"You can’t handle the truth!"

**Concepts**

**Clarity:** Communicator sends out message $X$. The message only permits one interpretation, so all receivers interpret the message in way $X$. *(Left Figure)*

**Strategic Ambiguity:** Communicator sends out message $XYZ$. The message has multiple interpretations, and the receivers interpret the message(s) in different ways: $X$, $Y$, and $Z$. *(Right Figure)*

**Tonal Ambiguity:** The message content may be clear, but it is difficult to pinpoint the message-giver’s level of seriousness or mood. The potential for tonal ambiguity varies across communication methods.
Strategic Ambiguity in Organizations
Symbols of many interpretations ... Adaptability ... Deniability

Strategic Ambiguity in Interpersonal Relationships
Perceived Similarity ... In-Group Code ... Controlled Sharing of Personal Life

Another Comic...

- Research - Eisenberg, Eric M. 1984. Ambiguity as Strategy in Organizational Communication. Strategic Ambiguities 3 - 19