

## Pomp and Circumstance Time



### Your are Coordinal Invited to the Graduation of ...

A graduation ceremony is an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in identical caps and gowns that "individuality" is the key to success. ~ Robert Orben

Actually graduation is a rite of passage from one state of your life to another. It is more of a ritual or ceremony to dramatize you are facing new responsibilities, opportunities and adjustments.

As you listen to speeches from guests to school administrators to your class valedictorian, you wonder when you can toss that cap. Not just yet, we have more to discuss.

### Put a Cap on It!

Dress for graduation began in the 12th and 13th centuries when universities began to form.

Most scholars had taken vows with the church and wore clerical robes.

American standards of caps and gowns were brought over when our ancestors migrated from England.

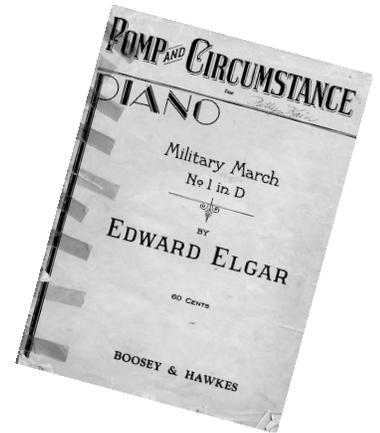
In the 1800s colors were assigned to certain areas of study with in a college. The system and gown style was designed by Gardner Cotrell Leonard in 1893.

They must be black cotton or broadcloth. The cap should be worn horizontally with the point in the center. Tassels must be fastened in the middle.

**Then it was** gray, all gray from head to toe gray for over 40 years. Then the American Council on Education in 1959 made a few changes.

1. No corsages
2. No jewelry
3. Flat shoes only
4. Wear gowns of school colors

That song, it is embedded in your mind forever. You are humming it right now aren't you? The famous Pomp and Circumstance's correct title *Pomp and Circumstance Military Marches*, was composed by Sir Edward Elgar, a self taught composer. The marches are actually a series written between 1901 and 1930. The famous graduation version is March 1 in D, composed in 1901 for members of the Liverpool Orchestral Society. The first performance was October 19, 1901.



## Ring-a-Round the Rosie

You can thank West Point U.S. Academy. They developed the first class ring in 1835.

It was not until the 1900s that rings became a fashion item. Individuals were replacing the class pin for the ring.

The basis dates back to the Egyptians. The scarabs on rings promised them eternal life. If your ring was in gold, this represented wealth, success and rights to a special group.

Traditionally that the ring is worn on the right hand on the third finger with the insignia pointed toward you until you cross the stage. Then it is turned toward the world as in "here I come." Knights wearing the ring on the third finger gave them double strength and good luck. I just remember wrapping yards and yards of yarn to be able to wear the boyfriend's ring.

Over the years 75% of the students wore class rings. Today less than 40% wear this honor.

Rings have changed from the standard round to almost any shape. Stones no longer reflect the school colors but birthstones. You can include insignias of your activities. Create a little history yourself.





Original diplomas were a painstaking talent. Hand printed on paper-thin sheepskin, they were rolled and tied with a ribbon. Paper was too difficult to create and not sturdy for the inks used.

When paper techniques improved, diplomas were put on parchment. They stopped "rolling" the diploma in 1900 as they were too hard to frame.



## It's Worth the Hassel cuz I got my tassel

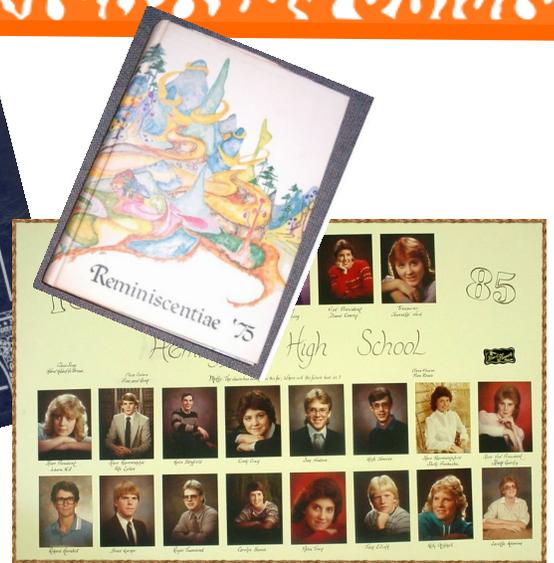
Back in the day, way back...Druitt priests wore capes with hoods. The hoods or caps are sacred to the collegiate arena. Tassels were sewn in to the center of the "hood" to signify academic achievement.

Tassels also known as liripipes turned more into a finishing feature. The wealthy created their own signature tassel to identify kin. Not all were cord but included feathers, shells and stones.

Tassels are the school colors and a few are adorned with the year of graduation. Whatever, it usually ends up hanging from our rearview mirrors for a while.

**FLIP IT.** Once you are awarded your diploma, you need to flip your tassel to the other side of your mortarboard. Oh that is the new name for them now, the flat hat on your head, the one that keeps sliding off. It resembles they say the device bricklayers use to hold mortar.

When all the diplomas are distributed and



So how many faces did you draw in yearbooks? Did you write in the binding or on a select page how you will be friends forever and of course to keep in touch. Well it is now 10, 15, 35 years later and most have no clue who wrote what. We look back and laugh on the hair, glasses and clothing.

Students began creating yearbooks in 1600 filled with hair, flowers and news clippings. Yale College in 1806 was printed the first collegiate yearbook. A high school in New York in 1845 copied this idea.

School activities and teachers were incorporated around 1920 and sold for \$6.00. The 1980 yearbook began to embrace all students and not just the "in" crowd.

With the art of desk top publishing, yearbooks took on a creative journalistic style and were produced by the students.

the administration officially says you are an adult and entering the real world, toss the cap.

This practice began in 1912 at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Midshipmen wear many hats during their career. It represented the next step, a new cap.

