

# The Dalton Star

## SECRET FILES: CASE 1 THE CASE OF THE SECRET SENDER

By Cleo Juster

### OFFICER SMITH:

It was a regular day just like any other. I was out getting coffee at a café and a strawberry donut. Then my blackberry starts ringing off the hook. I answer, mouth full of donut. It was...

### QUEEN ELIZABETH

I had nothing to do with it; I swear.

### SAM

I got this e-mail. Take me to your leader. I threw it in the trash. No big deal. More came. I thought it was just a joke. But no. More came hundreds a day. Then every hour. Then minute. Then second. Then every nanosecond. Was I doomed?

### SOME RANDOM KID

Let me go. I don't know anything. I will tell my mom about this!

ZOMBO.COM:  
THE WEIRDEST  
WEBSITE IN  
THE WORLD

By Jack O'Brien

At Zombo.com\*, the website says pointless things and has cool music in the background...so...go to Zombo.com!!!!

\* Zombo.com is a real website. You will not be spammed and there are no highly dangerous threats that will break your computer.

## MOSES' ROLLERBLADES: SEGMENT FOUR (4) (IV) (CUATRO) (QUARTTRO) (VIER) (QUATRE) (四) (QUATTUOR) (기수의) (ةعبرأ) THE FINAL BATTLE

By Teddy Katz

Reminder: Then a large tree falls over and a branch smacks my back, knocking me out.

When I get up I decide that I don't want to wait any longer to get down this mountain. I ski directly down the mountain, which may have been a bad idea because I had been taking a tree route. I crash into another tree and struggle for consciousness. I lose *that* battle, and as I am hallucinating I see a fox. I see it advance upon me. This is a very exciting hallucination! (Or at least it was until I realized that it was actually happening. Then it wasn't as exciting anymore.) When I saw that the fox was real, I searched through my bag. The first thing that my hand touched was...another watermelon. It would be great for throwing except for the fact that it's too heavy, so I eat it quickly, and spit sixty watermelon seeds at the fox. It slows him down but doesn't stop him. Then I feel the toothpaste in my bag. I squirt it at the fox. It instantly freezes on him. I keep squirting until he is a block of ice. Then I get an idea. I chop off the corners of the block with the rollerblades until it is a perfect sphere. Then I jump on and start rolling. We go so fast that the fox flies out of the sphere, which causes it to stop. This is lucky because I was losing my grip anyway. Right now there is a big hole in my... frozen toothpaste truck. Then I get an idea. I climb through the hole and squirt my last blast of toothpaste. I leave a few holes so I can breath. Then I push it downward.

### THREE MINUTES LATER:

By now my "truck" must have broken, but I'm so dizzy it's hard to tell.

### FIVE MINUTES LATER:

Finally the earth stops spinning. I look away from the mountain and see... a city. This must be the "Promised Land" God told me about. After a bit of a walk I arrive at the city. Apparently they call it Jer-oos-al-um.

### Epilogue

Moses died a few years later. On his will it said: "I leave my stuffed chicken to my son, and the knowledge of how to make frozen toothpaste trucks to my daughter." On Moses' gravestone was a quote from his autobiography:

“There is no place like the mountains. During my life’s journey, though stranded once, I have been to the mountains many times, and never have I experienced a greater joy. I truly think that the mountains were meant to be the best place in the world.”

**The End (that means the story’s over)**

## Earth on Fire: Chapter One

By Jake Weiss

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Alex. After this first line, most people would think that this is a normal, possibly boring fairytale; maybe like *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, or *The Princess and the Pea*. But this tale is probably not at all similar to any of those you have heard before. This tale is probably not at all similar to any of those you might think of in your mind. This tale is...Earth on Fire.

So let’s start again. Once upon a time, there was a boy named Alex. Alex was a good boy. He belonged to quite a wealthy family. Because of this, he had four computers. (He had originally had five, but one of them had broken because of a website with spy software.) His family had twelve television sets, though two of them had a hole punched through them because his father had several anger management issues. It was kind of funny, because Alex’s family hardly ever watched television. But one day, Alex decided to watch.

[The rest of this story will be in first person.]

I turned on the television. The only things I liked to watch were usually old cartoons like Tom & Jerry. But when I turned it on today, the news was on. I was ten years old, soon turning eleven, and I thought that I should probably know about what was going on in the world. So I decided not to change the channel. I watched the news, and it must have been very important because at the top of the screen there was large yellow sign with black letters reading BREAKING NEWS. The volume was on quite low, so I turned it up on the remote control.

The screen showed a picture of a volcano. No, not just a still picture, a moving clip. The volcano was erupting. Then the picture changed. In this clip, there was a village with lots of large, purple Victorians, similar to his own house. The important thing, though, was that lightning was striking about every half second all over the clip. The next clip was of a beach, and according to the screen, it was in Tampa Bay, Florida. Again, lightning was flashing all over the clip, even more frequently this time.

“Nobody has been able to understand the cause of the natural disasters occurring in the past few days,” said the commentator. “All is mysterious so far.”

Next shown was a terrible scene. A large redwood tree in California was shown. It was large and graceful; a beautiful red trunk with long red branches, all branching off into bright green leaves. But suddenly the tree started rumbling, and then it exploded, leaving nothing behind but black and brown ashes.

The commentator repeated the same thing he had just said about ten seconds ago. I always thought commentators were silly. Who needed them, anyway? I didn’t know what was wrong, either. But I had a clue. Most normal people would think that it is something due to global warming. But I was smarter than that. You might not think so, based upon the assumption I was about to make, but it’s true. How could global warming explode a tree in California. It couldn’t! So obviously, it had to be super natural. That’s not a joke.

That night, soon after I went to bed, I had a dream. I was in a vortex, swirling around all over the place. There was a voice. It sounded very mysterious and enchanting.

“You will go to the cave of fire,” said the voice, “and find what you seek. That or never return. On your journey you will meet nine creatures, each with their own unique curse, dangerous in its own way. There is one more thing I must say.” The voice paused.

“What must you say?,” I asked anxiously, trying to jump up but not succeeding. “Please! You must tell me!”

The voice waited about ten seconds and then continued.

“Orb.”

Then the vortex started swirling. It was swirling incredibly fast. I was screaming at the top of my lungs. And then I woke up.

I sat bolt upright in my bed, and I realized something horrifying. I wasn’t in a bed. And I was not in my house either.

**TO BE CONTINUED...**

## Funny facts about COMPUTERS

Found by Max Solotar

- Another name for a Microsoft Windows tutorial is 'Crash Course'!
- Bill Gates' house was designed using a Macintosh computer.
- By the year 2012 there will be approximately 17 billion devices connected to the Internet.
- Domain names are being registered at a rate of more than one million names every month.
- E-mail has been around longer than the World Wide Web.
- In the 1980s, an IBM computer wasn't considered 100 percent compatible unless it could run Microsoft Flight Simulator\*.

- MySpace reports over 110 million registered users. Were it a country, it would be the tenth largest, just behind Mexico.
- One of every 8 married couples in the US last year met online.
- The average 21 year old has spent 5,000 hours playing video games, has exchanged 250,000 e-mails, instant and text messages and has spent 10,000 hours on the mobile phone.
- The average computer user blinks 7 times a minute, less than half the normal rate of 20.
- The first banner advertising was used in 1994.
- The first computer mouse was invented by Doug Engelbart in around 1964 and was made of wood.
- The first domain name ever registered was Symbolics.com.
- The world's first computer, called the Z1, was invented by Konrad Zuse in 1936. His next invention, the Z2 was finished in 1939 and was the first fully functioning electro-mechanical computer.
- There are approximately 1,319,872,109 people on the Internet.
- There are approximately 1.06 billion instant messaging accounts worldwide.
- While it took the radio 38 years, and the television a short 13 years, it took the World Wide Web only 4 years to reach 50 million users.

Found on <http://www.funfactz.com/computer-facts/>

## How to Join the Dalton Star

By the Dalton Star Staff

Joining the Dalton Star is very simple. All you need to is come to one meeting at 3:15 on Fridays, and Ms. Younge will give you a new workspace on your email. Once you have the workspace, you can drag an article into the folder titled "New Submissions." Jake Weiss or Ms. Younge will check it to make sure it is appropriate, and they will put it in the folder titled "Approved Submissions." If an article is in that folder, it will ensure that the article will be in the issue.

After the issue is finished, your article will be moved to the "Archived Articles" folder. If you are part of the Dalton Star, you can find all previous issues in the "Archived Issues" folder. But only if you are in the Dalton Star. So join!

If you are not finished with an article, feel free to put it in the Articles in Progress folder. The "Meeting and Publication Schedule" is probably not of much importance this year.

If possible, it would be best if you could come to many meetings, so you can help us with various things. Thank you for reading!

## WRITING COMPETITIONS OF EARLY 2009

Update from the Dalton Star Staff

After spring break, the Dalton Star will have three writing competitions. The first competition will be with current events articles, the second will be with fictional stories, and the third will be with poems. To submit, just give your entry to Ms. Younge. We would prefer your entry to be typed up. If you work for the Dalton Star, you may still enter, but you will not be aloud to choose a winner. For the drawing, the names will be covered, so we will not be able to tell who wrote the entry. Once a winner is picked, the name will be uncovered, and the winner will have the honor of taking *two* prizes from Ms. Younge's prize box. You may enter more than one contest, but you cannot win more than one contest.

### Due Dates:

Current Events Article: January 12, 2009

Fictional Story: January 23, 2009

Poem: February 2, 2009

Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

