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Awards piling up for Riley Review

By JIM MEENAN
Tribune Staff Writer

SOUTH BEND -- Upon further review, the Riley Review has won even more awards.

The Riley High School newspaper already had three Gold Key winners in the recently announced international Quill and Scroll writing competition and is among 12 papers in the state named a finalist in the Hoosier Star, Division 3 competition, which will be announced in October.

Now you can add to that list first-place finishes in the Women's Press Club of Indiana for Sarah Scanlon and Bobby Williams, both juniors and co-editors-in-chief of the paper. Scanlon was honored for an album review and Williams for several columns.



Scanlon

Williams

The Women's Press Club of Indiana holds the competition for all high school journalists in the state each year. It selects only one first-place winner in each of 12 categories to go on to national competition.

"We haven't had a number one in that contest in maybe 10 years," said Marcia Kovas, journalism teacher/adviser at Riley. "I am absolutely thrilled this year has been so productive.

"One of the neat things is these are juniors. We have a very strong underclassman group leading the way."



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For Scanlon and Williams, the honors meant different things.

"I guess this means the review I wrote is pretty good," said Scanlon, who won a gold key in the Quill and Scroll competition for the same article. "I wrote it right after I got the album (by International Noise Conspiracy) because I was pretty excited about having it. And it just came off the top of my head."

Her article was fairly in-depth, she added, and she wrote a little something on each track.

Williams said the honor was exciting.

"It's nice to get an award," he said. "But to me the award is just sort of something at the top of the pile, like something nice."

"When I write stories, what I like about writing is just getting people to hear what I have to say and sort of creating awareness and getting people to talking about different issues and things that are going on that need to be talked about."

His entry was in a body-of-work category for several columns he wrote. He also won two honorable mentions for a story on a female Army veteran who served in Iraq, and another in graphics design for an article he wrote while he lived as a homeless person for a day.

"A lot of times I do undercover reporting, and I will try different things and researching different issues," Williams said. "I kind of try to find ills in society and sort of comment on them and sort of create an awareness of what's going on."

His columns for the Review have included not only the homeless piece but also one about going to a black Santa Claus as a youth, one on teachers who don't come across as they want in school, and even one protesting the treatment of chickens at Kentucky Fried Chicken. He even took on Wal-Mart, to an extent.

"One thing I try to do is have a sense of humor when I write about those different things," he said. "I think that's part of what helps to get the message out."

Also earning honors in the contest were junior Billy Maust, who was on the staff one semester and received a second place for his opinion story on smoking.

Staff writer Jim Meenan:

jmeenan@sbtinfo.com

(574) 235-6342

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