

TYPES OF PEOPLE AT A GRADUATION CEREMONY

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To put it bluntly, graduation ceremonies are quite the bummer. If you're expecting the audience to burst into applause when you walk across the stage to get your scroll like they show in movies, don't. These ceremonies are long, arduous and boring; by the time it's past the first few hours, most people are too tired to even care.

Like any congregation, these ceremonies consist of a diversity of people and the dysfunctional outcomes will either be humourous or annoying. Here's who to expect at any graduation ceremony.

GOSSIP AND CHATTERBOXES

Can people talk for 5 hours straight? They can and there's no respite from this bunch. From criticising outfits to how someone attained their CGPA, no stone is left unturned. Starting from the front row where the faculty is located to the back

where the guests are, they are everywhere. If you're sitting near one, you're most likely

going to emerge knowing a lot of random things about a lot of random people you don't know.

TOO

ENTHUSIASTIC

Some people are able to maintain their excitement and keep their energy levels high at a constant rate throughout the 5+ hours of the ceremony. They'll be squealing and clapping throughout or running around the venue. There are

also the ones who are incapable of sticking to their designated spots and constantly have volunteers chasing them around. Make sure you don't trip over or get trampled by one.

SLEEPYHEADS

Some people can sleep through anything. Some people sleep through their own graduation and some people sleep through their children's graduation. They're the easiest to forgive, however, as they are the least bothersome, unless they're lean-

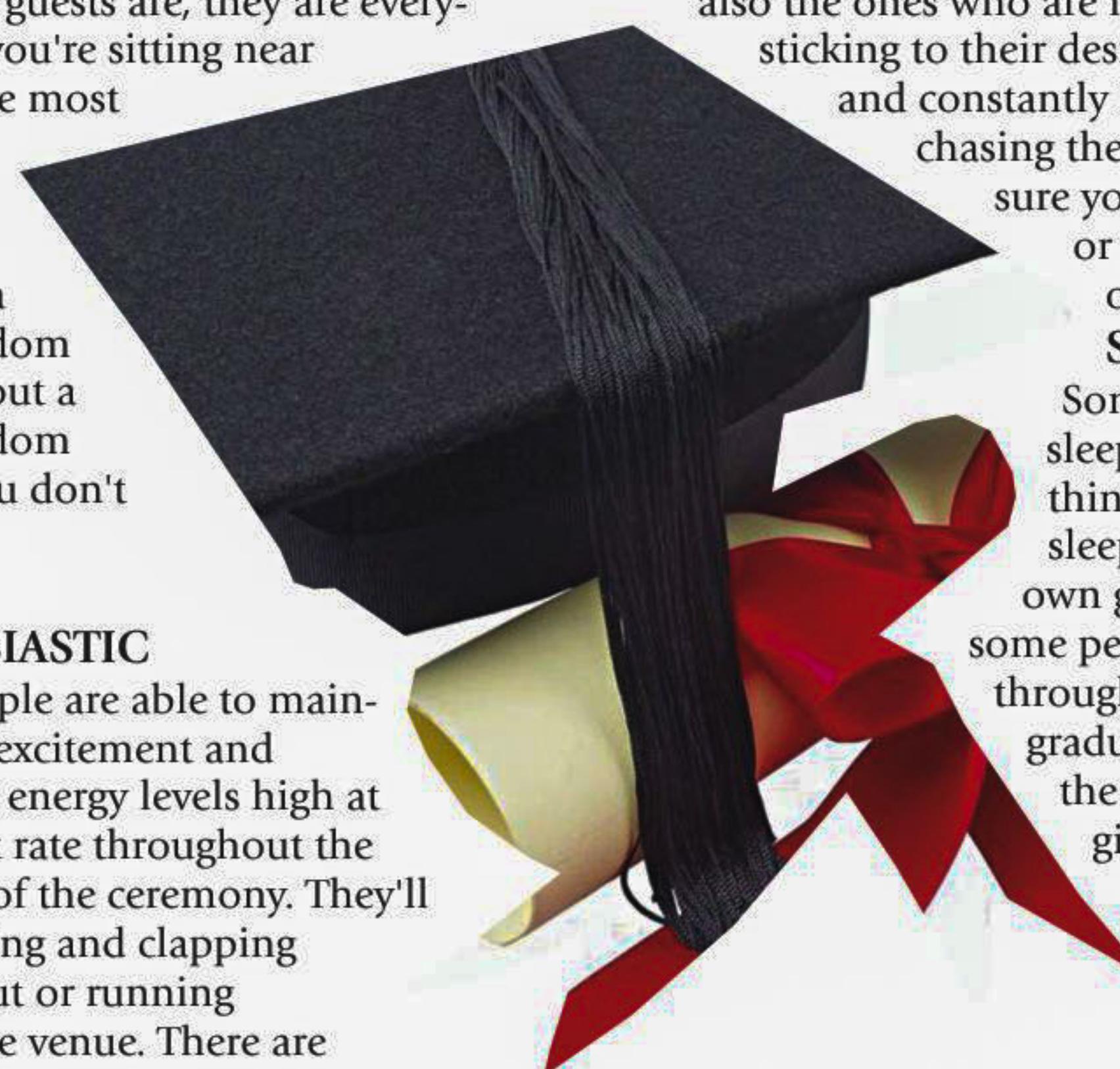
ing into you every few minutes and drooling on your shoulders.

HOGGERS

People have an innate ability to hog things even when everyone is being provided with the exact same stuff. From the bathrooms to the steps of the stage and the line to the boxed lunches, there's a hogger of every type and everything. Navigating around these people might require a bit more locution than an 'excuse me', especially when you're in a rush.

No matter who you end up encountering, be sure to enjoy the day to the fullest. After all, you've made it across the line and you've earned the right to make it your big day!

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Third wheeling tips

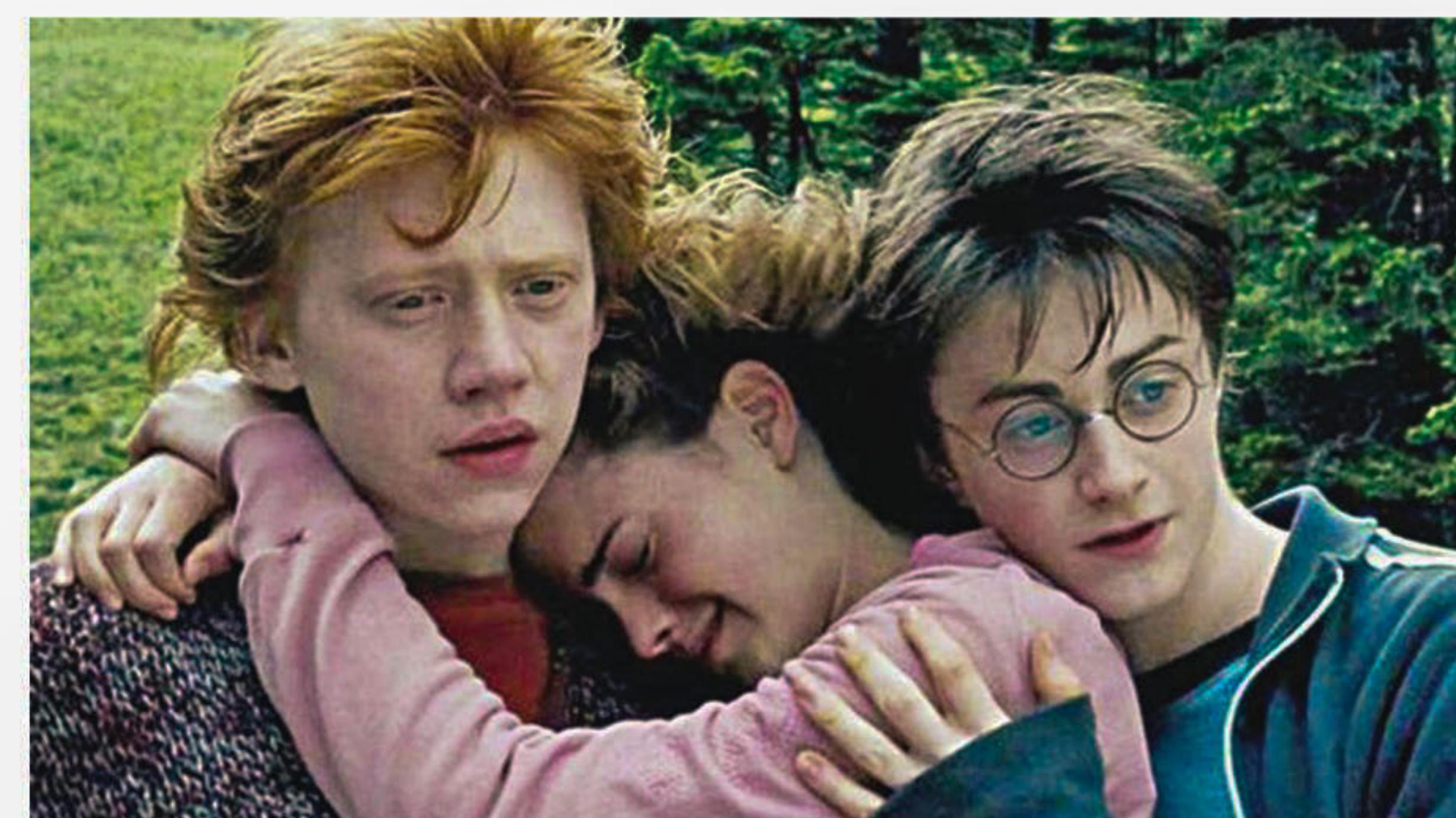
WASIQUE HASAN

Of all the sacrifices we make for the people we care about, third wheeling must be the most taxing. Regardless of how much you care for the happy couple, being the odd one out for hours on end isn't the ideal definition of fun. If you are one of those selfless martyrs who sacrifice themselves for the sake of love, consider trying out a few of the strategies mentioned below to make the experience a bit more bearable.

BRING A DISTRACTION

When third wheeling, your presence will become redundant very quickly. After some small talk is made involving the whole group, you will be subtly ushered out of the conversation. This is when the two lovebirds will go off on a tangent and talk about couple stuff (like getting matching socks or seizing the means of production).

To deal with being left out, I always bring a distraction with me. In my case it happens to be a book, which is why I've been able to make a sizeable dent in my reading list. You can use whatever you want, as long as it's not your phone. That might tempt the happy couple to ask for a #candid or new profile pictures in each



other's arms. And here we thought only DSLR's had it rough.

EARPHONES ARE SALVATION

Although earphones could be categorised as a form of distraction, they serve a dual purpose. Besides passing the time, they'll also allow you to retain your sanity.

Lovebirds have a tendency of whispering sweet nothings to one another. Oh did I say whispering? I'm sorry, I meant saying very audibly. Listening in on such conversa-

tions is almost as cringey as watching a YouTuber apology video. Therefore, the best thing to do would be to plug in your earphones and turn your volume up.

Heavy metal should serve your purpose very well, in case you were wondering.

FRIEND IN NEED

You've probably guessed what I'm about to suggest, which is to bring one of your friends to assist in the third wheeling. This will turn your mismatched tricycle into a

reliable Toyota Corolla.

As we've already established by now, your good friends, the couple, will be too lost in each other's eyes to care much about the new addition. How one can find plain black irises so interesting I will never understand. By having a friend by your side, you can pass the time discussing important topics like the upcoming Arctic Monkeys album, or why seizing the means of production is a controversial idea.

BEATING THEM AT THEIR OWN GAME

This one is an experimental tactic, but it should be very effective if executed correctly. All you need to do is to show up for your third wheeling duties with a date of your own. If it works out well, you've found companions for future double dates. If not, you'll be relieved of further third wheeling duties, so it's not all bad.

I haven't been able to try this out yet (this is the part where you feel sorry for me), but doesn't it sound like a pretty good idea?

With a heart of ash and a PC of potato, Wasique Hasan could use some help. Send memes to cheer him up at facebook.com/hasique.wasan