

# Importance of communication

Dear Annie: I am extremely disappointed and saddened by your advice to "Sad in Wisconsin," whose son's family does not acknowledge the gifts "Sad in Wisconsin" gives. The writer answered his own question, believing he should express his feelings to his son. All you had to do was agree.

## DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

Instead, you offered "three apparent options." None of the three involved actually telling his son how he feels. You indicated that the best one would be to just stop sending gifts. Why? Why do so many people in our society often choose to suffer in silence or "make someone pay" because they choose not to communicate with the person about their feelings and needs? You of all people, a giver of advice to millions, should encourage your readers to communicate with others.

So much of the divide in our country is because people don't talk. They don't listen. They don't share their feel-

ings and needs. They expect others to read their minds.

Please, use your bully pulpit to stop the madness and encourage people to communicate. "Sad in Wisconsin" obviously loves his son and wants a good relationship with him. No longer sending gifts would not accomplish that. Telling his son how he feels and what he needs just might. I'd also like to recommend that you and all of your readers check out Marshall Rosenberg's books and some videos of his work on YouTube, as well as the Center for Nonviolent Communication. It's life-changing. — *Disappointed*

**Dear Disappointed:** What a wonderful letter you have written. Thank you! Here is a letter from another reader who agrees with you:

"Sad in Wisconsin" wrote with the all-too-common issue of not receiving thanks for the presents he gives to his son and family. You offered three options:

"1) Keep sending gifts, and make peace with the lack of thank-yous. 2) Continue sending gifts and resenting the lack of thank-yous. 3) Stop sending gifts."

But you did not include the most obvious option: Talk to them. It doesn't have to be an accusatory conversation. He should just point out that the lack of acknowledgment makes it look as if the gifts are not wanted or are taken for granted. "Sad in Wisconsin" should also tell his son that he hopes he keeps that in mind in all of his relationships and that he hopes he'll teach that lesson to his daughter better than he did to him. If that discussion were not to get results, he could go straight to option No. 3.

No one had that talk with my niece, and her lack of basic manners cost her over \$1 million in inheritance (and she's still clueless as to what she missed and why). Though the purpose of thank-yous is not to position oneself for an inheritance, the attitude adjustment is rewarding in many ways. — *Surprised by Your Reply*

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Scientific studies suggest that many humans rate their skills and traits as much better than they actually are. Then there's you, totally underplaying it all. Speak up! Too much modesty means everyone could lose out.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The power struggle is between two parts of you, one that's parental and one that's childlike. Both parts want what's good for you and what will make you happy, though each has an extremely different definition of those concepts.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You're feeling rather uncharacteristically quiet, perhaps because you're still learning, observing and cataloging what you see, at least mentally. You're just not ready to put this education into words yet.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You do certain things because you want to make sure that your efforts don't go to waste. But in a way, once it's out of your hands, it's no longer your business. Let go for now completely. You can check back later.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Your parents gave you life, but they didn't give you (SET ITAL) their (END ITAL) lives. In matters emotional, professional, spiritual and practical, do it your way regardless of how well it might please your parents or any other authority figure.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** "You're a lot," said the member of Generation Z to her overly dramatic friend — a mild-sounding yet crushing insult. You've been on both sides of this sort of dialogue. It's why you're so careful and compassionate today.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** A person's record may be clean, but the real standard isn't about what a person has been caught and tried for. The real standard is a matter of personal integrity that has

to be reconciled between the individual and the higher self.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** How do you know you're being too hard on yourself? If the way you push yourself or talk to yourself doesn't advance your purposes, and is in fact more of a hurdle than a help, then you're being too hard on yourself.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Favored activities include next level cleaning and organization, the sort that handles the closets, files, drawers and little-seen areas — maybe even the secret chambers of the heart.

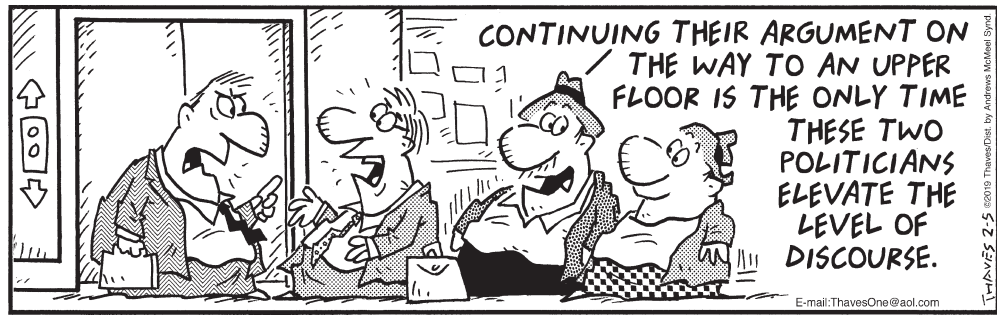
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Creative pursuits will show early signs of success, perhaps in the interested eyes of others, the smiles, the excellent questions you get about your process and goals. This is exciting!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You're never too busy to be charitable when the call comes, though often there is no call. To do good in the world these days, you have to be proactive. Notice who needs help, instead of waiting to be asked for help.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The way a person feels about himself, the way she sees her position or exerts her power, these are the sorts of things you can read rather easily today, and there's a way to use this for mutual benefit.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 6).** Remember when you thought you were functioning at full capacity? Well you'll do more this solar return and you'll do it better, and with greater love and joy. The secret is losing what is excessive and superfluous. Also of note — you'll travel with loved ones, at once expanding horizons and deepening relationships. Cancer and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 21, 5, 28, 3 and 10.

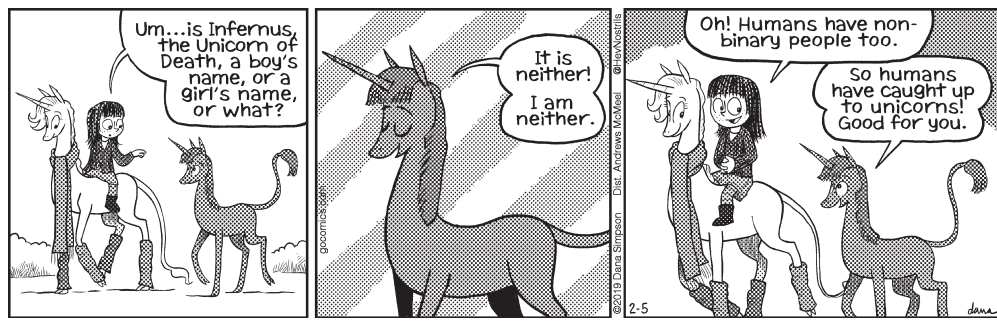
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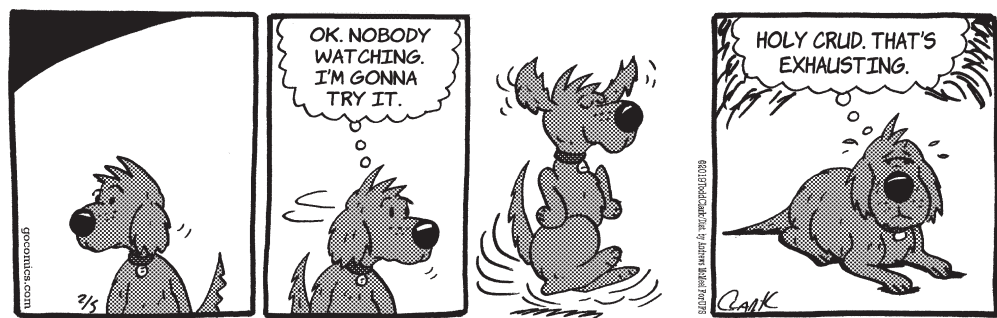
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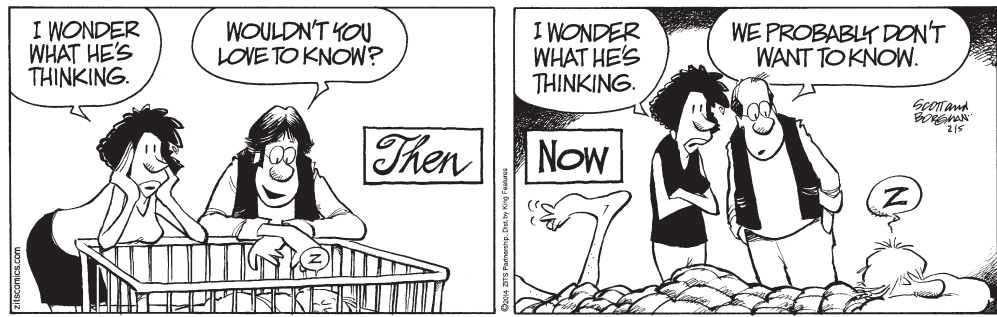
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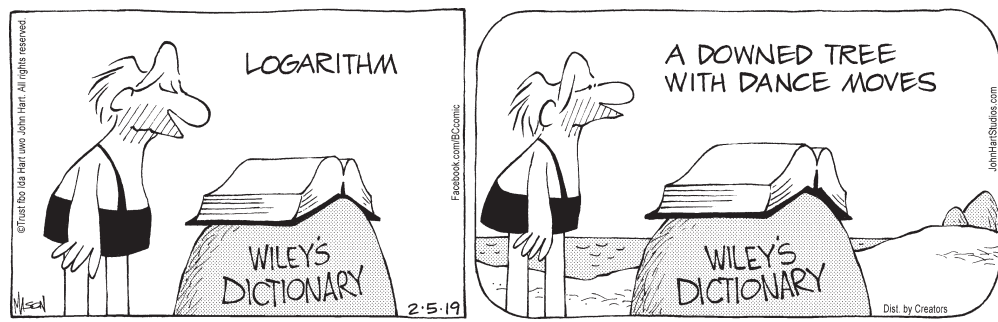
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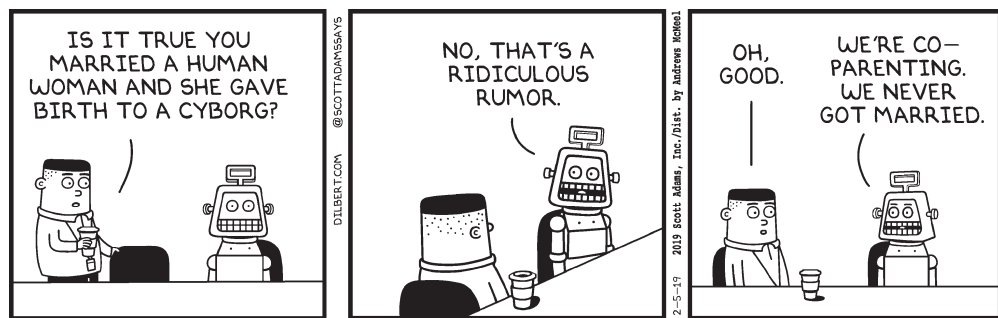
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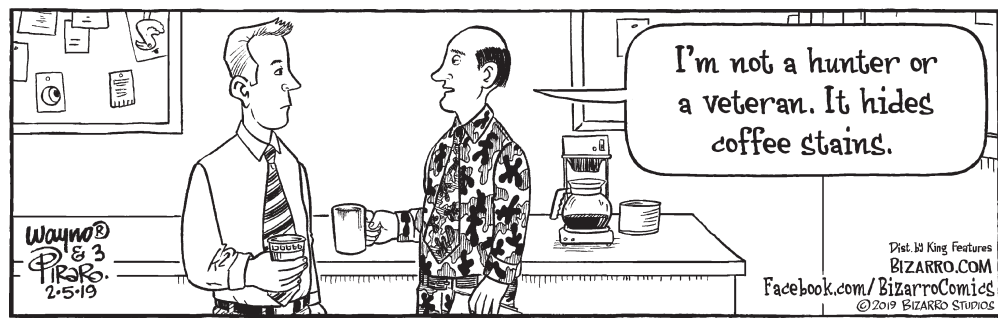
## B.C.



## DILBERT



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## ROSE IS ROSE

