

# ELI Weekly

## Does Presidents' Day Really Exist?

Since you didn't have to come to the ELI yesterday, you had a nice day off, right? University classes were not in session and some offices were closed due to Presidents' Day. But, what do we celebrate on Presidents' Day? It is a day to celebrate ALL Presidents, or just certain ones?

What is the day about, other than a free day off and big sales at the mall? To be honest, it's a little confusing!



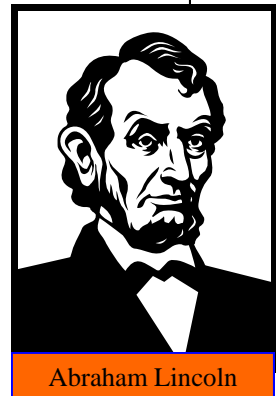
George Washington

Presidents' Day is technically the day set aside to celebrate the birthday of the first U.S. President, George Washington. Even though he was born on Feb. 22 (in the year 1732 to be exact), the holiday to honor him is on the 3rd Monday of February (no matter the date). Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the U.S., was born on Feb. 12, 1809. Many people assume that Presidents' Day is meant to honor both Washington and Lincoln. This is not necessarily the case, though. Years ago, there were 2 holidays, one to honor each of these 2 presidents. Schools were out and offices were closed on each Presidents' actual birthday. In 1971, the day to celebrate Washington's Birthday was officially moved to the 3rd Monday of Feb. for convenience (and a 3 day weekend!) According to the federal government, the holiday that we observed yesterday is called "Washington's



"Birthday". In 1968, there was a bill in Congress that was set to combine Washington and Lincoln's birthdays to create a holiday named Presidents' Day. The bill never passed, though, which means that officially, we are only celebrating Washington's birthday on "Presidents' Day". After other holidays were created, such as Columbus Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, many states decided to stop celebrating Lincoln's birthday, because there were suddenly too many paid holidays for employees (no fair!).

Only federal offices and agencies must observe Washington's Birthday. Each state in the union can decide whether or not to adopt federal holidays. Since this is the case, it is basically up to each state to decide what is celebrated on the 3rd Monday of February. Most states have accepted Washington's Birthday, but some do celebrate Lincoln and Washington together on "Presidents' Day". Other states celebrate both birthday separately, and a few celebrate neither day. A few states have some strange traditions. Alabama, for example, celebrates Presidents' Day, but honors Washington and *Thomas Jefferson*, who wasn't even born in February! And, in New Mexico, Presidents' Day is actually observed on the Friday after Thanksgiving and in Georgia it's Dec. 26. Some people feel that Lincoln, who had a very important role in Civil War history, has been pushed aside, therefore they believe we should honor him alongside Washington. There are others who feel that by honoring both presidents on the same day, Washington's importance is diminished. Not so simple, huh?



Abraham Lincoln

## Activities This Week

**Wednesday, Feb. 20 & Sunday, Feb. 24**

**Movie on Campus: "American Gangster"**

9:00 PM at the Plaster Student Union Theater; FREE with ZipCard

**Saturday, Feb. 23**

**Concert: Monte Negro**

Check out this great Los Angeles rock band which blends the English and Spanish languages into a unique sound. Sure to be a really good show!

7:00 PM in the PSU Theater; FREE!

This is the first show in the new Student Activities Council sponsored Friday Night Concert series.

For more events and activities, visit: <http://calendar.missouristate.edu/>

**Also, ALWAYS check the Student Activities Board across from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Computer Lab**



## Announcements



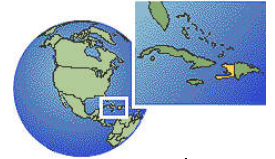
- **Attention MSU Students:**  
For any of you that attend classes at MSU and have a night class on Monday or Wednesday, don't forget that on Wed. (tomorrow--2/20), Mon. night classes will meet and Wed. night classes will not. There is no change for day classes.
- If you have a new address, tell Alicia in the office!

## Did You Know....

### **A few interesting facts about Haiti:**

The Republic of Haiti occupies half of an island in the Caribbean known as Hispaniola. The other half belongs to the Dominican Republic.

The 2 official languages in Haiti are French and Haitian Creole, but Spanish is spoken near the border of the Dominican Republic.



A well known style of Haitian music is called "kompa." Kompa usually has a medium-to-fast beat and emphasizes electric guitars, synthesizers, saxophones, and African drumming. The lyrics are mostly sung in Haitian Creole.

### What's Showing at The Moxie?

The Moxie is downtown's independent cinema located near the corner of Walnut and Campbell.

#### **This week:**

- The Diving Bell and the Butterfly
- Persepolis
- Oscar Nominated Animated Short Films
- Oscar Nominated Live Action Short Films



**See Schedule on the Student Activities Board**

## Weather Forecast

### **Degrees: High/Low** **Forecast for February 18-24**

	<u>Fahrenheit</u>	<u>Celsius</u>
Monday:	-/-	-/-
Tuesday:	49/22	09/-6
Wednesday:	28/17	-2/-8
Thursday:	32/22	00/-6 — chance of freezing rain
Friday:	34/11	01/-12 — chance of snow
Saturday:	41/29	05/-2
Sunday:	49/33	09/01



Weather forecasts are *always* changing, so for the most up-to-date forecast, go to: [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com), or watch the local news or weather channel.