



Tom's Tidbits

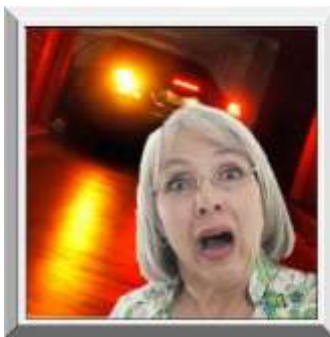
Learning our real priorities

Our Feature Articles



Don't Wait For Service

Let us deliver the service you deserve



Automotive Horror Stories

With gruesome pictures!



Halloween Goes To The Dogs

Dog costumes on parade

Our Monthly Columns

"What NOW?!!" Toons

Government shutdown three-fer!

Drew's Kitchen

Treats from beyond the grave

Shop Talk

Automotive Amnesty has been extended!

Health Notes-

Don't be a zombie

Sellwood Bridge Update

The "Saturday Night Live" bridge?

Book Spotlight

The scariest book you'll ever read

Humorousness

Tickle your funny bone

Popcorn Shorts

Cool and important stuff that's too short for a big article

- Progressive Radio returns to Portland
- Why you shouldn't text and drive
- Houses that are "winning" Halloween
- 5 real things science can't explain

News To Make You Furious

Don't be distracted by the bright, shiny objects



Tom's Tidbits

Learning our real priorities



Greetings!

Welcome to the new America, the country we get when people who don't like or understand government attempt to govern. The shutdown was embarrassing, destructive, unnecessary, and dangerous, but it did shed some light on our government's real priorities. As they were forced to decide between "essential" and "non-essential", we got a glimpse of the reality of the new America... not what we wish it was, not what we're told it is, but the essential reality of what our country has become...

What stayed open, and what closed? What defines our country, and what's just window dressing? The best resource I found was an interactive list from CNN Politics of 110 different agencies established by We the People, and how they were faring in the shutdown. The "closed" list included many groups that made the news like national parks, NASA, and museums, but look more closely. You'll find departments like the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, National Council on Disability, and the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. OSHA Review Commission? It was closed. Federal Election Commission? Closed. Office of Government Ethics? In perhaps the sweetest irony of all, it was closed too. Even the US Court system, although it had money to function for 10 days, was on the "non-essential" list. Basically anything designed to establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, promote the general welfare, or secure the blessings of liberty was considered a luxury.

I'm sure you're familiar with the Constitution, so you probably noticed the gaping hole in the familiar list above... "provide for the common defense". In the new America, this seems to be the only remaining "essential" governmental function. In a spectacular example of "defense" priorities, our Big Brother at the NSA continued just fine although the committee to oversee him was shut down. To prepare for the shutdown President Obama signed the "Pay Our Military Act", guaranteeing our various oil wars will continue unchecked. I certainly support paying our frontline soldiers, but it's a loophole that Defense Secretary Hagel quickly used to bring back about 350,000 civilian DOD workers from furlough. It was apparently vital to have soldiers killing and dying, but not to take care of them or their families. Emergency payments to families of military personnel killed in action were deemed non-essential, although they were picked up by a private group temporarily and were eventually handled by the government again. Soldiers who were only wounded can breathe a sigh of relief... if the shutdown had continued then 3.8 million vets would have missed disability payments, and over 500,000 vets and spouses would have had their pensions stopped.

So what were the demonstrated values of our nation? Our government proved that it didn't care about providing for the sick and poor or for the veterans and their families who already sacrificed for us. We didn't value education or justice, our history, or our natural beauty... they were all non-essential. We valued domestic surveillance and international empire. We valued the Big Brother police state. While we might value the labor of our people, we didn't value it enough to pay them for it. Although we loudly and publicly praise everything that could make a country great, when it came down to the crunch we actually supported everything that makes a country detestable. I don't think that's where we came from as a people. I don't think it's what any rational person would want for our future, but the meanest, smallest, most terrified people among us made it our reality.

On the bright side (if there is one), the shutdown did reinforce one of our most cherished beliefs. A major point of the Constitution is to protect the rights of the minority. In the shutdown, we protected those rights so much that as Obama correctly pointed out, "One faction of one party in one house of Congress in one branch of government" shut the whole thing down. Lincoln said "the Constitution is not a suicide pact", but our adherence to Constitutional principles in the face of a minority hijacking the Constitution to deprive the majority of their rights almost proved him wrong. A bitter bright side, indeed.

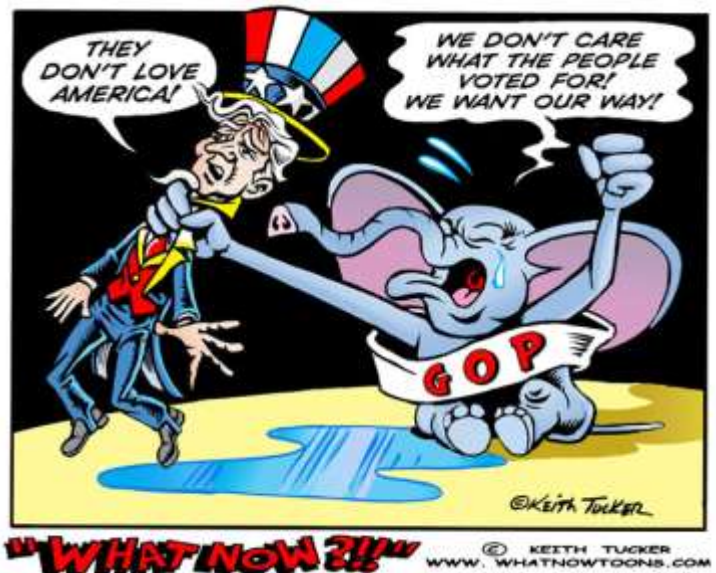
Take Care and Make a Great Day!

What NOW?!! Toons

Government Shutdown Three-Fer!



The government shutdown dominated every possible news source, and it certainly dominated the pen of our own Keith Tucker. Here are three Toons he came up with to put the whole fiasco in perspective...



Quality takes time!

Let us deliver the service you deserve

We have intentionally invested a lot more in people, equipment and training than we have in our waiting area. Although we offer a limited number of “while-you-wait” appointments, we would like to discourage clients from taking them as a steady habit. Why?



For more than 30 years we've improved and refined our procedures for diagnosing vehicles, repairing problems, preventing breakdowns, and making sure all services are done right the first time. We have procedures to do your work right, and we know how long it takes to do them. Unfortunately, these procedures become difficult or impossible if we are striving to meet a “while-you-wait” appointment window. We have always intentionally emphasized quality over speed, focusing on prioritized service rather than the industry's “fast food” norm. We won't ever bend to the “just sell something” model because a steady diet of random quick service hurts the health of your vehicle and your pocketbook. We won't be a part of that.

We understand the desire to wait for your vehicle to be done so you can get on with your day, and if your vehicle has fewer than 30,000 miles or otherwise is in perfect condition, we might be able to do everything necessary for it in a reasonable will-wait timeframe. However, we don't want clients to take that as the norm for quality service. Quality procedures takes time, and we would prefer people give us the time it takes to care for their vehicle properly.

Quick turnaround narrows scope of care

Waiting for a service or repair it can have the same [unintended narrowing effect as flat rate pay](#). If you're waiting for us to finish then we respect that, so we try to finish as quickly and efficiently

as possible. Looking at your vehicle as a whole takes time, but cutting the time available means we may only be able to look at the specific issue that brought you in. If we can't pay attention to the rest of the vehicle then our value to you is minimized. Tom's frequent question “Would you want your surgeon trying to beat flat rate time to make more money?” could also be put as “Would you want your doctor rushing your procedure to have you at school to pick up the kids?”

Even the most fundamental service we provide, our Minor Interval Service, changes when a client is waiting. Most people don't want to wait two hours for what they assume is “a simple oil change”, but even our “oil change” is not so simple. (Please see our flyer, [“What's in our Minor Interval Service?”](#)). We include a 90-point Minor Inspection (not our full Comprehensive Inspection, but a good look at your vehicle's main trouble points) as part of our Service. [We do not do this inspection for clients that are waiting](#). When you choose to wait you'll still get the road test, oil change, fluid checks, check of items we've noted in your file, and the post service Courtesy Check, but that's all we can do for while-you-wait service interval appointments. It's still a fantastic value; you get almost an hour of an ASE-Certified

technician's time along with the actual oil and filter, but it's an even greater value if you can let us take the time we need.

Waiting for repair work also makes it difficult to respond if the unexpected happens. A new problem identified, a broken bolt, or missing part from the supplier might not even warrant a call to you if we have your vehicle for the day. If you're waiting it's a whole different story. That hour we may have to spend going out for a new part is an hour you didn't plan to wait. We've found very few clients are happy about spending any unanticipated time with us.

We make it easy to walk away

Since it's so critical to have the necessary time on your vehicle and we don't want you to wait, we try to make it as easy and pleasant as possible to leave it with us.

If you're going to leave your vehicle you'll still need wheels, and we have two options to help you there. Our [Courtesy Shuttle](#) is FREE, and runs by appointment. Its 5-mile radius of our shop covers all downtown, as far north as I-84, east to I-205, south to Lake Oswego and Oregon City, and west into the edge of Beaverton. Just drop your vehicle here and we'll take you where you need to be, plus we'll pick you up when your vehicle is ready. If your vehicle will be with us more than a day then you may want to consider a [rental car](#). Our special arrangement with Enterprise Rental means we have special rates for vehicles on a daily or weekly basis. We can have your rental waiting here at the shop when you drop your own vehicle, and when you pick up your vehicle you can just leave the rental with us. Our Service Advisors can walk you through the whole process.

One other option you might consider, if you are able to do so, is to spend time exploring

the options in our own beautiful Sellwood neighborhood. We have maps that can guide you through the many shops, cafes, and businesses in easy walking distance of our shop. We are also located on the Springwater Trail, so if you bring your bike in the morning you'll have the day to ride some of the best urban bike trails in the country. If you've made the decision to leave your vehicle, you might as well turn it into an enjoyable experience!

We'll keep you posted

People worry less when they have reliable information, so our Service Advisors always provide clear, real-time communication on any vehicle issue. **YOU WILL BE CALLED IF ANYTHING UNEXPECTED HAPPENS WITH YOUR VEHICLE REPAIRS!** We never perform work without informed consent because we don't like surprises either! If you have ANY questions about your vehicle just call and they'll make sure you know exactly what's going on.

Spend the time. You won't regret it.

We think it's better to leave your vehicle, but of course we understand that while-you-wait service is attractive and sometimes may even be necessary in emergencies. That's why we have, and will continue to have, a few while-you-wait appointment slots each day. But while we offer this option we encourage you not to take it on a regular basis. The quality you've come to expect from us comes from craftsmanship, pride in our work, and attention to detail. We do every repair as quickly as we can, but there is a minimum time for everything. While-you-wait appointments squeeze that time to the point where we can still do *good* work, but make it difficult to do our *best* work. We want you to have our best, and we think you do too.

Real Life Automotive Horror Stories!

With gruesome pictures!

Forget about “Hello Kitty” costumes and Harvest Festivals; the only thing that makes Halloween worthwhile is fear. Since nothing is scarier than catastrophic damage to your expensive vehicles, that’s where we’ll take you this month. This horrifying TRUE story didn’t happen to a friend-of-a-friend, it actually happened to one of our clients. We first told you about it in 2011, but it still sends chills down our spines today. So cue the scary music, turn off the lights, and settle in. It’s time for REAL LIFE AUTOMOTIVE HORROR STORIES...

(January, 2011)

Usually, when we do a story about some critical system in your vehicle we talk in generalities because we want you to get an overall understanding of whatever we’re talking about, but sometimes a real-life example tells the story better than anything else can. This is one of those times, but beware... it’s not for the faint of heart!

Recently, a client (we’ll call him/her “Mr. X”) brought their vehicle in with a check-engine light, power loss, rough idle, and a severe oil leak. The vehicle had been running fine until all of a sudden the problems hit. We put the car on the rack and quickly diagnosed a leak in the valve cover gasket (the gasket that makes a complete seal between the cylinder head and the metal cover on top of it.) A little investigation showed that Mr. X was overdue for an oil change... 20,000 miles overdue!



Clean oil is essential to the operation of your vehicle. Oil works by building a slippery film around all the moving parts of your engine to reduce friction during operation. Dirty oil carries abrasive particulates through your motor, grinding against the parts like sandpaper and causing needless engine wear.

Even dirty oil is better than no oil at all, because without oil the parts themselves contact and can cause catastrophic engine failure in seconds. When engine oil remains in service beyond its recommended lifetime (about 3000-4000 miles for conventional oil, and about 6000-8000 miles for synthetic), it begins to burn off and leave hard sludgy deposits similar to the burnt mess found on the bottom of a neglected oven. The best solution to this problem is to change your engine oil regularly.

But back to our client... Luckily, Mr. X brought the car in immediately before more major damage was done. We were able to clean the sludge off of the internal components, but not before we took the horrific pictures below.

There are several take-away messages from Mr. X’s experience, but perhaps the most important is the ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF OIL CHANGES. Another lesson is that Mr. X had been driving happily with no problems until the sudden gasket failure. This is a common occurrence in modern vehicles, where the computer systems can mask problems until you’re left on the side of the road. Don’t assume that if your vehicle is showing no problems then

there's nothing wrong! One final lesson is that this problem was Mr. X's first experience with Tom Dwyer Automotive. Had he been a regular client already, our proactive maintenance and inspection programs would have caught the fact that he was behind on his oil changes long before problems actually appeared. This is exactly the type of problem we work so hard to avoid, and now that Mr. X is planning to come back to us he can drive confidently knowing that we'll be watching out for him.

And now, as we promised, graphic and horrifying pictures of what can happen to your engine if you don't stay up on oil changes. Again, beware... these pictures are NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART!

Before

Over the miles, the engine oil had broken down into its basic parts and formed a tar-like black sludge that coated the entire engine. The first two pictures show the top of the engine with the valve cover removed. The sludge had packed the engine such that the engine parts and oil had to fight through the goo in order to move. The second picture shows just how thick that goo was... that screwdriver is stuck into the sludge about 1½ inches!

After

It took a while, but we were finally able to clean everything out. In the third picture you can see the moving parts that were covered by the burnt oil. The bottom picture shows that same chamber that had the screwdriver stuck into it, now clean as a whistle. Once again, this is an engine that's ready to run cleanly and efficiently.

Now go and enjoy your Halloween, but remember... unless you change your oil regularly, this can HAPPEN TO YOU TOO!

BWAAAA HA HA HA HA HA HA
HA HAA HAAA HAAAAAAAAA!



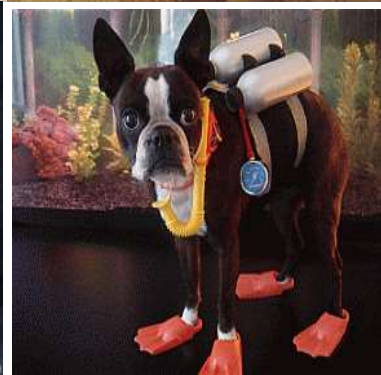
Halloween Goes To The Dogs

Haunted dog costumes on parade

The scariest Halloween stories don't start with "Once upon a time", they start with "Back when I was a kid". Your kids will sit perfectly quietly through the spookiest haunted house stories, but try to tell them what Halloween was like when you were little and they'll run like Satan was after their candy. But things have changed. Halloween was just a candy fix for kids until the adults took over, and now even pets are getting into the act. So, without any redeeming value and with limited apology, this month we bring you a gallery of the best pet costumes we could find. Trick or Treat!



13 Hilarious Dog Costumes











Drew's Kitchen

Treats from beyond the grave



If you're gearing up for a Halloween party then Drew is here to help. This month he picked out a few exotic treats to bring out the gruesome in your guests. Get creative, and dig in!

Spider cookies-

This one's too simple to even need a recipe. Make up a batch of chocolate chip cookies using your favorite recipe. Fresh out of the oven, while the chocolate is still soft, drag a toothpick through the chocolate to make "legs" on each chocolate spider. Yum!

Flayed face cheese ball-

Basically, you'll need a face mold from an art store. A halloween mask might work if you covered the eye holes.

- Line the inside of the mold with plastic wrap.
- Cover the inside of the mold completely with prosciutto. Shred it into small pieces first, as large swathes look cool, but are really hard to eat.
- Mix up a cheese ball mixture using your favorite recipe. You'll need probably a double recipe, depending on the size of your mold.
- Press your cheese ball mixture into the mold, and chill.
- Remove from mold onto a plate, add eyes using sliced olives.



Ultimate eyeballs-

You've seen the eyeballs made of olives, but these are much better because of the way the pupil is made. Use mozzarella balls for the eyeball itself. Buy two colors (let's say green and black) of fresh, non-pitted olives. Slice the end off of each of the green olives, then use a drinking straw to stamp a perfect hole into the cut-off piece. Use the straw to cut chunks from the black olives, and these small round chunks will fit perfectly into the green olives. Drizzle with olive oil and the spices of your choice.



Thanks to the folks at Dabbled.com for the Face and Eye recipes. Check their website for [more Halloween goodies!](#)

Shop Talk

Automotive Amnesty has been extended!



Automotive Amnesty means 15% off labor charges

Although we [don't offer coupons](#), we do occasionally have special offers to help our clients with the expense of rational automotive maintenance. So many clients have taken advantage of Automotive Amnesty offer to clear out their old repair recommendations that we've decided to extend it. **Save 15% off labor charges on those stale recommendations if you have them fixed NOW!**



And here's the fine print...

- Discount applies to labor charges only, not parts
- Discount is capped at \$100 maximum
- Recommendations must have been in your file before October 22, 2013
- You must tell us you want this offer **WHEN YOU SCHEDULE YOUR SERVICE!**
- Offer is **VOID AFTER SERVICE IS COMPLETE!**
- Service must be scheduled before November 22, 2013

It's just that simple. Don't put off the repairs critical to your convenience and safety... come in now, while Amnesty is still available! And don't forget, we do have several [moneysaving programs](#) to save you money throughout the year.

Your reviews and referrals matter

We are constantly grateful for the supportive and loyal clients we have developed over the years. Your comments and appreciation keep us on the right road to providing the superior automotive service you deserve. Your reviews and referrals are not only the highest compliments we can receive, but they're the lifeblood of our new business. If you like what you've found at Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, please tell a friend or take a minute to write a review on [Yelp](#), [Angieslist](#), [Google](#), or the review site of your choice. Thank you!



Latest Automotive Recalls

Automobiles are just like any other product; occasional flaws in manufacture or design can cause problems once they leave the factory. When an issue is identified the manufacturers and government work hard to bring the vehicles back in for refit or repair, but not all recalls make the front pages. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration maintains a constantly updated list of recalls from every manufacturer. The last month's recalls are below, but clicking the button at right will take you to the full list at the NHTSA website.



September 26: 320 Yamaha XC50A Vino Classic motorcycles from 2011, Recalled for brake shoe linings that may separate, resulting in less brake performance and increasing the risk of a crash.

September 25: 374,618 Honda Odysseys from 2003-2004 and Acura MDX vehicles from 2003, Recalled for air bags that may deploy inadvertently.

September 25: 134,100 BMW vehicles from 2008-2010, including 528i and M5 models, Recalled for faulty tail lights.

September 25: 10,989 Sure Power battery equalizers and DC-DC converters manufactured between 2000-2013, Recalled for potential fire risk.

September 25: 250 Jackson travel trailers from 2006-2013, Recalled for deadbolts that may jam, trapping people inside.

September 25: 9,600 Open Range RV travel trailers from 2009-2013, Recalled for deadbolts that may jam, trapping people inside.

September 18: 4,360 Homesteader cargo and horse trailers from 2006-2010, Recalled for potential jamming of the deadbolt, leaving people unable to exit the trailer.

September 17: 4,565 Columbia Aliner travel trailers from 2006-2013, Recalled for potential jamming of the deadbolt, leaving people unable to exit the trailer.

September 17: 168 Dutchmen Voltage recreational vehicles from 2014, Recalled for potential disconnecting of the fuel line, which could cause a fire.

September 16: 193,936 Suzuki vehicles from 2006-2011, including Grand Vitara and SX4 models, Recalled for a malfunctioning sensor in the passenger seat, causing the air bag to deploy whether or not the passenger is an adult or child.

September 16: 164 Winnebago motorhomes from 2013-2014, including the Aspect and Itasca Cambria models, Recalled for the child seat tether which is mounted in an improper position.

September 12: 861 various Indian motorcycles from 2009-2013, Recalled for potential cracking of the rear rim, causing the rear tire to lose air pressure and the rider to lose control.

September 12: 23,210 Tegal motorcycle helmets, Recalled for failing to comply to federal safety standards.

September 12: 13,728 Polaris passenger backrests for Victory motorcycles, Recalled for failure of the backrest while in motion, increasing the risk of a crash.

September 11: 37 Ford F-350, F-450, and F-550 gasoline-engine dual rear wheel chassis vehicles from 2012, Recalled for potential fire risk due to the tailpipe which does not extend beyond the edge of the body.

September 9: 780,584 Toyota vehicles from 2006-2011, including RAV4 and Lexus HS250h models, Recalled for possible failure of the rear tie rod, which could cause a loss of vehicle control.

September 9: 133,081 Toyota hybrid vehicles from 2006-2010, including Highlander and Lexus RX400h models, Recalled for potential shutting down of the hybrid system, causing the vehicle to stall.

September 9: 101,584 Toyota Lexus vehicles from 2006-2011, including GS350 and IS350 models, Recalled for loose bolts on the Variable-Valve Timing system gear assembly, potentially causing the engine to stop while driving.

September 6: 270 Honda Pilots and Odysseys from 2013, Recalled for premature wear of engine pistons, which could cause the engine to stall.

September 6: 5,042 Bombardier Can-Am Spyder RT and ST series motorcycles from 2013, Recalled for brake fluid which may leak onto a heat source and possibly cause a fire.

September 5: 7,767 various Volvo vehicles from 2014, including S60 and XC70 models, Recalled for malfunctioning wipers and headlights.

September 3: 355,000 various Ford vehicles from 2005-2011, including Crown Victoria and Mercury Grand Marquis models, Recalled for potential loss of steering due to corrosion.

August 29: 1,931 Crossroads RV Redwood recreational vehicles from 2012-2014, Recalled for uncovered switch that may cause awning to unfurl while in transit.

August 28: 44 Kawasaki Concours police motorcycles from 2012-2013, Recalled for a faulty electrical system that could lead to engine stalling.

August 28: 129 DRV recreational vehicles and travel trailers, including Tradition and Elite Suite models, Recalled for awning motor assembly screws that may shear, causing the awning to unfurl while in transit.

August 28: 125 Navistar recreational trailers from 2013, including Trail Express and Traveler models, Recalled for awning motor assembly screws that may shear, causing the awning to unfurl while in transit.

August 26: 292,879 Chevrolet Cruze vehicles from 2011-2012, Recalled for faulty electric vacuum brake-assist pumps. When the pump fails, there is a loss of braking assistance, increasing the risk of a crash.

August 26: 488,144 Continental Aftermarket ATE Super Blue Racing DOT 4 Brake Fluids, Recalled for failing to comply with federal safety standards for brake fluids, leading to potential brake failure.

August 26: 419 Chrysler Fiat 500e electric vehicles from 2013, Recalled for half shaft joints that may loosen and separate, potentially causing a loss of driving capability.

August 23: 159 Spartan ERV Star Series emergency vehicles from 2005-2012, Recalled for a hydraulic ladder rack which may collapse.

Health Notes

Don't be a zombie



Halloween may be many things but it's not a health festival. There are threats out there both to kids and adults, but don't be a zombie... a little awareness and prudence can banish the ghosts back to their graves. Here are some tips for kids and adults to make your holiday easier, safer and healthier...

[Tips for adults \(from Active.com\)](#)

Be calorie conscious

Weight management is always a challenge but more so during the holidays. The secret to success is calorie intake, which means choosing appropriate portions and remembering that extra bites add up. It takes only an additional 100 calories a day above what you need to lead to extra 10lb weight gain in a year.

Procrastinate

Purchase Halloween candy the day of trick or treat to avoid temptation. Buy less than what you think you will need to avoid leftovers and purchase candies that you do not like, if you still have leftovers place them out of sight. If you really have a hard time with temptation choose to pass out non-candy treats such as bouncy balls, spider rings, pencils, erasers, bubbles or stickers.

Eat before you trick or treat

Serve a healthy family dinner before the fun begins, this way the kids will not be tempted to eat candy along the way. After trick or treating, offer a cup of warm, low fat milk with just one treat to ensure that blood sugar is stable before bedtime. Sign a contract between you and your children regarding when and how much candy all of you can eat.

Stay active

Take a long walk around your neighborhood while trick or treating and enjoy all the decorations and customs that kids have on.

Practice portion control

After trick or treating sort the candy, inspect them and then set boundaries on an amount to be eaten over a period of many days. You can easily reach 100 calories with just one or two snack size treats. There are actually some candies that can satisfy your sweet tooth with fewer calories!

Always choose fun-size candy bars based on the least amount of fat and calories per serving. Better choices are, 3 Musketeers, 100 Grand Bar, Butterfinger bar, Milky Way bar, Raisinets, Starburst and York Peppermint Patties. Lastly always choose healthier dark chocolate versions. Most candy has a long shelf-life. Put the "stash" out of reach and limit candy to two pieces per day. Larger treats, such as full chocolate bars, can be cut into smaller pieces and frozen.

[Tips for kids \(from Examiner.com\)](#)

Around the home:

- Turn all porch and exterior house lights on so folks don't trip on the steps leading to your house or sidewalk. It's also a good indicator that your home is open for those little Trick-or-Treaters.
- Keep nervous or skittish house pets in a separate room so they don't bark or jump on little children who come knocking on your door that night.
- Position your candy treats in a large bowl or cauldron that you can quickly reach when those ghosts and goblins come calling.

- Map out a safe neighborhood route for your children to follow. It's even a good idea to walk it ahead of time with your kids.
- For children under 10 years old it's a wise idea to have an adult accompany them during the trick-or-treating.
- Kids need to follow the rules the adults establish to ensure their safety. If you have any doubts about a child's responsibility it's best to accompany them when they trick-or-treat.
- Warn children never to go inside a home. All trick-or-treating should be done in full view of the porch.
- Reinforce traffic safety rules with your children including looking both ways before crossing a street and following all traffic signs. Also emphasize that they should walk and not run to avoid scrapped knees and bruised egos.
- Children should always stay with their designated groups at all times.

Costumes and Gear:

- Make sure costumes are easy to see in the dark. While black is often used to create a scary costume it isn't visible to drivers unless there are reflective patches.
- Avoid costumes that are below the ankle to avoid tripping.
- Wear comfortable shoes.
- Check that the costumes are flame retardant.
- Be sure your children have flashlights to see the way safely from home to home and so drivers can spot them. I favor the type of flashlight with a cord that can hang from the wrist so they can have free hands if necessary.
- Be sure you have fully charge cell phones or walkie-talkies in case of an emergency. Test out the ring tone before the kids leave the house.
- These days you can even use your cell phone to your advantage. Use the geo locator to follow your children on their Halloween trek.
- Instead of masks, which can impair vision, try using face-makeup.
- Be sure to have a strong trick-or-treat bag to avoid rips and holes. We favor a pillowcase that can hold lots of loot and are quite sturdy.

Back at the Ranch:

- Before the kids go crazy checking out all of their sweet loot be sure to inspect all of their treats. Toss all candy that has opened wrappers or loose candy that isn't packaged. Avoid any homemade treats in case of tampering.
- Limit the amount of candy they can consume that night. Too much sugar can create a hyper child that is too wired to have a good night's sleep.
- To avoid candy overdose it's a good idea to place the candy out of the reach of little (and big) fingers. Out of sight out of mind. Limit your kids to a couple of pieces after dinner in lieu of dessert.

Sellwood Bridge Update

The “Saturday Night Live” bridge?

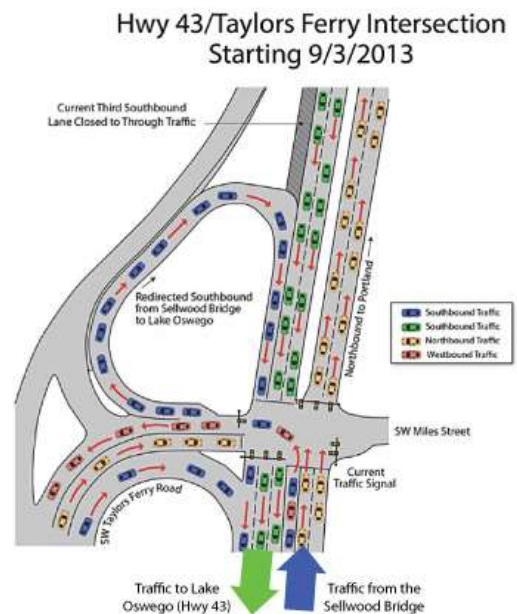


Some of you may be old enough to remember an ongoing sketch by Chevy Chase on the old Saturday Night Live. As he started each Weekend Update segment, he would announce the breaking news that “Generalissimo Francisco Franco is still dead!” It sometimes seems like we’re re-living that classic segment with our monthly Sellwood Bridge Update. This month’s news... “Construction is still continuing!”

Yes, the new Sellwood Bridge is still a couple years from completion so the crews are still busily working away. For the most part the traffic impacts have been amazingly trivial. Yes, there are occasional slow downs from the flaggers, but there’s only a few and they’re very brief. Multnomah County continues to do a fantastic job of keeping neighborhood businesses and residents informed, and working with all of us to make a gigantic project far easier than it has to be. The bridge is safe and open, so you shouldn’t let it interfere with any Sellwoodian plans you might have.

There’s one thing we told you about last month that bears repeating... If you are crossing the Sellwood Bridge and plan to head toward Lake Oswego you’ll now have to go north on Macadam to Taylor’s Ferry Road. The County has built a dedicated loop road just off the Taylor’s Ferry Road signal. You’ll take that, loop around, and be headed back south on Highway 43. That’s all the basics, but if you want to see a video then KATU has a full report on the U-turn.

As always, Multnomah County maintains the definitive website on everything related to the Sellwood Bridge Replacement project, www.sellwoodbridge.org. Construction and closure alerts, archived information, and other resources are all available 24/7 for your convenience. Their two constantly updated live webcams of the bridge are available here. If you’re looking for something that’s not on the website, you can contact Mike Pullen (mike.j.pullen@multco.us, 503-209-4111) or visit www.sellwoodbridge.org.



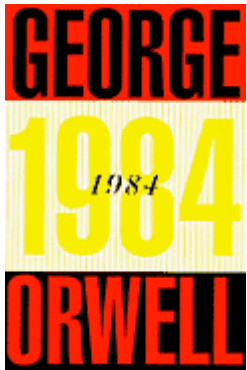
Book Spotlight

The Scariest Book You'll Ever Read



What makes a scary story? It's not "bad things" as such. A story about John Wayne Gacy might evoke many things... revulsion, horror, anger, but probably not fear. Really scary stories don't come from impossible things, either. Dracula can be pretty scary, but the fear dissipates with the dawn because we know, deep down, that vampires don't exist. No, the scariest stories are about things that haven't happened, but *could*. Hannibal Lecter isn't a real person, but he *could* be. Fear is about tension, dread is about anticipation. You see the possibilities, you know what could happen, and the fear comes from realizing that there's absolutely nothing you can do to stop the bogeyman from coming.

Our choice for this month's Book Spotlight is one of the scariest books ever written so Halloween, the time to celebrate fear, seems perfect for it. It's a classic written 65 years ago that put a face on our deepest, most terrifying, and most possible fears, and we see those fears through its lens even today. If you've read it before then please treat yourself again, but if you've yet to discover this horrifying gem, we truly envy you. It will absorb you, terrify you, and change the way you look at the world around you. Even with the dawn the goosebumps won't go away, because with your new eyes you'll see mounting evidence that the bogeyman is indeed real and getting closer. And the fear will truly set in when you realize there may be absolutely nothing you can do to stop him.



1984

By George Orwell

(click the image to be taken to the Powells.com page for this book)

Written in 1948, *1984* was George Orwell's chilling prophecy about the future. And while *1984* has come and gone, Orwell's narrative is more timely than ever. *1984* presents a "negative utopia," that is at once a startling and haunting vision of the world — so powerful that it is completely convincing from start to finish. No one can deny the power of this novel, its hold on the imaginations of entire generations of readers, or the resiliency of its admonitions — a legacy that seems to grow, not lessen, with the passage of time.

About the Author

George Orwell was the pen name of an Englishman named Eric Blair. He was born in Bengal in 1903, educated at Eton, and after service with the Indian Imperial Police in Burma, returned to Europe to earn his living writing novels and essays. He was essentially a political writer who wrote of his own times, a man of intense feelings and fierce hates. He hated totalitarianism, and served in the Loyalist forces in the Spanish Civil War. He was critical of communism but considered himself a Socialist. He hated intellectuals, although he was a literary critic. He hated cant and lying and cruelty in life and in literature. He died at forty-seven of a neglected lung ailment, leaving behind a substantial body of work, a growing reputation for greatness, and the conviction that modern man was inadequate to cope with the demands of his history.



A protestor reads Orwell's *1984* in the "Taksim Square Book Club", part of a silent peaceful protest against the Turkish Government.

Humorousness

Tickle your funny bone



Other holidays have deeper meanings, but Halloween... it's just for fun. That makes an ideal holiday for humor, and Humorousness is all set to jump on the bandwagon with these spooky treats...

Q: What do you get when you divide the circumference of a jack-o-lantern by its diameter?

A: Pumpkin Pi.

Q: How do you make a witch stew?

A: Keep her waiting for hours.

Q: How do ghosts begin their letters?

A: "Tomb it may concern..."

Q: What happened to the guy who couldn't keep up payments to his exorcist?

A: He was repossessed.

Q: What do you call a person who puts rat poison in a person's Corn Flakes?

A: A cereal killer

Q: How do you mend a broken Jack-o-lantern?

A: With a pumpkin patch.

Q: What is a ghost's favorite ride?

A: A roller ghoster.

Q: Why are there fences around cemeteries?

A: Because people are dying to get in.

Q: What do you get when you cross Dracula with Sleeping Beauty?

A: Tired blood.

Q: Why was the mummy so tense?

A: He was all wound up.

Q: What kind of street does a ghost like best?

A: A dead end.

Q: How do you know if a ghost is lying?

A: You can see right through him.

Q: How is a werewolf like a computer?

A: They both have megabytes.

Q: Where do vampires live?

A: At the Vampire State Building.

Q: Why don't witches like to ride their brooms when they're angry?

A: They're afraid of flying off the handle.

Q: Where do ghosts go on vacation?

A: Lake Erie.

Q: How can you tell when a window is scared?

A: They get shudders.

Q: Why didn't the skeleton dance at the Halloween party?

A: It had no body to dance with.

Q: What do you say to a ghost with three heads?

A: Hello, hello, hello.

Q: What is a witch's favorite subject in school?

A: Spelling!

Q: When does a skeleton laugh?

A: When something tickles his funny bone.

Q: What tops off a ghost's sundae?

A: Whipped Scream

Q: What has a black hat, flies on a broomstick, and can't see anything?

A: A witch with her eyes closed.

Q: Why is a ghost such a messy eater?

A: Because he's always a goblin.

Q: What happens when a ghost gets lost in a fog?

A: He's mist.

Q: What sailor like to be chilled to the bone?

A: A skeleton crew.

Q: Where does Count Dracula usually eat his lunch?

A: In the casketeria.

Q: Where did the goblin throw the football?

A: Over the ghouline.

Q: What do you call a goblin who gets too close to a bonfire?

A: Toasty ghosty.

Q: What do you call a ghost with a broken leg?

A: Hoblin Goblin.

Q: What do you call a wicked witch who lives by the sea?

A: A Sand-witch

Q: What did the baby ghost eat for dinner?

A: A boo-loney sandwich.

Q: What do you get when you cross a were-wolf with a drip-dry suit?

A: A wash-and-werewolf.

Q: What did the papa ghost say to the baby ghost?

A: Fasten your sheet belt.

Q: Who does a ghoul fall in love with?

A: His ghoul friend.

Q: What is a vampire's favorite mode of transportation?

A: A blood vessel.

Q: What do you call a dog owned by Dracula?

A: A blood hound.

Q: What kind of hot dogs do werewolves like best?

A: Hallowieners.

Q: What do you call serious rocks?

A: Grave stones.

Q: How do you picture yourself flying on a broom?

A: By witchful thinking.

Q: Why did the witch's mail rattle?

A: It was a chain letter.

Q: Why did the vampire's lunch give her heartburn?

A: It was a stake sandwich.

Q: What do you call a skeleton who refuses to help around the house?

A: Lazybones

Q: Why did Dracula take cold medicine?

A: To stop his coffin

The professor was removing organs from the deceased before his students, all the while saying, ". . . and this is the heart, and this is the liver, and this is the kidney, and this is . . ." "What the heck is the professor doing?" asked a student.

"Shh! He's giving an organ recital."

You heard about the little mouse who looked up, saw a bat, and thought it was his fairy godmother?

Bloodshed - where the Red Cross keeps the plasma

Cemetery - bone zone.

Headline: "Due to strike, grave-digging at cemetery will be done by skeleton crews"
A kid stole a sign from a nursery and stuck it in front of a funeral parlor. It read: "LET US DO YOUR PLANTING FOR YOU."

Undertaker - the last guy to let you down.

Popcorn Shorts

Cool stuff that's too small for a big article



Just like it says, Popcorn Shorts is about the kind of things we think are really interesting, but don't really need a large article to explain them. From the sublime to the ridiculous, check in here for crunchy bits of info you'll love to munch. By the way, much (but not all) of our delicious Popcorn comes from articles we've posted on [our Facebook page](#). If you're on Facebook, please stop by and "Like" us and we'll keep a fairly-constant-but-not-frequent-enough-to-be-annoying stream of these coming to your virtual door!



Progressive Radio returns to Portland



This deserves more than one of our Popcorn Shorts slots, but you deserve to know about it now and we haven't had a chance to write a full article on it... PROGRESSIVE RADIO IS COMING BACK! The first station of the new Cascade Educational Broadcasting Stations is KXRY-FM 91.1, and it will be carrying Thom Hartmann, Carl Wolfson, and a new show by ex-mayoral-candidate Jefferson Smith. The station will go on-line on Halloween and on-air as soon as they can find a permanent site for their transmitter. Check out this link for the full Willamette Week story.

Why you shouldn't text and drive



According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, drivers who are texting are 6 times as "impaired" as drivers who are drunk. In a world where many people don't see their own impairment even when drunk, however, that's a comparison that may be a little abstract. This powerful video tells the stories of texting drivers and the lives they destroyed. If you have a teen who needs some convincing on not texting behind the wheel then this is a must-watch for them. If you yourself occasionally text a little, we bet you won't be doing it again.

Houses that are "winning" Halloween



Do you trick out your house for the treaters? You probably don't go all-out like this, or if you do your neighbors probably hate you. Some of these are just head-shakers as you wonder who would do this to their homes, and others are ideas you'll probably want to build next year. The stand-out winner is the video of the "dancing" house... if you've seen the video of the Christmas house dancing to the music of the Trans-Siberian Railroad you'll have the general idea, but this Halloween version is still well worth watching.

5 real things science can't explain



Many people think science has answered all the big questions already. As big fans of science we'd like to believe that, but we know scientists will be the first to tell you that there are still things that puzzle them. Here are 5 things still looking for scientific explanations. Some are specific phenomena like the "Klerksdorp Spheres" but others are big-picture concepts like the Placebo effect. Science is a joyous exploration of the mysteries of our universe, and this will give you 5 glimpses into what still makes that exploration so exciting.

News To Make You Furious

Don't be distracted by the bright shiny objects



The classic bumper sticker reads "If you're not furious, you're not paying attention". But what are we paying attention to, and why? We've all just been treated to 16 days of a hypnotic sideshow that totally dominated the news. Fluff and nonsense, political grandstanding, base pandering... we've all been paying attention, so we're all rightly Furious. But while politicians with learner's permits hijacked our national bus to drive it over a cliff, there was other stuff going on in the cars around us. Here are two of the most important stories the media has been completely ignoring. Why should you be Furious? Because your time was wasted on vapid bull pucky rather than the real issues that will shape all of our lives for decades...



The fine folks who shut down our government, of course, didn't call their actions petty, spiteful politics on behalf of rich backers and ignorant dupes. They repeatedly, against all evidence, said that they were working on behalf of the vast majority of Americans who wanted Obamacare gone no matter the cost to our country. They didn't *want* to do it, but as abject slaves to the will of the American People they had no choice. Well, two of the most unequivocally unpopular actions of government in the past decades have been NAFTA and Citizens United. Public opinion might not support the repeal of these insane measures (although it would if the "will of the people" was actually the

driving force of government) but it *certainly* indicates they shouldn't be expanded! Yet these two flamboyant belly flops into corruption are the springboards for these two sequels...

The Trans-Pacific Partnership

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a proposal for a "free trade" agreement among 12 of the nations around the Pacific Rim. It's a dream of the 1 percent being pressed by corporate America, and is being negotiated in secret with no releases of information and no public input. What information has come out has only come in the form of leaks, but here's a few of the things we know it would do so far...

- Offshore millions of American jobs
- Free national and international banksters from oversight
- Ban 'buy-American' policies
- Decrease access to medicine
- Flood the US with unsafe food and products
- Put new restrictions on the internet and intellectual property
- Reduce our already dwindling privacy protections
- And, of course, much, much more.

Who knows? The TPP may be the best thing to ever happen to our country, and it may be the death knell of democracy. The point is, rather than examining this radical and fundamental restructure of many country's societies we're watching Sara Palin salute the Confederate flag. If the TPP sounds more important to you than splinter group photo ops, then here are several links for more information on it...

Office of the United States Trade Representative

[The US in the Trans-Pacific Partnership](#)

International Business Times

[Trans-Pacific Partnership: A trade agreement you should care about](#)

Public Knowledge

[The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement](#)

Citizens Trade Campaign

[The Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement: NAFTA for the Pacific Rim?](#)

Electronic Frontier Foundation

[Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement](#)

Public Citizen

[TPP: Corporate Power Tool of the 1%](#)

McCutcheon vs. FEC

Just one of many other abominations masked by the shutdown debacle is McCutcheon vs. the Federal Election Commission, set to be heard by the Supremes during the current session. One notion going back centuries is that governments are created by humans, and humans are fallible. You might not believe it by watching the sterling professionalism of our elected representatives, but even some of them may be fallible. It's possible, just possible, that even their good judgment might be swayed by the temptation of money. That's why, from the Federal government to small hamlets, various restrictions have been placed on who can contribute and how much they can contribute to political campaigns. Citizens United overturned those limits for corporate people, but restrictions remained on individuals. With an ever-increasing amount of wealth being concentrated in the top 1% of our society, the danger to the democratic participation of the other 99% would seem obvious. Individual contribution restrictions would seem self-evidently necessary to the continuation of democracy as we know it.

Unless you're Shaun McCutcheon. McCutcheon (that's him in the photo at a University of Alabama tailgate party) contributed to 17 candidates in 2011-2012, and wanted to support 11 more with contributions of \$1,776 each. (Nice touch, Shaun). These contributions are all well under the per-candidate limit, but combined they would have exceeded the per-cycle limit. That wasn't enough democracy for Shaun, who sued saying that since the individual contributions had been found by Congress to be 'non-corrupting' there would be no corrupting influence of many small contributions. The Republican National Committee jumped on board with him purely on the merits of the case and not because of any monetary interest, and Shaun and his new buds had oral arguments before SCOTUS on October 8. The Supreme's decision will be released sometime this year, barring any more shutdowns.



Moyers and Company

[Recommended reading on McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission](#)

Washington Post

[Everything you need to know about McCutcheon vs FEC](#)

The Center for Public Integrity

[Supreme Court plaintiff McCutcheon exceeded campaign contribution limit](#)

OpenSecrets.org

[McCutcheon vs FEC](#)

The Daily Beast

[McCutcheon v. FEC: Big money fights back at the Supreme Court](#)

PolicyMic

[If you thought Citizens United was bad, today's Supreme Court case could completely derail America](#)