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Times and Boston Globe Win Polk Awards for Reporting

By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

A journalist who came under fire in a war zone and others who exposed squalid conditions in homes for the mentally ill, sexual abuse by priests and fraud in health care or criminal justice systems were among the winners of 14 George Polk Awards for 2002 announced yesterday by Long Island University.

The Boston Globe and The New York Times each won two reporting awards, while 10 other news organizations were cited for a wide range of distinguished journalism in the tradition of George W. Polk, a CBS correspondent who was killed in 1948 covering the civil war in Greece.

Anthony Shadid of The Globe, who was shot in the shoulder in Ramallah, in the West Bank, won the foreign reporting award for a 10-part series of articles on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A team of Globe reporters and editors won the national reporting Polk for a yearlong series exposing sexual abuse by priests and cover-ups by church leaders that led to the resignation of Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston.

Clifford J. Levy of The Times won the regional reporting Polk for "Broken Homes," a series based on a yearlong investigation into the plight of 15,000 mentally ill residents of state-regulated adult homes in dangerous, often squalid conditions.

Walt Bogdanich, Barry Meier and Mary Williams Walsh of The Times won the award for health care reporting for "Medicine's Middlemen," a series that showed how two companies cornered a market on drugs and medical supplies for many hospitals, inflating costs and sometimes leading to the distribution of inferior medical products.

Established in 1949 and administered by Long Island University, the Polk Awards are based on recommendations by a national committee of news executives, journalism teachers and working journalists; final selections are made by a panel of L.I.U. faculty members and alumni. The awards will be presented at a luncheon at the Roosevelt Hotel in Manhattan on April 10.

Ellen E. Schultz and Theo Francis of The Wall Street Journal won the award for financial reporting, disclosing how employers enrich themselves by manipulating employee benefit plans. Michael Luo of The Associated Press won the criminal justice award for a series that questioned the manslaughter

convictions of three mentally handicapped African-Americans in Alabama. It led to the release of two of the men.

A Los Angeles Times reporter-photographer team, Sonia Nazario and Don Bartletti, won for international reporting for a six-part series, "Enrique's Journey," retracing a Honduran youth's 800-mile freight-train odyssey, an often dangerous trek emblematic of Latin American emigration north.

Debbie Salamone, Ramsey Campbell and Robert Sargent of The Orlando Sentinel won for environmental reporting with a series on Florida's water crisis. Stephen Kiernan and Cadence Mertz of The Burlington Free Press won for medical reporting with a series on health care fraud and incompetence in Vermont.

Arnold S. Relman and Marcia Angell of The New Republic won for magazine reporting with "America's Other Drug Problem," documenting how drug companies invest far more in advertising and lobbying than in research and development. Dr. Relman is professor emeritus at Harvard Medical School, where Dr. Angell is a senior lecturer. Both are former editors in chief of The New England Journal of Medicine.

Jason Riley and R. G. Dunlop of The Courier-Journal in Louisville won for local reporting, exposing a county judicial system rife with mismanagement.

Phil Williams and Bryan Staples of WTVF in Nashville won the television reporting Polk for a series on questionable ethical conduct by Don Sundquist, then governor. The author Susan Sontag won for cultural criticism for "Looking at War," an essay in The New Yorker on the history of modern warfare as seen through the lens of photojournalism.

Morley Safer of CBS News won the career achievement award. In nearly 40 years with CBS, he covered the Vietnam War, often from villages and jungles where the fighting raged, helped exonerate a Texas man wrongly convicted of murder, and has been a mainstay of "60 Minutes" for more than 30 years.