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This gentleman has just graduated, but the siren-like call of the House of Records could lead him astray to a degree of sound he never explored before.

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the class of 1996

Ceremony reminds non-grads of what lies in store for them

Nope. I'm not graduating. I didn't order my cap and gown. I didn't order graduation announcements. I can't even see graduation on the educational horizon, not to mention the preparation that it involves.

But that doesn't mean I can't get my two cents in.

In an independent survey I pretended to do, I have found that graduation means a lot of things to a lot of different people.

For the job-bound ones, graduation marks the end of finals, the end of homework as we all know it and the end of kissing professors' asses. On the other hand, it marks the start of real deadlines, the start of working overtime and the start of kissing bosses' asses.

For the graduate school-bound, this graduation is merely a step in the right direction. A nice milestone in an educational career, so to speak, but not the end. Ultimately their undergraduate years were more of a necessary evil than real-world preparation.

But one thing is for sure: Graduation is the average college student's ultimate goal. It is the ultimate accomplishment that puts an exclamation point at the end of your slacking, lazy, careless beer-drinking days.

For those of us bordering on

OPINION



Trevor Kearney

senior status and starting to pinpoint needed graduation requirements, this year's commencement is agonizingly painful. Each passing graduation marks

one step closer to the culmination of our own college years.

More than watching our friends and colleagues move on to bigger and better things this year, we have to think about making that big step to graduation ourselves.

As the graduates get out of the college pool, I am supposed to slowly swim towards the deep end, not just stand in the shallow water or merely tread water in the middle, as my natural tendencies tell me to do.

It's scary, really. I mean, what makes me qualified to be out in the real world?

I don't want to give up my lazy, drunken Friday afternoons. I don't want to give up doing everything at the last minute. I don't want to give up my summer vacations and lackadaisical class schedules.

I guess it's a good thing I'm not graduating this year.

Trevor Kearney is sports editor for the Emerald.



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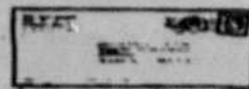
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