



These are some of the "Frequently Asked Questions" (and their answers) about the Boston for Orlando in 2001 bid, what it means, and why our group (MCFI) changed our bidding location to the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resorts in Orlando, Florida.

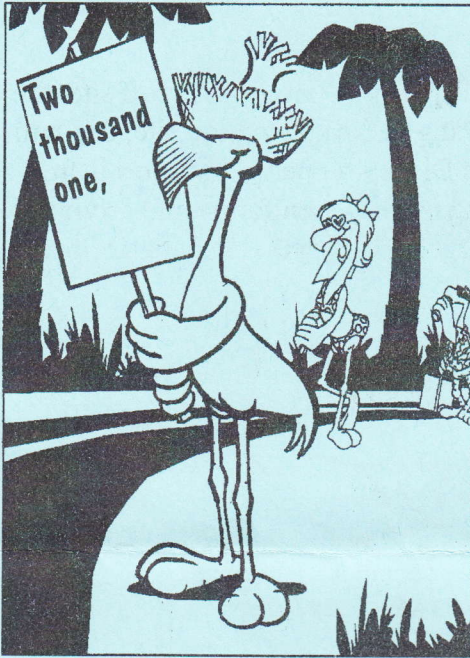
Q. Why did we pick this particular site in Orlando?

The Walt Disney World Swan [a Westin] and Dolphin [a Sheraton] complex (the third largest hotel-convention facility in the U.S.) allows us to run a seamless convention day and night. We do not have to shut down a convention center at 6 p.m. and scatter the evening events to non-contiguous hotels. *Everything will be compact — in two adjacent hotels with a covered walkway between them.* Walking time (and effort) will be minimized. There will be a central gathering area for fans — not multiple hotel lobbies scattered around a convention center. The hotels' ambiance is much more pleasant than the "airplane hanger" feel of a convention center. The hotels, in addition to large ballrooms for big events, have numerous smaller breakout rooms and suites for programs, meetings and parties (140 total suites alone). Choosing this site allows us to keep the traditional Labor Day weekend.

If we were to run a convention using the OCCCC, the base cost for the convention center is \$81,620 (in 1998 dollars). This is just the space cost using their minimum calculations; it doesn't include rental of rugs, furniture, etc. All of these amenities are standard in the hotel meeting space. The money we don't spend for facilities, we will spend on areas of the convention for everyone. The average cost of hotel rooms at the Swan and Dolphin is slightly lower than the cost of hotels used for the OCCCC. We will also book budget-rate rooms at another Disney property.

The clincher: we got a tremendous response from our mailing to our Friends and Pre-Supporters; they voted for the Swan/Dolphin





site 70% to 30% for the OCCCC. You spoke, and we listened.

Q. What is the room rate?

The final Swan & Dolphin rate is *\$119 S/D* and \$129 T/Q in 1998 dollars with a guaranteed maximum 2001 rate of \$137.75 (it may be less). The rate is the same at both hotels.

Q. How would hotel bookings be done?

Even though we will be using two large, primary hotels, they are related and run through a common reservation system. This ensures fewer annoyances and hassles, and it gives you one-stop hotel shopping.

Q. Are there cheaper hotels? Where? How much?

The All-Star Resorts (about 2 mi. from the Swan & Dolphin) on Disney will block rooms one year out, at a lower cost (\$79 in 1998 dollars). We expect to have a block of rooms there. The All-Star Resorts are connected to the convention facilities by the free Disney transportation system. Off-Disney hotels in Kissimmee (the area near the main Disney entrance) can be as low as \$39 a night; almost all hotels have their own shuttle or are on one of the transportation routes into Disney. You can investigate those hotels online at <http://hotelorlando.com/framekissimmee.html>

Q. What control does Disney have over materials sold in the hucksters room and art show?

Disney has *no control* over anything we do in the convention hotels. Licensed materials aren't a problem. The hotels (a Sheraton & a Westin) are not Disney owned.

Q. What control does Disney have over costumes in the hotels, Epcot, Magic Kingdom, other sites on the property, transport? And just what is considered a costume?

Disney has no control over costumes in the hotels; the Masquerade will be in our hotels. We have a compact site—two adjacent hotels—with reasonably priced rooms. It will be easy for costumers to get to the Masquerade without involved and tedious travel arrangements, worrying about rain, or crossing a busy city street.

Costumes are not allowed in Epcot, the Magic Kingdom, etc., including Disney transport to those locations. Just as at L.A.con III or MagiCon, don't plan on wearing a Mickey Mouse vampire costume into those areas. Note that basic medieval garb is not considered to be a costume—just a very retro style.



Q. How much is car rental? How about parking?

Orlando is rumored to have the largest fleet of rental cars in the world. With \$40 rooms just off site, the cheapest car rental in the U.S. (lows of \$10-\$20 a day), and free parking at the convention site, this will be one of the most economical Worldcons in years. Once you are on Disney property, transport is free. You can get to all 4 parks, all of the restaurants & stores free. Parking is free (even for people driving to the convention from outside Disney). No Disney admissions are charged to get to the Swan & Dolphin.

Q. Talk about restaurants. Where are the cheap ones? How far away are they?

The Swan & Dolphin themselves have 17 restaurants & bars, ranging from cheap (including buffets) to expensive. There are still more restaurants on the nearby Boardwalk. There are many eating options that do not require you to leave the central site of the convention. Two of the hotel restaurants are open 24 hours/day; that's standard—we didn't have to fight for it.

Free and frequent Disney transportation vehicles—boat, bus, monorail or tram—go to Disney properties, parks & shopping areas, including the Epcot international restaurants. And, with free parking and no in-out charges at our hotels, you can drive off-site to any of Orlando's restaurants. We feel we have a better variety and number of restaurants near the Swan & Dolphin than at the OCCCC site.

Q. Are there discounts to Disney World? Are they available to people staying off-site?

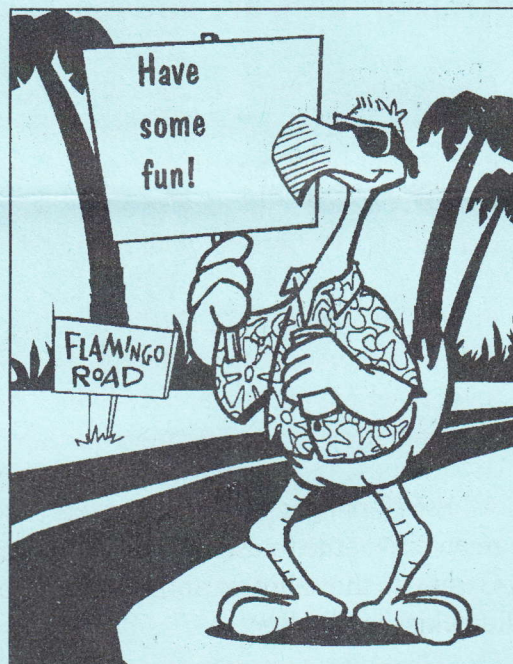
Discounts are definitely available for people staying at the Swan & Dolphin. We're looking into getting this extended to all convention members.

Q. If I don't drive to Orlando, how do I get to the site (air, train, bus)?

The Orlando airport is 25 minutes from the site. Again, Orlando is the cheapest place in the U.S. to rent a car. Public transport and shuttles from the air terminals are easy options. We'll have information for you, or you can check with your travel agent.

Q. Why couldn't we run a Worldcon in Boston in 2001?

With hotel rates in the city of Boston at \$200 a night in 2001, we couldn't run a convention that most of fandom could afford to attend. Boston hotels are at 90% occupancy rates, so they can charge very high rates for hotel space — and still fill the rooms. We want any Worldcon we run to be affordable so that fandom's "family reunion" can be for everyone. More hotel space is being built in Boston, but it won't be finished soon enough to impact 2001. We tried every alternative space configuration we could. Fandom cannot afford our city right now.



Q. Why didn't we fold our bid?

There was just too much enthusiasm and momentum to do that. We all enjoy working on conventions and helping them run successfully. We were investigating the OCCCC (MagiCon site) when the Swan and Dolphin hotels approached us. We had to check this out; the more we saw, the better we liked it. We also felt we owed this new approach to the more than 1,300 fans who've supported our bid since 1992. Their response to our mailing told us we should go ahead and bid for this new site. Our continued bid means you still have a choice for the 2001 Worldcon.

Q. How much are different kinds of supporting memberships?

Pre-supporting memberships in Boston for Orlando in 2001 are \$10. These memberships are a way people can help us defray some of the costs of bidding and throwing parties. We give a compass-rose pin and put pre-supporters on our mailing list for future bid information. Pre-Opposing memberships are basically a hack, but they're also a way that people who support our competition can still help pay for bid parties. Pre-Ambivalent memberships are purely a hack, but we're not sure we care.

Friends of Boston for Orlando in 2001 have made a major contribution (currently \$60 if you aren't already a pre-supporter) to the bid and have indicated a willingness to help us in other ways, too, such as helping us run parties and the like. Friends who vote in the 2001 site selection will get an automatic, free upgrade to attending membership if we win.

All Pre-Supporting (Pre-Opposing, Pre-Ambivalent) and Friend memberships will automatically be transferred to the new venue. Given our new location, at your request, we can switch you from Pre-Opposing to Pre-Supporting (or vice versa).

Q. How do you get in touch with us?

We can be reached in a number of ways. By traditional mail:

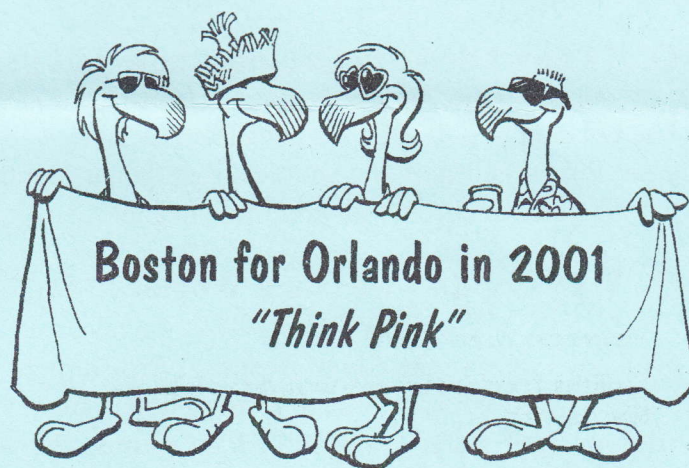
Magicon 2: Boston for Orlando in 2001
P.O. Box 1010
Framingham, MA 01701-1010 USA

By electronic mail:

info@mcfi.org

By World Wide Web:

<http://www.mcfi.org>



And we'll also be bringing the Fantastic Flamingos of Fandom with us to various conventions between now and Bucconeer (the full list is at our Web site). Just look for the friendly pink avians!