

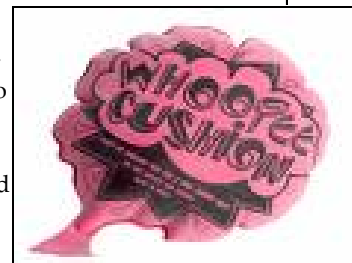
# ELI Weekly

## Don't Be a Fool!

Tuesday is April 1st. No big deal, right? Maybe, maybe not. You see, here in the U.S. April 1st is a nice little day known as April Fools' Day (also known as All Fools' Day). You may get a joke played on you on Tuesday and hear someone tell you, "April Fools'!" If you were here last April, you might know about April Fools' Day, but if you are new, consider this your warning! So, why do we "celebrate" April Fools' Day, anyway?



April Fools' Day is not a recognized holiday, but it is celebrated in many countries. It is a day for hoaxes and practical jokes. It is unknown the exact origin of the day, but it has been celebrated for a long time. In fact, one possible origin of the day dates all the way back to the year 1400—in Chaucer's story, the "Nun's Priest Tale," which tells of two fools and takes place around April 1st. France, however, may have a big part in the history of April Fools' Day. During the 16th century, New Year's Day was celebrated on April 1. In 1582, however, Pope Gregory introduced a new calendar for the Christian world in which the New Year would be January 1. Since communication was very slow at that time, it took years for some people to find out about the change. Those who knew about it often played pranks on those who did not by sending them on "fool's errands" (like an invitation to a party that did not exist), or by making them believe something was true which in fact wasn't. Over time, the tradition of prank-playing migrated to England and Scotland and reached America during colonization.



Don't sit on one of these in class!



Big Ben???

However, some believe that Mother Nature may be responsible for April Fools' Day, as "she" is said to fool humans with sudden changes in weather—rain one moment and sunshine the next. Sudden weather changes—we don't know what that's like here in Missouri, do we?

Some pretty good April Fools' jokes have been played over the years. In 1957, the BBC announced on a news show that spaghetti grew on trees in Switzerland. Many people called the program to find out how to grow their own spaghetti trees. Then, in 1980, the BBC reported that Big Ben's traditional clock would be converted to digital, in order to keep up with the times. Many people protested the change. In 1996, Taco Bell placed a full page ad in the *New York Times* to announce it had bought the Liberty Bell and renamed it the Taco Liberty Bell. Many people became very angry and called the National Historic Park in Philadelphia to complain. Later, Taco Bell announced it was a joke. In 1998, the homepage of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced that it had been sold to the Walt Disney Co. A press release said that the school would be dismantled and transported to Orlando, where new schools, such as the Donald Duck Department of Linguistics, would be added. It was soon learned that the announcement was the work of some students that had hacked into the school's Web server and replaced the real homepage with a fake one.

Pay attention on April 1st. If something seems strange, it may be a joke. Don't be an April Fool!

## Activities This Week

**Wednesday, April 2 & Sunday, April 6**

**Movie on Campus:** "National Treasure 2"

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

**Friday, April 4**

**First Friday Art Walk**

It's time again to enjoy some free art downtown!

6:00-10:00 PM; Art galleries downtown; FREE



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



- **Welcome back from your nice long break!**
- **Pronunciation Topics THIS week:**  
*Monday:* [L] & [r] sounds & Large Numbers  
*Tuesday:* [f] & [v] sounds & Final s/es  
*Wednesday:* Word Stress & Th-sounds  
*Thursday:* Special for SPANISH & FRENCH Speakers: Word-initial [s] & [h] sounds & Tongue Twisters

## Did You Know....

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



The capital city Stockholm, is built on 14 islands connected by bridges.

Swede Alfred Nobel invented dynamite and founded the Nobel Foundation, which awards the Nobel Prize.



During the winter, the arctic north of Sweden experiences the Aurora Borealis, otherwise known at the Northern Lights.

The majority of Swedes are Protestants (Lutheran), but there are minorities of Roman Catholics, Muslims, Jews, and Buddhists.



### What's Showing at The Moxie?

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

#### **This week:**

- In Bruges
- The Band's Visit



**See Schedule on the Student Activities Board**

## Weather Forecast

### **Degrees: High/Low**

#### **Forecast for Mar. 31-April 6**

	<u>Fahrenheit</u>	<u>Celsius</u>
Monday:	68/41	20/05 — rain
Tuesday:	56/32	13/00
Wednesday:	57/45	14/07 — chance of rain
Thursday:	60/44	16/07 — chance of rain
Friday:	56/37	13/03 — chance of rain
Saturday:	64/43	18/06
Sunday:	60/45	16/07 — chance of rain



April showers bring May flowers...

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.