



UP FOOL'S CREEK

April 1, 2010

You may notice, if you peeked at the other side of this piece of paper, that the shapes are back. They were back last month too, but it was only for practice. "The shapes" refers to the things vaguely resembling diamonds, circles or squares placed on different days of the calendar. Maybe you thought those were just greasy fingerprints. Well, we have those too, they may be found around the edges the sheet. To find out what shape you are, look in the right-hand column of your water bill. You get to water outside on the days with your shape on them.

We have been informed that our system of assigning shapes – purely at random, honestly – has created some problems. We seem to have inadvertently established a caste system of water users. Those lucky enough to be randomly labeled as Diamonds get all superior and start believing their water doesn't make mud, while the poor Squares suffer from chronic leaky hoses and lawn herpes. Even the middle-class Circle-folk grumble as they gyrate like an oscillating sprinkler between feeling guilty for not being Square and green with envy of the dratted Diamonds. The last thing we need in USCDWUA is a summer of discontent. We must get this defused before the system disintegrates into open revolt, with shapes watering whenever they feel like it.

So, we are planning to implement the Up The Creek Attitude Exchange. At this time, we don't know in detail how it will work, but it will be governed by the principle of cap and trade (we are awaiting the passage of certain federal legislation to set an example). Basically, the Diamonds will all be issued smugness permits, which will allow them to emit a capped quantity of superior attitude. In order for a Diamond to exceed the smugness cap, he or she may buy smugness credits from those who do not emit superior attitudes, i.e. the Squares. Alternatively, a Diamond may obtain credit through an offsetting activity, such as planting a grove of humble trees. In this way, it is believed that the concentration of superiority in the atmosphere will be reduced to 350 parts per million, which is calculated to be enough to avert the coming catastrophe. It will also make possible a degree of shape mobility among our waterers.

It may seem that the Circles are left out of this scheme, but they play the most important part. The administrative cost of the Exchange will be substantial, and here's where the Circles come in. They will contribute by paying a modest surcharge on their monthly bill, most of which will be used for running the exchange. A small amount will be set aside in the Circle Security fund, which will be available for Circles aged 85 and beyond to apply toward smugness permits, or to buy an honorary Diamond certificate outright. However, the Circle Security fund will be under the discretionary management of Up The Creek, and is not guaranteed to be, ah, intact at all times.

In other news, pipeline flushing will commence April 5, and will continue through April 15, approximately. The first area to be victimized will be the higher end of the Surface Creek Valley, thence proceeding across Cedar Mesa, then Redlands Mesa. Symptoms of a pipeline flush going on in your neighborhood could include low pressure, no pressure, rusty or muddy water, and fizzy, cloudy, air-laden water. None of these conditions is fatal or even dangerous, but may be temporarily inconvenient. If you are in doubt about whether you are being flushed, call the office.

Meter reading begins April 19. Be kind, our readers are more trustworthy than they look.