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Press Release

Roger Schillerstrom, award winning Editorial Cartoonist for Crain's Communications Inc., and freelance artist, is the 2016 recipient of the Illinois Library Association Intellectual Freedom Award. The award, presented by the ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee, recognizes an individual or group for outstanding contributions in defending intellectual freedom or the advancement of these principles. The award is sponsored by Quality Books Inc. (QBI).

Roger Schillerstrom is an Editorial Cartoonist with Crain Communications, Inc. where he produces work for their various publications. Additionally, he regularly works as a freelance artist and has authored several books. Mr. Schillerstrom began as a freelance cartoonist in Illinois and is Crain's first and only staff cartoonist. In 1996, he won the Peter Lisagor Award for editorial cartooning. His editorial cartoons have been recognized for excellence by the Chicago Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists in multiple years. Throughout his career Schillerstrom has used his medium as a forum for expressing strong opinions, which are sometimes controversial, but always his own.

While a variety of Illinois topics are illustrated in Mr. Schillerstrom's cartoons; especially memorable is one that spread the fervent message that freedom of speech will not be overcome by violence. That message was heard internationally when Roger and fellow cartoonists across the world reacted to the massacre in the offices of Charlie Hebdo and the attacks in Paris in January of 2015. The attached image by Roger Schillerstrom, published by Crain's in response to the cry of Je Suis Charlie (I am Charlie), and Roger's work overall convey this deeply held personal belief in the value of free speech. In retrospect, the works of the world's editorial cartoonists in response to the attacks are what many remember most. Editorial cartoons are viewed by millions each day.



Roger Schillerstrom has produced over 10,000 cartoons during his long career, and using a few choice words as conveyed in his special art form, has sparked discussions on many controversial topics such as pension reform, political corruption, the state impasse, and many social issues. Throughout his career he has been a person who uses this platform to give voice to the varied concerns of the people of Illinois. We believe he, and his fellow cartoonists, deserve recognition for defending freedom of speech via their creative medium.

Roger Schillerstrom graduated Magna Cum Laude from Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa with majors in Sociology, Spanish and Political Science. After working for three years as a Youth Minister he left Iowa to attend the American Academy of Art in Chicago. Roger is also the author of *Drawn to Golf*, a collection of editorial cartoons printed in *Golfweek* magazine. He has illustrated two children's books (*I Get Angry Like a Tiger* and *Angry Monster*), and provided illustrations for several specialty books as well as several book covers. His first cartoon was published in 1982 and he has not put down his pen since.

The Intellectual Freedom Award will be presented at the Awards Luncheon held on Tuesday, October 18th, during the 2016 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference in Rosemont.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release