



...gang oft

astray...

Sometimes, i swear, if i didn't have bad luck, i wouldn't have any luck at all.

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There is, already, in this mailing a zine from me that was supposed to be in **last** mailing (due to being mailed very late), which was originally done for the mailing before **that**.

There were **supposed** to be two more zines -- both twenty-plus pages -- in this mailing as well.

Well, there probably won't be.

Couple weeks ago, it was a rainy/thundery night. I was peacefully asleep (about midnight) when i was awakened in a manner that reminded me unpleasantly of a number of nights in Viet Nam, when the first warning we got that we weren't going to get a good night's sleep was the "Poomp!" of the first illuminating round from the mortar pit, followed by the wail of the Red Alert siren.

I mean, it sounded exactly like an explosion.

It woke me up in time to see the bathroom light going out as the power went off.

"Ah," says i to me, "power outage. Luckily, the alarm clock has a battery backup and will wake me even if the power isn't back on."

However, while it was off for several hours, it was back on before i needed to get up, which was good as i didn't relish the prospect of a cold shower.

The phone was out, but the power was on. I figured they'd fix the phone eventually.

I got up and sat down at the computer to continue sending out resumes to the job leads that i had gotten from the Department of Labor (they actually had some listed in my field for which i met the qualifications; things must be getting better).

Switched on the computer.

"Keyboard Error".

Well, it's an old keyboard we got secondhand; no surprise.

So i stopped off on the way home from work that day and bought a new board, brought it home and plugged it in.

"Keyboard Error".

Unplugging the modem's phone line, i discovered that the plug had been badly flashed/burned across, and then i realised that the modem itself was kaput.

And i flashed back to my days as a Warranty tech at Hayes, and thought of the modems which had been zapped by lightning, and what it usually meant for the computer.

Yup. It was.

The system board was verstunkeneh.

And the main phone line was still out. Oddly, though, the modem line, where the lightning had demonstrably zapped us, still worked, as did the phone itself when i switched it over.

New system board and new memory (the newer boards use DDR, which our older board didn't) came to almost \$90.

And then Windows refused to run and had to be reloaded.

(I know what happened this time, unlike the last time Windows went south on me, and it won't happen again. That way.)

So i reloaded Windows.

And discovered that my DTP software refused to function, and needed to be reloaded.

Unfortunately, i managed to lose the install disk through a remarkably dumb series of events i won't go into (because it's too embarrassing), and i can't reinstall it.

And i have earlier versions that i can reinstall -- like the program i'm doing this on -- but they can't handle the files produced by the newer version. (Or, as in the case of Version 8, on which i'm doing this, and Version 8PDF, the newer version, it's more a case of won't than can't, i suspect.)

So i have to buy a new copy. Luckily, it's only \$9.95 plus shipping, but (A) we're poor right now and (B) shipping takes a while.

So those Large Zines will be in next mailing.

I hope.

(The "explosion", BTW, as I discovered later, was the outside phone connection literally exploding and, apparently, using the whole back wall of the trailer as its sounding board.)

