

# Young political cartoonist makes point with pen

By Joanne Mallazewski  
staff writer

**J**OSH WEINBERG is the Republican in his family of Democrats. But that doesn't stop him from drawing George Bush as the Flash running after Uncle Sam as he throws around tax money.

"I love making fun of him," said the 12-year-old O.E. Dunkel Middle School student, about Bush, and of course, Dan Quayle.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is also providing Josh with fuel for his political cartooning. No joking, Josh is just like all other 12-year-olds except for one thing: he's into national and international politics and cartooning.

"I like political cartooning because you can get any point across you want even if people don't agree with it," said Josh, who is also working on a new game for his Nintendo, not to mention the few cartoon strips he's developed.

His love of cartooning isn't just a hobby. He's serious about it. And a good number of professional cartoonists around the country and the world know about him as probably

the youngest political cartoonist in the nation.

When he's an adult, Josh wants to be a professional editorial/political cartoonist or work for Walt Disney. But cartoonist-friends of Josh's tell him he must go to college to learn about the world — a necessity if he wants to be a political cartoonist.

JOSH IS getting the hang too of being interviewed and taking his dry wit on talk shows. Denny McClain interviewed Josh on his WXYT-AM talk show and Cable News Network has shown Josh and his cartooning to the world.

When McClain asked him why he's a Republican, Josh dryly replied: "Dukakis."

Josh nabbed a first place in the eighth grade-and-under category in the first annual American Scholars Political Cartoon Contest, sponsored by Political Pix.

In 1989, he tied for third place in the Detroit Free Press editorial cartoon contest and received an honorable mention in a 1990 contest. Josh has entered a contest in Tokyo and is still waiting to hear the outcome.

Josh can name cartoonists like most middle school students rattle

*'I like political cartooning because you can get any point across.'*  
— Josh Weinberg

off names of their favorite rock and rap stars. He's made a map of the United States depicting his travels and where the cartoonists he's met and stayed with live.

When asked who's his favorite cartoonist, Weinberg pulls the apple he's munching out of his mouth and replies: "That's not a fair question."

Truth is, he appreciates all the cartoonists he's come to know. He corresponds with them and they critique his work.

When cartoonist Bill Day had an autographing session at a local book store for one of his books, Josh was in touch with him. "He said, 'Why don't you come down and I'll talk to you.' It turned out we were the only ones who showed up. He signed a book for me. And gave me an original (cartoon) panel."

ACCORDING TO Josh's mom, Valerie, Josh began drawing when he was 3 years old. Now, she says, he draws on everything, including napkins at the dinner table and on his shoes.

"Usually when I'm bored, I'll take out a piece of paper and draw things I see," Josh said.

His cartoons are in black and white, either with a felt tip pen, or a Nib, which is dipped in ink. His room has a drawing table, complete with pens, not to mention samples of his cartooning scattered about. Of course, other cartoonists' works are also displayed.

His favorite topics now focuses on the Middle East, the S&L scandal, or taxes. His cartoons are full of caricatures of George Bush and Saddam Hussein. Josh sent Bush one of his cartoons and got a letter back from the president.

Along with his cartooning, Josh has plenty of opinions about the world and its state. About Hussein, Josh says: "I think what he's doing to Kuwait and to the hostages is just terrible."

About American involvement, he says: "I don't see the point of risking lives. We should pull out and see what happens. All the soldiers are doing is sitting in the sun and frying."

And of the world, Josh says: "After we're done screwing up this one, we'll find another one to screw up."

JOSH'S PENCHANT for current affairs comes from his dad, Max, a collector of historical autographs. His dad, according to Josh's mother, "is the best stage mother around."



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Twelve-year-old Josh Weinberg of Farmington Hills is one of the youngest political cartoonist in the country. His favorite subjects are George Bush and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.



Josh Weinberg's cartoons could be considered political satire.



## Car wash will fight cancer

Give the car a "scary scrub down" and help conquer cancer at the same time. That's the idea behind the Haunted Car Wash at the Colonial Car Wash on Nine Mile in Farmington this weekend.

From 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 27-28, car washes will cost \$4 each (instead of the usual \$4.75) at Colonial. Half the proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

"It's to celebrate our first year in the community," said Holly Owens, who owns and manages the business with her husband, Mark. "We opened on Devil's Night last year."

"It's also for the American Cancer Society, and that's real important to me. People close to my heart, friends

and family, have died from cancer."

The car wash, just west of Farmington Road, is the kind where the owner stays in the car while it is being washed. The business will be decorated for Halloween with ghosts, goblins and a coffin that opens and closes.

"We'll have the whole Halloween scene," said Owens, who lives in Farmington Hills. "It should be a scary ride through a car wash."

Owens, who took courses in art at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit, made the decorations with the help of the car wash staff.

Farmington Mayor Shirley V. Richardson will take the first ride through.



SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

### Civic reminder

The Farmington Hills Committee to Increase Voter Participation is encouraging the community to vote this November in a colorful way. Julieann Hovanessian, chairwoman of the group, models one of the bright red-and-green T-shirts with the message "Vote... It Improves Your Constitution." The shirts are being sold for \$5 this month, with proceeds going to the Michigan Municipal League, which provided the shirts. Shirts are offered at the Farmington Hills city clerk's or city manager's offices. Call the 473-0505 for more information.

He's in awe of Josh's talents." The artistic side of Josh, his mom guesses, comes from his grandmother.

"We do a lot of talking at the dinner table about current events and what's going on," Valerie Weinberg said.

Basically, Josh said he understands what he reads of world events

and national politics. But sometimes he's not too sure his friends understand what he's doing.

"They are pretty impressed but a lot of them just don't understand what I'm trying to say," Josh said.

Not that Josh is really unlike other 12-year-olds. He likes his dog, Duchess, eating, the movies, swimming, Nintendo, his friends and "bugging

my sister."

When Josh needs to learn about conflict, family members say he relies on his 14-year-old sister Rachel, a North Farmington High student. "She has helped him understand rivalry among nations," his mom said.

About his older sister, Josh adds: "We're like Bush and Hussein."

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