

Thanks, Ontario District

By *Misnomer*

Before we left, everyone told us it would be an amazing experience. Not that we ever doubted it, but those of you who have attended an international convention, and especially those of you who have been lucky enough to sing on the international stage, will know that nothing anyone says quite prepares you for the feelings.

We would be liars if we said that *Misnomer* was free of worries in the two months preceding the Louisville convention. We heard about many other collegiate quartets with scores that could have qualified in the regular quartet competition. We heard about quartets that competed in Montreal and did nothing but improve since.

We reviewed our own situation — formed in February, three of four members with extremely limited barbershop experience, rehearsed only every two or three weeks and did so without a coach. We figured a medal was about as likely as Joel knowing when to stop yammering on. We even joked that if we sang REALLY well, we could probably come home with a last place purple participant ribbon.

It was around this time that we recalled why we were involved in this hobby — we wanted to have fun. This inspired a few changes in our game plan.

After singing at Joel's grandma's 80th birthday party the Sunday before International, we decided that we enjoyed singing "Sweet and Lovely" more than we ever liked our contest ballad "Left on the Corner Alone." Although James had some notes to learn, and we were aware of the potential criticisms of singing a polecat in contest, we figured that fun should take precedence.

We also somehow got the idea that it would be a lot of fun to trade the parts around a bit. So in the van on Tuesday, somewhere in Central Ohio, we made the final decision to have

Dave and Jordan trade lead and tenor parts for our newly decided contest tune.

After some much appreciated help from **Dale Locke**, we were feeling quite confident that we could go out on that prestigious international stage, sing to our current potential, be happy with how we sounded, and have a lot of fun, all the while proudly wearing our Canada flag ties (which we conveniently got for a bargain of one dollar each- thank you Canada Day sales)!

So we did it! And guess what? It WAS a lot of fun!

We came off the stage, had a group hug and proudly walked into the auditorium to watch the rest of the quartets. And that was a lot of fun too.

And then we went out with some other college quartet guys and shared some laughs over some BEvERageS. And that was fun!



Photo—David Wagner, PROBE

Misnomer, McMaster University, University of Toronto
Ba: **James Baldwin**, L: **Jordan Travis**,
Bs: **Joel Hilchey**, T: **David Baldwin** ♣

And we stayed up until four singing tags on three of five nights and were called babies for going to bed so early. We met some great new friends. We got to see live performances by our hero quartets that up until now were only pictures and recordings. We got to sing in a chorus of 90 of the best young singers we've met. Every moment was fun!

By the end of the inspirational week, the four of us were convinced that we should drop out of school and become full time barbershop singers. Of course, by 10 a.m. Monday morning we had come down from our cloud and our

barbershop fantasies were once again being sobered by our reintroduction to the rest of our lives after our week in "magical singing land."

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