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warm, but a history book claims the cap and gown worn throughout the United States today is taken from the monks' clothing of the middle-ages.

the University through the years in such a way that it is used at formal occasions in contrast to a spirited fight song, Richard says. It was written by John

'In some schools it's mandated that you wear a cap and gown to go through commencement, but it's not here and you do actually see some students go through in semi-formal clothing.'

— Keith Richard

Richard says today's gown is made out of paper to eliminate dry cleaning costs, and is designed to identify the wearer as either a bachelor's, master's or doctorate student, with the doctor's gown having the most ornamentation.

Part of the University graduation ritual is the procession of the mace. The mace has only been a part of the ceremony for the last 12 years. It is carried by the head marshal who leads the entire procession.

"In historic times they had a mace that would wipe you out. They'd bash your brains in with it," says Richard. The mace is symbolic of power and it is supposed to wipe out all your enemies, he says.

Deady Hall is the key figure on the mace and is surrounded by a model of the University. The mace made by Max Nixon, a retired University jewelry instructor, is displayed in the President's office.

The pledge song sung at commencement has taken hold of

Stark Evans, a former University music professor. Evans wrote the song in New York as a World War I draftee while waiting to depart for France.

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Graduation today is based upon tradition. The cap and gown are taken for granted as are photos — both of the graduate and a family member.

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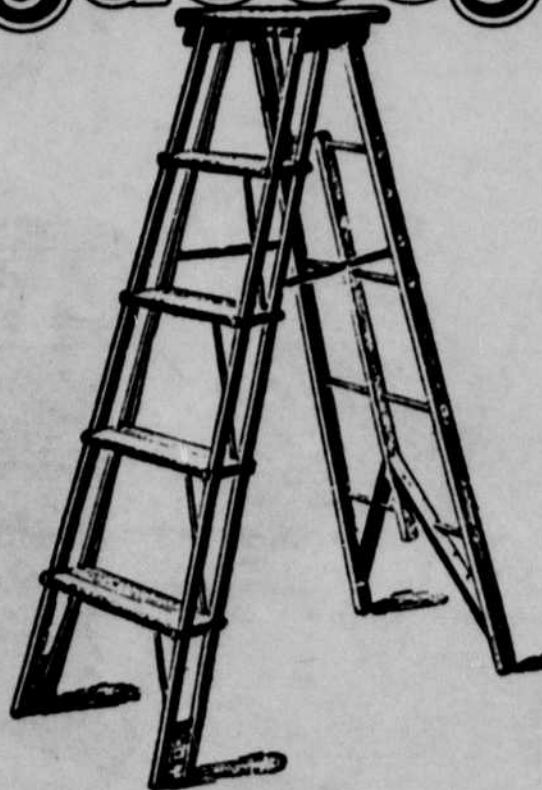
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