

# This is the easy part

## Coventry High School graduates 366 students

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KINGSTON.— There were 366 graduates from Coventry High School who proudly accepted their diplomas and walked across the stage in the Ryan Center at the University of Rhode Island last night, thus entering a whole new phase in their lives.

The Ryan Center may not have hit capacity at 7,700 people, but it was filled with family and friends of the graduates, many of which let out loud yells of excitement to cheer on each graduate as they entered the Ryan Center Bowl.

The student's principal, Michael Hobin, was one of the first to formally commend the class of 2009 on their accomplishments.

"I welcome these 366 new alum into the ranks and rich history of this school," he said.

Hobin applauded the graduates on their successful accomplishment of rigorous course loads and completion of graduating standards. He said the class had become known for its tenacity in both athletics and academics and had truly "made a difference in the culture of the school." He also spoke of the power of each and every student.

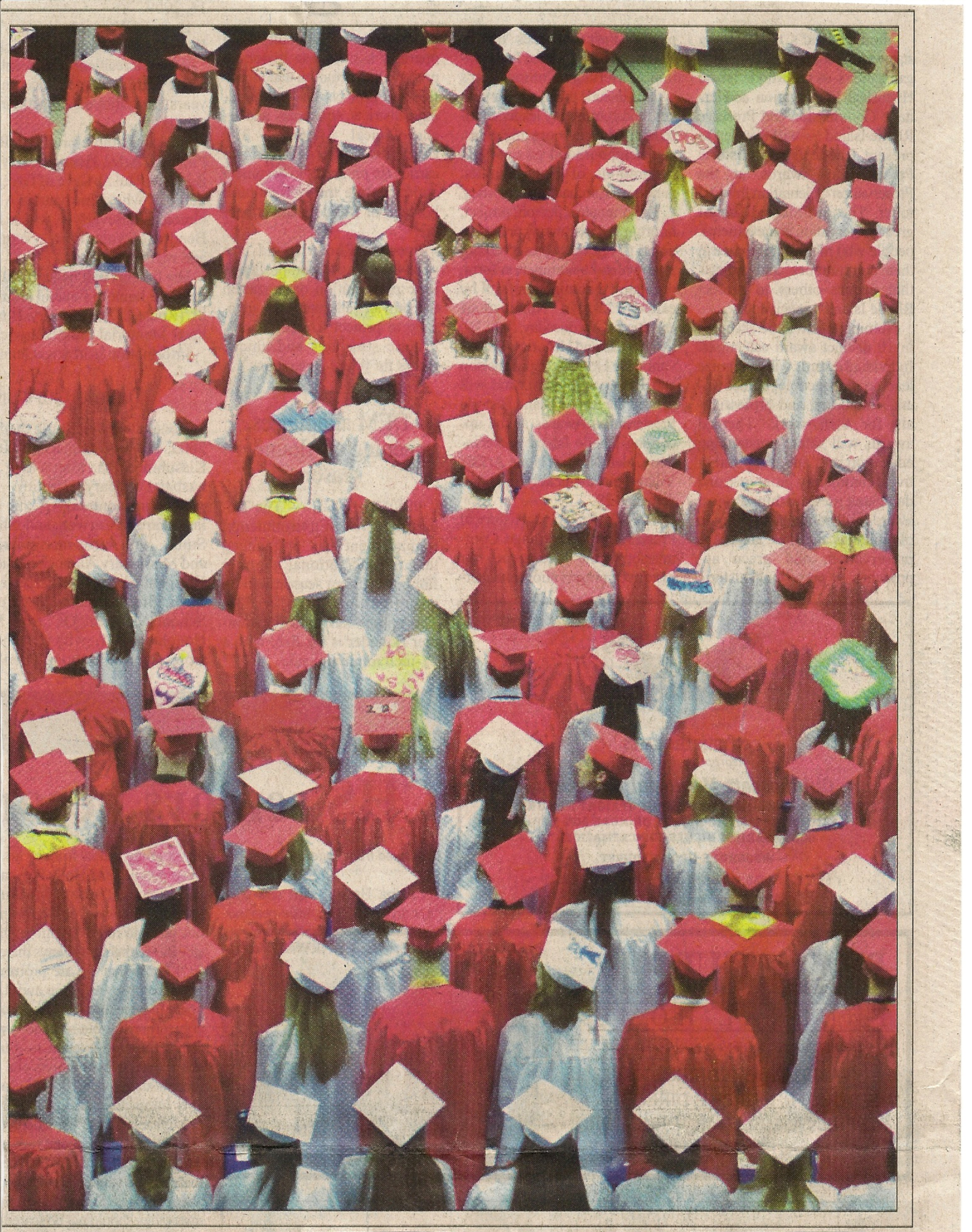
"Just as one tree can start a forest, one smile can begin a friendship, one vote can change a nation, one step can start a journey, one touch can show you care, one life can make a difference and now you see it's up to you to do that," Hobin told the graduates. "It's up to you to go out and make an impact in your communities and your nation as you did in the culture of our school, now go out there and change the world."

Jamie Fisher, one of the graduates, said she is anxious and excited to start this new phase in her life; to move on to college, meet new people and see new things, while her friend, Erin Leporacci, another graduate, said she just can't wait for summer to start.

Jim Curtin said his personality wouldn't allow him to be nervous.

"I am an open minded individual and not going to let any of this make me nervous," he said. "I am going to walk right across that stage with my sunglasses on because I don't care."

Steph Oceau said she just didn't want to be that one person that falls on stage.



# CHS seniors become alumni

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Corina Bruno, said she was "not anxious, but a little nervous

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about going out in front of all of those people" and Holly Poy, said it is "kind of nerve wracking knowing that we won't have that one place to run to anymore, that safe haven that was always there."

"I know that we are probably going to miss everyone and it is going to be really shocking, probably tomorrow, but right now, we are all just too excited to think about that," Kayla Flores, one of the graduates, said. "It will probably hit us after this is all over."

Michaela Tracy, the valedictorian, who will be attending Harvard in the fall, spoke to her classmates in her valedictorian address about choices. She told her classmates they should not be scared of what the future holds. Instead, she told them, they should be proud of the choices that they have made in their lives that got them to his point, but that they should continue to make good choices as they pursue their path to success.

Tracy said that writing her speech was not as difficult as selecting the topic for it. She said once she figured that out, her words began to "flow nicely."

"I did sit and stare at a blank computer screen for some time before I decided on the theme of

my speech," she said. "It was just hard to try and think of something that could be representative of the past four years at this school. It has all just gone by too fast to even describe."

There was one person in the audience who may not have been wearing a cap and gown at the ceremony, but was still a part of the graduating class of 2009. Tyler Horrocks, vice president of the Coventry High School senior class, said he experienced some complications and was unable to participate in the graduating ceremony, but his classmates still wanted him to be a part of graduation so therefore asked him to create a slide show. That slide show aired prior to the graduation ceremony for all in attendance.

Victoria Lavery, Rebecca Chase and Rebecca Cearle, members of the Coventry High School concert jazz band, which performed for the graduation ceremony, said they performed a variety of traditional hymns for the event. Lavery said the group began rehearsing for this performance as soon as they returned from their spring break around May 13.