

Student draws his feelings on Gulf conflict

By Casey Hens
Staff writer

With troops fighting in the sands of the Middle East, Farmington Hills resident Terail Brooks is using his drawing abilities to put his feelings about the war on paper.

The O.E. Dunckel Middle School sixth grader said he is concerned about how the war is going, since the U.S.-imposed Jan. 15 deadline passed and allied troops began military action to push back Iraq, which invaded neighboring Kuwait last August.

"It's not so good," he said. "It makes me concerned — it doesn't make me scared."

"I think he (Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein) should have gotten out before the deadline."

One of his recent drawings entitled "We Want Peace — 1 On One" drawn near the time of the Jan. 15 deadline shows President George Bush striking out at Hussein, while an allied soldier sneaks up on Hussein from behind, shooting bullets. The background shows a variety of action war scenes, including aircraft, tanks and bombs being dropped in the desert.

DUNCKEL ASSISTANT principal Thomas McConaghie noticed Terail's ability while watching him draw one day as he waited for a ride home after school. "I thought 'hey, he's really good,'" McConaghie said. "I was intrigued by the aircraft and how he put motion into it (the drawing). I'm hoping Terail will pick up and go forward with this."

"I'm just happy he was discovered early."

Terail, who said he has aspirations to become a lawyer, artist and basketball player someday, has yet to take an art class as a first year student at Dunckel. The 12-year-old said he became interested in drawing and painting five years ago, when he first traced one of his brother's pictures.

His homeroom teacher, Tanya Aldrich, said Terail uses his artwork during the regular school day, as well. He has done "two large, very nicely done posters" as part of a book report project, and helped put together a bulletin board in the back



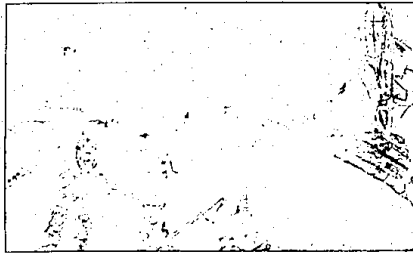
photos by SHARON LeMIEUX / staff photographer

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— Thomas McConaghie
Dunckel assistant principal

of the class when his social studies class studied Egypt. "Terail's almost always drawing something," she added.

Terail Brooks also recently competed in a school yearbook contest. One of his drawings was selected for the book's cover.



O.E. Dunckel sixth grader Terail Brooks looks over some of his art work, including a recent drawing about events in the Persian Gulf. One of Terail's designs was recently chosen for the cover of the school's yearbook.

Terail Brooks' recent drawing shows U.S. President George Bush striking a blow to Saddam Hussein, while a U.S. soldier surprises the Iraqi leader from behind. Various military equipment and the sands of the desert grace the background.

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