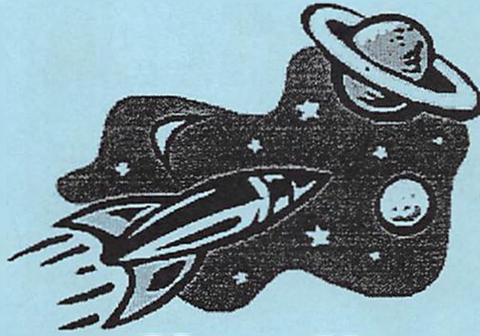
If shopping is your thing (or your teen's), take a walk along nearby Newbury Street, which features everything from art galleries to FAO Schwartz. Then try Downtown Crossing for department stores (including the original Filene's Basement), jewelry wholesalers, and bookstores. If the weather is less than perfect, stay right in the Prudential Center/Copley Place complex, with two food courts (plus several restaurants), several upscale stores (including Neiman Marcus, Brookstone's, and Saks), and plenty of pushcarts and specialty shops to catch the eye (and wallet).

Your family may never want to leave the con—but when you do, Boston is ready to entertain you!



Butterballs on the hoof

Although it's an urban area, Boston has a substantial portion of wildlife. Our chairman's house in the suburbs sits on a wandering path of a flock of wild turkeys (which have become numerous in Massachusetts in recent years). As twilight fell at a recent MCFI committee meeting, we watched a dozen or so turkeys do their daily stroll from the woodland behind the house to the front of the house, then fly up into the trees to roost. (Turkeys have local predators, including coyotes.) It's a sight that some of us have seen several times, and we haven't tired of it yet. (Now why has no one ever designed a turkey-shaped spaceship...?)



The roll call goes on

More of our Galactic Patrol recruiting officers

GEORGE FLYNN has been in fandom since 1969, and still has hopes of getting it right. He first earned notoriety at the 1974 WSFS Business Meeting, where he gave a speech in Frisian with a bag over his head. In retribution for this, he was subsequently condemned to be Secretary of nine Business Meetings (probably a record). He has been an officer of one Worldcon, a division head of a second, and aspires to continue this downward trend in 2004. He has twice been a Hugo administrator, in this popular position winning accolades for being "vile," "arrogant," "malicious," "perverse," "cowardly," and "devoid of any sense of decency;" it's been a tough reputation to live up to. In other areas of fandom, he has been a fanzine letterhack, produced a few hundred apazines, worked on too damn many conventions, and written a number of filksongs (not all of them about flamingos). In the real and semi-real worlds, he is a master poorfraeder for NESFA Pres and other publishers.

SUFORD LEWIS started reading sf when she was 10, and became a member of LASFS while in high school. She was among the very first members of the Science Fiction Book Club.

Bjo told Suford to be sure to look up the MITSFS when she went off to college in Boston. Well, years sped by and there was Suford at St. LouisCon in the Beldan Ribbon dress, and helping to found NESFA, chairing Boskone 10, and working on all the Noreascons (it's an addiction). She's an art show fan, ran two of the early Boskone art shows, and has seen the art of running art shows bloom and grow.

Suford is also a costume fan and has seen the division system born and the ICG founded. She ran Exhibits at Noreascon 2 and included the first Costume Exhibit by Ann Chancellor. She ran the Masquerade at Noreascon 3 and the SF Masquerade at Costume Con 11. She's a Regency fan—one of the original "Patronesses"—and ran the Heyer Teas before there were dances, and published four issues of a Heyer fanzine, "The Quizzing Glass".

Of course she became a Trekkie as soon as she could and wrote articles for Spockanalia and picketed WBZ-TV (with other members of MITSFS) to save it at the end of its second season. At one MidWestCon she bought a copy of Stardate from Lois McMaster. She now has the privilege to be the Bujold editor for NESFA Press.

Suford is married to Tony Lewis, has a daughter, Alice, four cats, lives in Natick, MA, and works in the computer field.

Oregonian **RUTH SACHTER** left the East Coast because it "just wasn't tectonically unstable enough for me...I like to be at the epicenter of the action." When pressed, she will sheepishly confess, "I thought they said Portland, **Maine**." Born the granddaughter of a French chef (whose claim to fame went unnoticed in the annals of intergalactic cuisine when her creation was dubbed the "Sacher Torte" because of an insufficiency of large-font T's), Ruth enjoys various facets of convention-running. In fact, she puts the "running" back in con-running (and will be earning major frequent-flyer mileage between Portland and San José) (and maybe between Portland and Boston). Her secret ambition is "to become the finest greeple chef in the 27 stellar systems and earn a guest spot on the *Slithering Gourmet*."

ALEXIS LAYTON, a long-time member of the World Illuminati Tribunal of Tall Yuppies (WITTY), is particularly active in gaming and light-stringing fandom. Although he lives in the Boston area, Alexis was born on Vega III and went to school at the Universal Rigellian College of Knifing (URCK), where he majored in Assassinoogy. Following the now-famous case of the "Assassination of the Unwitting Hatrack which Looked Like the Ambassador from Orion," Alexis quietly retired to Sol III and took up Worm Farming for Fun and Profit. His secret ambition? "Just once, I wish someone would say to me, 'Alex, please hang this set of lights at waist level.'"

Some Boston Innovations

These are some of the innovations that came out of Boston Worldcons:

Noreascon, the first Boston Worldcon (1971)

- Two film tracks
- SF discussion groups for fans to meet fans
- Georgette Heyer Regency Tea and Dance
- The first Worldcon multi-track program with a set of themes
- Divided the lines into pre-registered and new registration

Noreascon Two (1980)

- Exhibit of previous Masquerade costumes with an exhibition book by Ann Layman Chancellor
- Pro discussion groups

for fans to meet pros (and vice-versa)

- First program tack aimed at younger attendees
- Named islands in the hucksters' room as SF locations
- First large-print, readable, on-site computer-generated name badges
- Created division structure
- Created major convenient babysitting and child care facilities
- Created the Non-Fiction Book Hugo category
- Distributed free Memory Book to members

Noreascon Three (1989)

- First formal YA programming track
- Created program participant schedule to attach to backs of program participants' badges
- Distributed miniature rocket

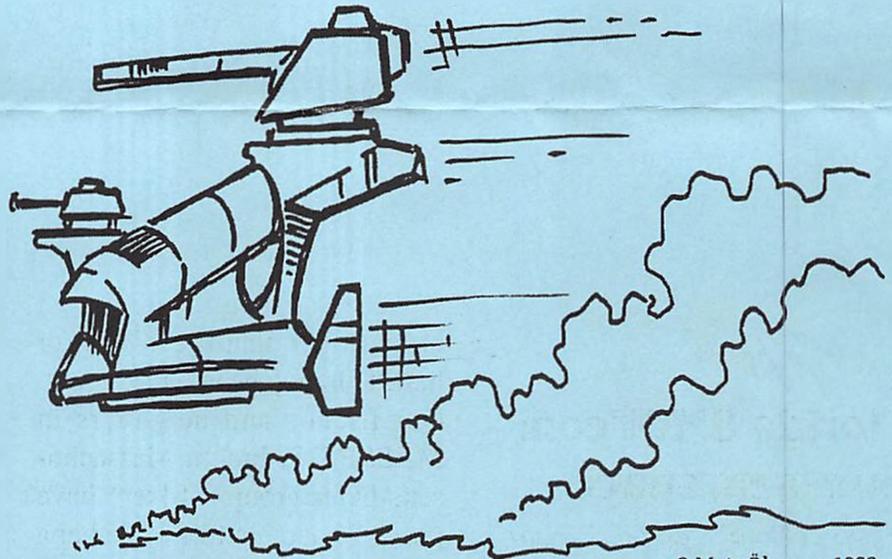
pins to all Hugo nominees

- Produced a professional-level multi-camera videotape of the Masquerade
- Created the Pass-Along Funds to transfer Worldcon profits to future Worldcons when they need cash the most
- Created the ConCourse to humanize the large, open convention center with parks, exhibits, performances, displays and places to sit and talk comfortably
- Unified Registration, with representatives from special areas present to handle all needs—Program, Art Show, Hucksters, etc.



The Hub of the Universe

As all Bostonians know, Boston is the "hub of the universe." (See the plaque in the sidewalk in front of Filene's— it says so.) This phrase is attributed to Oliver Wendell Holmes, who actually said the State House was the "hub of the solar system." We think the former phrase rolls off the tongue better.



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Coming soon to these conventions near you!

May 25-27

Balticon (Baltimore)
Baycon (San José)
ConQuesT 32 (Kansas City)
Libertycon (Chattanooga)

June 21-24

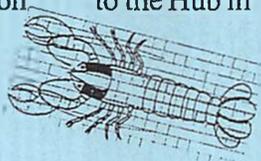
Midwestcon (Cincinnati)
 July 5-8
Westercon (Portland OR)
 July 13-15
Readercon (Burlington MA)

...and all of this leads to...

August 30-September 3
Millennium Philcon (Philadelphia PA)
Party!
Vote!

Vote...Vote...Vote

Included with this issue of the *Galactic Patrol Gazette* is a ballot for the selection of the site of the 2004 Worldcon. Your vote for Boston is necessary to bring the Worldcon to the Hub in 2004. We hope you'll read the ballot instructions carefully, then mail or deliver it by the dates shown. *Thank you!*



"World Science Fiction Society", "WSFS", "World Science Fiction Convention", "Worldcon", "NASFiC", and "Hugo Award" are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society. "Boskone" is a service mark of the New England Science Fiction Association, Inc., a literary and educational society.