

## In Our Schools

# Beacon Charter School scores three big wins at R.I. Drama Fest

WOONSOCKET — Theater arts students at Beacon Charter High School for the Arts are basking in the glow of victory following three individual wins at the 81st Rhode Island State Drama Festival earlier this spring.

Sophomore Emily Drainville won the creative merit award for best original play composition for the second straight year, senior Heidi Caron won an all-state acting award for her depiction of a sick and dying woman, and sophomore Taylor Remy took home a writer's award for his winning comedy script, the first play script he says he had ever written.

"We're really fortunate to have such a high concentration of talented kids here," said school-based coordinator Suzanne Russell on Monday. Together with their theater counterparts, the three award winners contributed to the performing of "Ulysses Game," a four-part play directed by dramatic arts teacher Dawn Souza.

The three students inter-



**Emily Drainville**

viewed by *The Valley Breeze* said that perhaps even more than their personal accomplishment, gaining recognition for one of the nation's top charter schools was especially gratifying.

"A lot of the schools at the competition did pretty big stuff," said Drainville, who performed her own composition on the piano as background music for a production depicting the many sides of love, all on a giant chess board stage.



**Heidi Caron**

"Our school is much smaller than most," she said.

"People don't always appreciate what we do here," said Caron, who explained that while she has always had to adjust to new acting roles, portraying "Rosey" for this performance was something different than she had ever experienced.

"Our school just has natural talent," said the aspiring actress and video game designer, with a grin.



**Taylor Remy**

Remy said he was assigned a 10-minute play script for a class project, a humorous story of friendship he said was one of his most difficult writing assignments ever.

To Remy's surprise, his script "Butterflies" was chosen among all the scripts written by sophomores at Beacon Charter School.

"Apparently I can write plays," he said.