

Failure Analysis

I used to work in aftermath, halving
Plastic shells, using dental implements
To pry and poke their contents.
Blown-out resistors, hanging wire,
Popped electrolytics melted.
Black smudges, dust, and unexpected
Bodies.

I sought to understand broken circuits,
Feeding data to the engineers upstairs,
Counting failure,
Signs of components pushed beyond
Their limits, laying dormant on
The floors of sheds, or dropped
On pavement, baptized in floodwaters, left
In frigid trunks and humid cabs.

At best, you can control the parts
That go inside the box, and even that
Depends on outside factors.
Ants enter through a speaker gap,
Wide as a tunnel,
Across the green conformal coat, while
Currents rush past underneath.
Resistors the size of space heaters,
Warm microwaves resonating their organs.
Now trapped in stickum.

Kevin Mosher

Inspiration: *Stabilization and Control System* by Patrick
Millard