Gay Commencement Colors

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HAVE YOU EXOTIC YEARNINGS?
—well it's fashionable this spring and you can more than satisfy your urge with any of the new jewelry pieces we have these days. Odd shapes, sizes and colors. You'll go mad with delight if you like this sort of thing. And what it does toward making your costumes distinctive is a story all it's own. Don't be afraid of the price tags either—they're negligible—true to our sense of wanting you to be well dressed even if you're not the Bank of England.

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South of campus

Gay Commencement Colors

IDA HALPIN SOLVES THE MYSTERY OF SQUASHY HOODS AND FLOWING GOWNS

IT'S graduation day! A long line of men and women march in flowing black gowns with colored hoods of scarlet and yellow, purple, copper, green, silver gray and salmon.

The cap and gown business has a fairly unromantic beginning. In 1880 Gardner Leonard graduated from Williams College and went into partnership with his father and Joshua Cotrell who ran a hat-making (beaver hats, the gentlemen of the time wore) and fur-trading establishment. At that time there was talk of seniors wearing caps and gowns, so graduate Gardner thought it would be a profitable venture for his father to develop a line of them.

Leonard and Cotrell made caps and gowns and more caps and gowns without manner or method until in 1895 the situation was little short of chaotic. Gardner Leonard got together with Seth Low of Columbia and some other interested scholars and between them they settled on an Intercollegiate Code of Academic Costume.

According to the Intercollegiate Code people who wear colored hoods have honorary or high academic degrees. The color of the hood's trimming tells what the wearer's degree is. The color of the lining tells from what university it came. The squashy black velvet tam-o-shanter shows its wearer to be an Oxford graduate.

The body of the hood may be either mercerized or silk poplin, silk and wool or wool serge. A fine silk velvet is used on the edge. The bachelor's hood is small with a narrow velvet edging. The master's hood is large with a wider velvet edging. The doctor's hood exposes the full lining; the velvet edging is wide and there are wide panels on either side. Each hood is lined in colors of the school conferring degree.

These hoods are given to the recipients of honorary degrees by the colleges, but the graduate has to secure his gown himself.

- Arts and Letters - White
- Theology and Divinity - Scarlet
- Laws - Purple
- Philosophy - Blue
- Science - Gold yellow
- Fine Arts - Brown
- Medicine - Green
- Music - Pink
- Pharmacy - Olive
- Dentistry - Lilac
- Forestry - Rust
- Engineering - Orange
- Veterinary Science - Grey
- Pedagogy - Light blue
- Library Science - Lemon
- Commerce and Accountancy - Drab
- Physical Education - Sage Green
- Humanities - Crimson
- Oratory - Silver Grey
- Public - Salmon