

'Dungeons' Mystery Boy Shoots Himself in the Head

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—When James Dallas Egbert III disappeared last year, investigators searched a maze of subterranean tunnels at Michigan State University to see if he had been trapped in a real-life version of the "Dungeons and Dragons" fantasy game.

Today, the 17-year-old computer science whiz was in critical condition with a gunshot wound in the head that police believe was self-inflicted.

Egbert underwent surgery at Grandview Hospital, where doctors removed a bullet from his head. The teen-ager, who had returned to his home town after his monthlong disappearance, was found by a roommate who told police he had been asleep when he was awakened by a shot, Police Sgt. L. M. Kincaid said.

Optometrist James D. Egbert II said he had no clues about his son's shooting. Asked whether his son had been unhappy or troubled, Egbert said, "We thought just the opposite."

But William C. Dear, the Dallas private investigator who found Egbert last September, said recently the youth may have been having some family trouble.

Egbert, who has an IQ of 145, dis-

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James Dallas Egbert III

AP photo

appeared last Aug. 15 during his sophomore year at MSU. He was found by Dear on Sept. 13 in a location that has never been disclosed, and the reason for his disappearance remained a mystery.