



10 things we learned this week

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Travelanche: When one little thing goes wrong on a trip and everything else snowballs toward disaster. (Example: "It started as a minor delay in Seattle and ended up a full-blown travelanche involving lost luggage, bad airport food, and dire intestinal consequences.") (DailyCandy.com)

Grape-Nuts cereal contains neither grapes nor nuts. It was named after an ingredient called maltose, which tasted like nuts and, at the time, was known as "grape sugar." (<http://www.mentalfloss.com>)

The first jack-o'-lanterns were carved out of turnips. (encarta.msn.com)

Samhainophobia: A fear of Halloween. (<http://www.aboutphobias.com>)

It was 55 years ago tonight that the classic sitcom *I Love Lucy* made its debut. "The Girls Want to Go to a Nightclub" features Lucy and best friend Ethel going out on the town without their husbands, who decide to spy on them. The proverbial hijinks ensue. (<http://www.tvland.com>)

The name Lucy is more popular now (174th) than it was when the series debuted (222nd). Ethel? Not so much. It ranked 240th in the '50s but hasn't even made the top 1,000 since the '70s. (<http://www.babynamewizard.com>)

A golden retriever, Augie (also not in the top 1,000 names), who lives in Dallas, holds the world record for the most tennis balls held in the mouth of a dog: five. (<http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com>)

In ancient Egypt, people shaved off their eyebrows as part of the mourning ritual for the death of a household cat. (<http://www.worldanimalday.org.uk>)

Thinko: A cognitive error or mistake. Unlike a typo, a thinko occurs solely in the brain rather than extending to the fingers. (BuzzWhack.com)

Today is National Grouch Day. Big *&+#!% deal.
(<http://www.brownielocks.com>)