



Smartass III:

***Hell Hath no Fury like a Spithead
Scorned:***

The Wrath of Spithead

Spithead had gotten some abysmal service from a greedy company that refused to repair their damage, take any responsibility or even admit mistakes. What to do, what to do....

The “Spithead Way” was unsuccessfully tried; in-your-face, elephants trumpeting, whistles blowing and klaxons blaring, full frontal assault; however, it was far from over. It now required some measure of subtle, unannounced, quiet, behind the scenes maneuvering.

“This was a job for Captain Smartass!”

1. A Problem

2. Exit (Stage Left, even)

3. Stop whining!

4. Take a Look Around

5. Looks can be deceiving

6. A Collection of Dumb Things

**7. It seemed like a good idea at the
time....**

8. What goes around....

“I’m as mad as hell and I’m not going to take this
anymore!”

Network

***IF YOU CAN REMAIN RESOLUTE AND
CALM WHEN IT SEEMS THAT THE
ENTIRE WORLD IS ARRAYED
AGAINST YOU...***

***IF YOU CAN KEEP YOUR HEAD
WHILE ALL THOSE ABOUT YOU ARE
LOSING THEIRS...***

***THEN YOU PROBABLY
DON'T UNDERSTAND THE
SITUATION.***

A Problem

What a mess! So much for “letting your fingers do the walking.”

The Yellow Pages have their useful function, of course, like finding a pizza place, ‘dial-a-date’ or finding local government contacts but for a mechanic, doctor or pretty much anything electrical, ask a friend for advice or a referral; it’s not the time to go blindly selecting a name from a hat for computer repair help; otherwise, you’re just asking for trouble.

The most important thing is to be willing to accept that a particular problem is beyond you; that a “third eye” is needed. (*Admitting that you have a problem is the first step....*)

First, collect every piece of written info—eMail, receipts, estimates, etc. Good or bad, get ‘em all in one place. Divide them out, as being yea or nay your favor. Smartass reviewed the material. In this case, 95% favored Spithead.

So, at this point, Smartass pointed out three possible options:

One: *Hire an attorney; your case is strong and let the wheels of justice grind along*

Two: *Forget the whole thing*

Three: *Play dirty and leave no “fingerprints”. You’ll always have option one to fall back on*

Spithead was intrigued by number three.

For number three, you start by filling out these labels:

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Cash Reward!!!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Return in Person to</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>

He returned with a box of about 30 used books.

“Put their address on these labels. Then, stick a label inside each front cover. Put these books all over the worst part of town—on benches, at bus stops, shopping center parking lots—anywhere there’s no pay phone.”

“Why no phone?”

“If the phone company won’t even put in a cast iron phone box....”

“This is Tuesday; that’s for tomorrow. Thursday their house is listed for sale. Friday afternoon, their utilities will be scheduled for cutoff. The local paper will run an ad for the weekend, ‘Yard Sale! Early birds welcome!’”

“Lord, don’t ever get mad at me.”

“That’s a pretty full week; take a couple days off. Monday, nothing; Tuesday, they’ll be looking for what didn’t happen Monday. They’ll figure you shot your wad.”

“Next Wednesday, the county’s Housing Inspector, the Building Inspector and the Health Inspector get anonymous tips of possible defective plumbing and open raw sewage.”

“What if when they find nothing?”

“The inspector won’t waste a trip; he’ll find something.”

“Why all this stuff?”

“Diversion; they’ll be so busy running around putting out fires, your issue will fall way down on the priorities list. Ever play the board game Risk or chess or done magic tricks?”

“Yeah....”

“It’s all about making your opponent think you’re really doing one thing but your goal isn’t at all that. Like ‘Madagascar—Key to the World’; that’s only funny if you play the board game Risk (although, if you early on take and try to hold only the continent of Africa, you’ll look good and oh-so-clever at the start but later Europe, Asia and South America will keep chipping away at your African Empire and you’ll eventually lose the

game—or as The Quick Comeback Kid is fond of saying, “I believe the phrase is, ‘*Suckin’ the hind tit*’”).

Rehab is for quitters