

Oh, Crumbs!

By Samm Pecht
Year 7 Class-D under 12 years
The day the computer started misbehaving

"I hope you're not eating up there!" shouted Brian's Mom, "I've noticed an ant problem in your room!"

"I'm not, Mom!" cried Brian guiltily, finishing the last word of his assignment on the computer and devouring the last cookie from his bag of "Super Sugar Cookies". He pushed the empty cookie bag to the corner of his desk, brushed some sugar crumbs off his keyboard and lazily watched some ants carry a crumb towards his computer.

As the ants arrived at their nest with the latest cookie crumb, a smaller ant came running excitedly towards them, tapping their antennas, "I have to tell you something important; the Queen discovered a new tool! Quick, she's speaking now!" "...this nest gets rained daily with a seemingly endless supply of sugar crumbs. But by pushing the squares on our nest we can connect to the Internet and thus to millions of other nests. The Internet will allow us to acquire vast amounts of sugar!" the Queen exclaimed, her antennas held high.

The group of seven million close friends stood huddled together gently tapping each other to signal their pleasure as they let the Queen's words sink in. "Tomorrow the Queen will use the Internet!" tapped Army breaking the silence and already dreaming of licking a sugar cube.

The next morning everyone gathered at the keyboard to listen to the Queen placing orders on the Internet. However, without a warning, the nest was grabbed and hoisted up into the air. Just when everybody thought that they could no longer hold on, a loud voice called out, "Brian your breakfast is getting cold!"

"I'm coming, Mom!" shouted Brian. "It's just that something happened to my laptop, it's connecting to the Internet on its own now!"
"Don't be silly Brian, now come down," said his Mom.

Brian sighed. Moms just didn't understand. He had been having problems with his computer lately. It seemed to have developed a life of its own. Brian couldn't help but think it was because of his ant problem. Ants, which he first had thought were only on his desk, seemed nowadays to be inside his laptop. He would have to deal with this problem another time as he better hurry downstairs before his Mom called him again.

With Brian out of the way, the shrewd Queen was able to complete the sugar stock orders from Brazil and India and set up shipments of sugarcane from Bangladesh.

A week later, three containers full of sugar products were delivered to Brian's house. Each week, the number of sugar containers delivered increased until the whole house was overflowing with sugar goods. The Queen and her people got smarter and smarter ordering and importing white sugar, raw sugar and refined sugar from different companies and countries and making calculations and analyzing sugar shares using Brian's computer.

One morning, Brian, sitting on a sugar container, looked at the newspaper's large headline and a chill went up his spin. Hardly believing he had read it right, Brian reread the headline:

Economic Mayhem
Unknown Trader 'Queenant'
Buys All Sugar Futures

Brian quickly ran up the staircase to his room crammed with sugar containers. In the light of his monitor, he noticed sugar stock prices were being displayed. Ants, millions of ants were pressing and shifting the keys on his keyboard. A noticeably larger ant, standing on the enter key, seemed to be managing and directing the colony.

Brian heaved a heavy sigh as he sheepishly glared at the corner of his desk and the empty bag of "Super Sugar Cookies."

