



# The Rocket Review

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*Issue Editor: Sal DiMaggio*



## **Yankees Opening Day Preview**

By Matthew Fedorco

After falling short at the hands of the division rival Red Sox last season, the Yankees will look to make another deep playoff run this season by bolstering their depth in the field, and on the mound. The Yankees picked up utility infielder D.J. Lemahieu and shortstop Troy Tulowitzki. It will be interesting to see how manager Aaron Boone makes sure both of these players get their share of licks in the lineup. With it looking like Miguel Andujar and Luke Voit are locked in at their respective positions at third and first base, it seems the only way Lemahieu could assume an everyday starting role would be to have him play second base, and that would mean moving Gleyber Torres back over to shortstop, which might be a bad idea. As we all saw last season when he was called up, Gleyber is a phenomenal second baseman. He, along with Miguel Andujar, brought a lot of energy back to the clubhouse and part of that was the plays he was making in the field. Then shortstop Didi Gregorius got hurt, which meant Gleyber Torres was now the best man for the most important infield position. Needless to say, he was lackluster. Don't get me wrong, he was not bad, but you could tell that same energy was not there. He was lazy, and plays that he made look easy at second started to look harder at short. The Yankees find themselves in a similar situation with Didi recovering from Tommy John Surgery this past offseason. While Troy Tulowitzki is a damn good fielder at shortstop, it has been proven time and time again that he can not just stay on the field. So maybe having Tulo as a role player could keep him from getting banged up, which may in turn make him more productive, and make sure he stays on the field. There is also an argument for D.J. Lemahieu's production offensively, as he is a solid contact hitter which would be a nice addition to a lineup full of guys that strike out half the time. But Gleyber Torres at shortstop may be worrisome to say the least.

Pitching wise, the Yankees added strike out machine Adam Ottavino to cement their bullpen already full of flamethrowers. James Paxton was another add for the starting rotation to backup ace Luis Severino as a solid number 2. Now with Luis Severino hurt, the Yankees will be leaning even more on the left hander to give them quality starts for the first couple weeks of the season. An interesting thought, with most knowing that Paxton would be the clear number 2 to Sevy going into the season, than why has manager Aaron Boone opted to go with number 3 starter

Masahiro Tanaka for opening day? It is clear that Boone wants to protect Paxton from the spotlight of opening day in New York, as it is definitely a much different environment than most ballparks. While Tanaka on the other hand, has found himself in that position multiple times in past years before Sevy cemented himself as arguably the most explosive young starter in all of baseball.

Injuries have really seemed to trip the Yankees before they have even gotten out of the gate, as they will not have starting shortstop Didi Gregorius, ace Luis Severino, and now starting center fielder Aaron Hicks who just inked a huge contract extension this past offseason. Replacing him should not be hard, as Brett Gardner has proven himself to be solid in that spot despite having lost a step in the past couple of years. Giancarlo Stanton will be forced to step out of his designated hitter role and play left field, and we will just have to hope he can be a serviceable defender for the time being while Hicks is out.

The Yankees have already been hit hard with injuries to key cogs in the lineup before the season has even started, but it looks like the work of GM Brian Cashman to add depth will pay off to keep the lineup and rotation strong to start the season. The absence of Aaron Hicks and Didi Gregorius is a big hit at the top of the lineup, but the versatile D.J. LeMahieu and veteran Troy Tulowitzki will help some key cogs in the lineup get an extra rest day from the field to be in the DH spot. In addition, the Yankees pickup of starter James Paxton will hopefully further stop the bleeding from the huge hole in the starting rotation until Luis Severino gets back.

## **April Fools Day**

By Miechel Krulik

Ever since I was young I would try to prank people on April Fool's Day, but the prank would never work. For some reason, I just can't prank people. Pranking people is an April Fool's Day tradition and you may be wondering "why is there a day all about pranking people?" Well, I am here to tell you.

Some people believe that April Fool's Day is a day to celebrate the seasons changing but others think it is to celebrate the changing of the calendar. April Fool's Day was originally called "All Fool's Day" and the tradition of pulling light-hearted pranks on people has been around since the 1700's with several different countries and cultures celebrating All Fool's Day. One thing for sure is that April Fool's Day was spread through Britain during the 18th century.



In Scotland the tradition they took part in lasted two days. On day one you would be sent on fake errands, the second day would be full of placing “kick me” signs and fake tails on people’s backs. The original origin of April Fool’s Day remains a mystery to this day.

Now that you know the history of April Fool’s Day here are some tips/ things to avoid doing:

#1. Don't prank someone by breaking up with them.

#2 Don't do extreme pranks. (ex. Setting things on fire, explosions etc.)

#3 Don't pretend to ask someone out then say it was just a joke. (it's kind of messed up, don't do it, please)

#4 Don't prank your parent/guardian by saying you/someone you're dating is pregnant.

#5 Don't propose to someone as a joke.

**Now that you know the history and some tips/ things to avoid, Have a safe and fun April Fool's Day!**

## **The Monthly Review**

By Zak Carter

*What is The Monthly Review?*

*This column gives a general summary of different media, such as movies, games, and books, while also giving opinions and analyses of the media in question.*

This month's review will be on:

**Captain Marvel**

### **Captain Marvel**

Captain Marvel was recently put into theatres and has only been getting mixed reviews from Marvel's fans. Captain Marvel originated on December of 1967 by the creator Stan Lee and Gene Colan. Since then the her original comic was adapted to the big screen.

This movie is an essential movie for Marvel because it is setting up the next hero to star in Endgame. Endgame is rumored to be at three hours now, and will be one of Marvel's most ambitious projects after Infinity War.



The main problem in this series is with Captain Marvel. The movie she stars in isn't bad, and I would say that it is a pretty decent movie. The most I and others would complain about with the movie is the plot, and the actress for Captain Marvel herself. The plot seems decent enough. Captain Marvel has lived on an alien planet for a long while and when she begins to see visions of her past that she has forgotten she becomes worried. After being captured by a group of aliens, she finds herself on earth where she will only learn more about her past.

It seems like a pretty good plot, but the way it is executed doesn't seem like a 'Marvel Quality' movie. For the most of the movie you will be following Captain Marvel chasing aliens or going through exposition about her past. The alien chase scenes are pretty good, but it is diminished once you realize that Captain Marvel is one of the most powerful super-beings alive. Chasing these aliens around planet earth seems more like a chore to the hero rather than being an actual event. The only real reason she goes on her mission is to figure out her past, and for a large portion of the time she spends on earth she is actually trying to leave.

There is a plot twist towards the end, but it is very predictable and seems like it was thrown in last minute. Then there is the actress for Captain Marvel. She isn't a bad actress, but the direction that her character went in was not a very good one. I think that they were trying to make Captain Marvel seem like a character that uses a lot of dry humor and is very sarcastic. Instead, the character turns out to just be dry. She doesn't seem to care about anything and doesn't put emotion into most of the events that are going on around her.

Although these all seem like poor qualities to a movie, there are redeeming qualities. There are numerous tributes to Stan Lee throughout the movie which is great to see, and Samuel L. Jackson had a great performance with his character. It is definitely a good movie that should be watched, but doesn't seem like one of Marvel's better movies.

## **Interview w/ Ms. Robinson**

By Sal DiMaggio

If you have taken TV Production, then you most likely know who Ms. Robinson is. She teaches all of the TV Production 2 and Film Studies/Screenwriting classes. Anyone who has met her would agree with me that she is one of the nicest people you have ever met and one of the best teachers as well. In fact, she is the favorite teacher of many students in this school. This month, I had the lucky opportunity to ask her a few questions about who she is and what teaching means to her.

Ms. Robinson grew up in Jackson, New Jersey. She attended Hofstra University in New York, where she got her degree in Video/Television and Film, and she got her teaching certification from Brookdale Community College. It was in her sophomore year of college that she first realized that she wanted to go into teaching. She realized this when she was a teacher's assistant in a couple of TV classes at Hofstra, helping students find their groove, "When they had their "a-ha moments", it made me feel like what I was doing really mattered," she told me.

Since she has come to Raritan, she has inspired many students to go into the communications-related field, including myself. But Ms. Robinson is not just a teacher. Helping students out may be her primary focus, but she has a wide range of interests and hobbies, including anything from astrology to photography. You could have a conversation with her about pretty much anything.

If you are considering to take one of her classes, there is more to them than what you might think. "I don't just teach how to make videos," she said. "I teach life skills while using creating videos as the medium." Some of the things you'll learn are empathy, teamwork, time management, professionalism, responsibility, and much more. Simply put, you'll learn the life skills necessary to thrive and succeed in life. I took Film Studies/Screenwriting in my freshman year, and it was one of my favorite classes. I would recommend it to anyone and everyone. I also plan to take Television Production 2 my junior year and can't wait.

In short, Ms. Robinson is more than just a teacher. She is one of the nicest, dedicated, and hard-working people in this school. She will never fail to help you, and you can always talk to her like she is a friend. So the next time you see her, don't be afraid to say hello. Trust me, you're going to like who you meet.

## **April Showers**

By Tyler Herbert

“April Showers bring May flowers.” This is an age-old adage referring to the heavy rainfall in the month of April. You hear this from the time you’re born, then the rest of your life.

This happens when during spring, the best mix for precipitation occurs. In the higher portion of the atmosphere, jet streams are still powerful and hold onto some winter cold. Then, at the surface, the sun is powerful. This warms the ground and water. Then the warm humid air is less dense than the cold air, causing it to rise into the upper portion of the atmosphere.

This turns into precipitation. This is a phenomenon across the entire northern hemisphere. A phenomenon that New Jerseyans know well.

## **Poetry Corner Round Two**

By: Alisa Valdez

*a city*

Brooklyn.

A city in a state that never sleeps.

Like the state itself it’s beautiful and people always have fun.

Even though this is a city there is a girl with beautiful red hair who shares the same name.

They both shine brightly with the sun.

And they bring smiles to everyone's faces.

But most of all,

Brooklyn has the most pride and they are the most loved.

*(\*Dedicated to Brooklyn Connolly for her 18th birthday which is on April 13. Happy Birthday bff hope you have a good one.\*)*

*The Beautiful, Bright, and Dangerous*

There love was like a fire.

Bright, Beautiful, and Dangerous.

It was bright because whenever they were together that's  
when she smiled the brightest.

It was beautiful the way he whispered sweet things to her just to  
show her how truly beautiful he saw her as she was.

Most of all it was dangerous for both of them.

She would do anything for him.

He was afraid to break her.

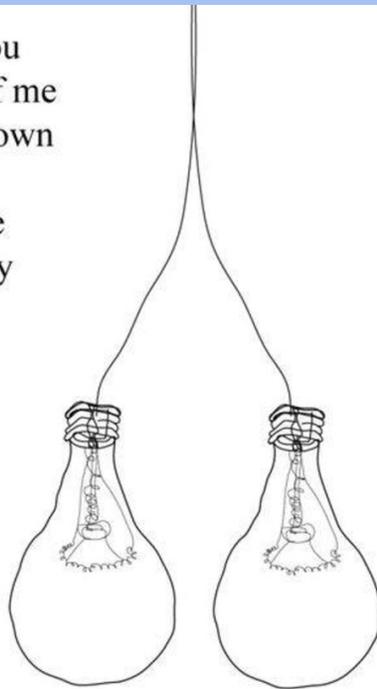
But in the end the flame soon burnt out and all that was left are the  
memories of a love that was once  
bright, beautiful, and too dangerous.

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i do not want to have you  
to fill the empty parts of me  
i want to be full on my own

i want to be so complete  
i could light a whole city  
and then  
i want to have you  
cause the two of  
us combined  
could set it  
on fire

- rupi kaur

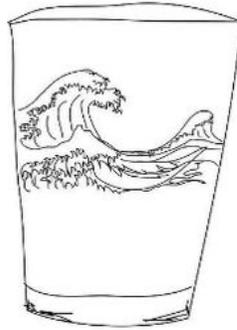


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i am water

soft enough  
to offer life  
tough enough  
to drown it away

- rupi kaur



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### Ghost

Every memory we had,  
is slowly fading from my mind.  
You were always there for me in my darkest hours.  
But now you're disappearing.  
It's like you've become a ghost,  
and you're fading more and more from my life.  
Please don't leave me yet....

I'm not ready to say goodbye to you.  
You are such a huge piece in my life,  
like you have a piece of my heart.  
Everything reminds me of you like you're haunting me.  
I can never get you out of my mind, or my heart.  
I will never find another you again in my entire lifetime  
But I know that I can't love a ghost for the rest of my  
life.

*this is the recipe of life  
said my mother  
as she held me in her arms as i wept  
think of those flowers you plant  
in the garden each year  
they will teach you  
that people too  
must wilt  
fall  
root  
rise  
in order to bloom*

- rupi kaur



## **Headline of the Month- Democrats Line Up in Race for 2020 Nomination**

By Sal DiMaggio

Everyone wants to beat Trump.

Well, it certainly seems that way, as there are currently 12 declared candidates for the Democratic nomination. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) kicked it all off when she ran an exploratory committee on December 31, 2018, and then officially declared her run on February 9, 2019. The others soon followed, and there may still be some more politicians joining the fray, including former Vice President Joe Biden. In this article, we'll take a look at some of the big names on the list, plus my personal opinion on who will win the nomination.

### **Senator Bernie Sanders (D, I-VT)- Declared**

One of the biggest names on the list is Bernie Sanders, the 77-year old Senator from Vermont. Although he is listed as a Democratic candidate, he is an independent Senator, as he is as left as one can be, creating a gap between him and some moderates. Sanders ran in 2016 against Hillary Clinton, and although he lost, he put up one hell of a fight. He had an unbelievable amount of energetic supporters, especially among the younger generation. Those same supporters could help him win the nomination in this election. However, some say that Sanders' time has passed, and critics argue that he is too progressive for the moderate Democrats.

### **Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)- Declared**

The earliest to explore a bid, Elizabeth Warren is a prominent figure in the Senate and a leader of her party. She, too is, a progressive, though not as radical as Sanders. She has a strong appeal, as she was recently re-elected in Massachusetts. But she may be held back by the "Pocahontas" scandal. Warren claimed that she was part Native American, and President Trump has nicknamed her "Pocahontas" for it. He challenged her to a DNA test. She accepted, but results show that she may be anywhere from 1/64 to 1/1024 part Cherokee, making her a laughingstock.

### **Former Vice President Joe Biden (D)- Undeclared**

Perhaps the favorite for the nomination, Joe Biden was Barack Obama's VP from 2009-2017. Before that, he was a senator from Delaware for 36 years. As of this writing, he has not officially declared his run, but he has hinted at it numerous times. Unlike the other candidates mentioned, Biden is a moderate Democrat, but the downside to this is that he will not attract the younger, more radical Democratic supporters.

### **Representative Beto O'Rourke (D-TX)- Declared**

Born Robert Francis O'Rourke, this rising politician gave Republican Senator Ted Cruz a run for his money in the 2018 midterm election. Although he was defeated, like Bernie Sanders, he gained a lot of support, and his followers loved him. He is more centrist than most Democrats, but he still has a lot of?. He entered the race recently and is seen as a big threat by some. His critics, however, say that since he just lost the Senate race, he shouldn't be running for President.

### **My Prediction**

The Democratic Convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from July 12-14, 2020. The candidate and their running mate will be selected there and then. But that's over a year from now, and a lot can happen in that amount of time. So I don't know who will be nominated, but I can take a couple of guesses. No candidate so far is a mix of moderate and progressive, so I feel that the Democrats will pick a radical candidate, and that candidate will have a centrist running-mate or vice versa.

I predict that the nomination one of two ways. I have a feeling that Bernie Sanders will make his opponents "Feel the Bern" again, and without Hilary Clinton to stop him, he could very easily win the nomination. But he will need some centrism for his ticket to win, so maybe someone like Beto O'Rourke will be a good pick for a vice president. Or Joe Biden could win, and have a progressive running mate. Biden is a favorite to go the whole way, after all. But I can't think of any suitable running mate for him, so we'll have to wait and see.

But remember, these are just my predictions, and very early on in the race as well. I could be completely wrong. If you have any idea, feel free to email me at [21sdimaggio@hazlet.org](mailto:21sdimaggio@hazlet.org). We'll just have to wait until next July to see who's right.

### **National Cherry Blossom Festival**

By Madelyn Primiano

In 1912, more than 3,000 cherry blossom trees arrived in Washington DC after coordination between America and Tokyo. In return, America gave dogwood trees to Japan as a gift. On March 27, 1912, First Lady and wife of the Japanese ambassador, Helen Herron Taft, planted the first two trees from Japan on the north bank of the Tidal Basin in West Potomac Park. Since then, first ladies have become a crucial part of the tree planting. In 1965, First Lady Bird Johnson received 3,800 Yoshino trees from Japan and reenacted the planting



of the trees. Now, all First Ladies have served Honorary Chair and many participated in the planting. First Ladies like Hilary Clinton, Laura Bush, and Michelle Obama planted a cherry blossom tree in West Potomac Park. By 1927, schools and civic groups were reenacting the event and even held the first “festival.” This Festival turned into a two-week event by 1994, in order to accommodate the blooming period of the trees. 2012 marked the 100-year anniversary of the event, which was celebrated for five weeks.

Now, the National Cherry Blossom Festival is celebrated for four weeks and it holds more than 50 events and programs. These events include the Pink Tie Party, “Petalpalooza,” and a Blossom Kite Festival. The Festival unites many cultural organizations and businesses and it brings the celebration to all eight wards of the city and into the region. Due to this Festival, DC has become the premier springtime destination. In order to continue and strengthen the Festival, it requires advanced year-round planning. And through this programming, the Festival remains to be impactful and engaging.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival runs from March 20th to April 14th. Many days hold specific events like the National Cherry Blossom Parade, which is held on April 13th.



According to the National Park Service, peak bloom will occur between April 3-6. The peak bloom date is set when 70 percent of the cherry blossom trees around the Tidal Basin have opened their buds. The best viewing of these trees can last four to seven days after peak blooms begin, but the blossoms can last for up to two weeks.

So why go to the National Cherry Blossom Festival? The Festival itself has a rich and interesting history along with many beautiful events and displays to top it off. Cherry blossom trees can be very beautiful to see and this festival marks the best times to see its majesty. And if you’re planning on staying somewhere to witness the whole Festival for all four weeks, there are many different packages, deals, and discounts at nearby hotels. On top of the discounts, these hotels offer cherry blossom-themed meals and flavors. And even if you would rather not go to the events, you can still go to see the cherry blossoms in peak bloom and admire the beautiful scenery. The National Cherry Blossom Festival is a calming, inspiring, and eventful celebration, filled with beauty and magic that is worth witnessing.

## **Simpler Times**

By Matthew Fedorco

I remember when I went to Cooperstown, New York to play in a baseball tournament with my friends. I would say I was about twelve when all this went down. All the teams each had their own cabin that they slept in. It was just about the best time I've ever had with a group of my friends. We were all pretty tight because we played with each other since we were like 9. We were really like family.

I remember so much about that week. For instance, my home run. There was nothing that special about the home run, it was basically just a long fly ball out to center field that carried over the fence. I had hit further ones than that, but this one will always stick out in my mind because I hit it in Cooperstown, and that's where the MLB hall of fame is. Not to mention, but they served us these awful lunch meat tacos for dinner. When I hit that home run, I had some of the worst stomach pains you could imagine. The home run was pretty memorable, but I can't help but think about those terrible tacos.

To be honest, my memories from Cooperstown don't stem all that much from playing baseball. The place was pretty trash, to be honest. Bad food, bad rooms, and spiders. Did I mention that one of my coaches got bit by one and had to go to the hospital? Pretty crazy, so when I saw that my shower sandals I left out to dry were surrounded by webs, I was not trying to fetch those. I was with my friends so it didn't matter.

There was this one time, we all had real wrestling matches while the coaches were gone, and you could call out whoever you wanted to wrestle. The coaches son, Robbie, called me out. Robbie and I have always gotten along, but he was kind of just really full of himself and shoved it in people's faces. So when we got straight up to wrestle I picked his right leg up and pushed down hard on his chest, body slamming him to the floor. Everyone in the room went wild and Robbie went back to where he was sitting and didn't talk for the remainder of the matches. There was John, who we like to call Master Splinter from "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" because he looks like a rat. I came up with that one, and I'm still proud of it. He didn't want to wrestle, but instead of just staying where he was sitting, he came to the middle. So this kid Angelo that he was facing thought he was ready and proceeded to charge at him and tackle him over a cooler. It's pretty ironic because Master Splinter is supposed to know kung fu, and I guess he didn't have enough time to call the turtles on Angelo.

Speaking of Angelo, there was also a time when this kid Mike was trying to shave, so he asked one of the coaches for shaving cream. Well, there was this other kid Chris that started spraying Angelo with it. All of a sudden, Angelo gets a hold of it and there's a full-on shaving cream war in the bathroom. Until Angelo chased Chris out of the bathroom and tackled him onto some rocks. That Angelo kid, always tackling people into stuff. I still don't remember if they got in trouble for wasting all the shaving cream

I forgot to mention, this was going to be the last time all of us ever played together. After our final game, when we got eliminated, we all got together in right field to have a meeting like we usually do. Except we all just sat there, crying. It was pretty weird, but I just remember being

overwhelmed with emotion. These were the kids that I grew up with. We were a group of kids from a small town, just playing baseball. At the time, it meant so much more than that. Even the coaches were bawling. Coach John usually gives big speeches, but he could barely get a word out. I still play with some of those kids, some don't play anymore, and some are just at a higher level. But collectively, I will never forget that team. I was never really that good at baseball, but I still loved it. I wish I could go back to those simpler times.

## **Record Store Day**

By Miichel Krulik

Records used to be a thing of the past but have recently made a comeback. One thing no one really knows about is World Record Store Day. World Record Store Day started in 2007 by a group of independent record store owners and employees in order to spread the culture. The first Record Store Day took place on April 19, 2008. Today there are Record Store Day participating stores on every continent except Antarctica. Record Store Day is not only there to celebrate the culture but also new releases. Special vinyl and CD releases and various promotional products are made exclusively for Record Store Day. Festivities include performances, cook-outs, body painting, meet & greets with artists, parades, DJs spinning records, and more.

In 2008 a small list of titles was released on Record Store Day and that list has grown to include artists and labels both large and small, in every genre and price point. For several years, 60% or more of the Record Store Day Official Release List came from independent labels and distributors. The list continues to include a wide range of artists, covering the diverse taste of record stores and their customers. Throughout its nine years, cities across the United States, including New York City, Los Angeles, Boise, Charleston, and Las Vegas have declared Record Store Day an official holiday. In 2013, Co-Founder Michael Kurtz was made a Chevalier of the Ordre Des Arts et Des Letters in France, honoring Record Store Day's contribution to the cultural and artistic life of the French people. That same year, the organizers of Record Store Day accepted the Independent Spirit Award from NARM (now the Music Biz Association). In 2015, Record Store Day was named the Marketplace Ally of the Year by A2IM, an organization of independent music labels.



While there's only one Record Store Day a year, the organization works with both independent and major labels throughout the year to create contests, special releases, and promotions in order to spotlight the perks of supporting these independent, locally owned stores with music purchases throughout the year. In 2010, Record Store Day coordinated its first Black Friday event, which gives record stores exclusive releases as part of the attempt to redirect the

focus of the biggest shopping day of the year to the desirable, special things to be found at local stores. The twelfth annual Record Store Day will take place worldwide on April 13, 2019. If you would like to find a store near you that is participating, [click here!](#)

## **The Origin Of Easter**

By Zak Carter

Now that March has rolled around, the holiday that most have their eyes set on is Easter. Easter falls on a different date in Spring each year, and is traditionally a Christian holiday that celebrates the believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, although most people know this. What most don't know is how Easter started all of its many traditions that people partake in today.

A good example is chocolate eggs. Everyone knows that during Easter, chocolate eggs and candy in general, are something that many people eat during this holiday. But why do people do this? What is the significance of eggs on Easter?

Well, to put it in short, the egg is an ancient symbol of new life, and is associated with many Pagan festivals that celebrate spring. In fact, many of the Easter traditions are Pagan and Christian. Decorating Easter eggs dates back all the way to the 13th century. The explanation for the decoration of eggs has to do with the season of Lenten. During this season, Christian people replicate Jesus's sacrifice by also sacrificing meat on certain days in Lent.

Since eggs were forbidden, they were most likely decorated on Easter to celebrate the completion of Lent, and then the eggs would be eaten. As for chocolate eggs, the tradition is a bit more recent. The first chocolate egg was made in 1873 by Fry's of Bristol.

Now for the topic that everyone questions when thinking about Easter. What is the origin of the Easter Bunny? Now, the specific origins of the Easter Bunny are almost unknown, considering there is no mention of a special rabbit in the bible, but we can make some educated assumptions. Rabbits are known to be prolific procreators, which can mean that they represent life and a new beginning. There is a similar German tradition called Osterhase that was brought to America from the Germans in the 1700's. This tradition consists of making nests for the egg-laying rabbit to lay their eggs.

As you can see, the origins of most Easter traditions are quite unknown. Unfortunately, all we can really do is make the most of assumptions in general, but we do know that the Origins stem from many religious beliefs.



## **Earth Day**

By Madelyn Primiano

Our planet is a very unique one because of its ability to act as a home for various types of species. But Earth is more than just a home. It gives us all the essential resources we need, such as water, food, wood, and much more. Earth is the reason we have survived this long and are still striving to be better. Everything is changing including the Earth itself. But sometimes these changes aren't helping our planet. Many changes to the Earth occur because of our effect on it. This includes pollution, the burning of fossil fuels, greenhouse gasses, and many more. These negative effects we have on our planet is the reason Earth Day was created back in 1970.



At the time, America hadn't paid much attention to any environmental concerns. What caught everyone's attention on the subject, was Rachel Carson's New York Times bestseller *Silent Spring* in 1962. The book sold more than 500,000 copies in 24 countries. The book documented Carson's research on pesticides and their effect on the environment. The book then focuses on other things like the negative effects of chemical companies, human instinct of having to control the environment, and the effects of pesticides on human health.

Although this grabbed people's attention, the idea of a national Earth Day was created by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin. He was also inspired by the students who were opposing the war in Vietnam at the time. So, he announced an idea for "national teach-in on environment" to the national media. The date, April 22, was selected because it was right in between Spring Break and Final Exams.

Ways to celebrate Earth Day are very simple. One of the most well-known ways to help is to simply recycle. Any recyclable items will indicate on the label that it should be recycled, so pay attention to what you're throwing away. Another easy way to support Earth Day is by riding your bike places rather than driving. Riding your bike is also good exercise so that's another good reason to not use your car. You can also give back to the earth by planting any plants or even trees! There are multiple different ways to join in on the support. Some are as easy as turning off your lights when not in use. So how will *you* help the earth this Earth Day?

## Poetry Spotlight

By: Alisa Valdez

It's now the month of April and even though it's mainly known for "April Fools Day" I wanted to take the time and give a special spotlight edition to Rupi Kaur for National Poetry Month. Rupi Kaur is a Indian-born Canadian poet who used life examples of what it's like to be a woman and the change we go through. Many of her poems have a very deep and emotional meaning behind them. She has a total of two books out so far, her first one is called "Milk and Honey" and her second book is called "The Sun and Her Flowers". Like many people today Rupi Kaur began to write her work anonymous on a social media site called "Tumblr" and then she took her writing to Instagram but added a few illustrations to go with the poems. She started writing poems when she was around the age of four because around that time she had just emigrated to Canada and she couldn't speak english that well to talk to her classmates to she was inspired to draw and paint like her mother and eventually it turned into writing poems. She would write poems for her friends on their birthdays and little love letters to her crushes. Since her first book "Milk and Honey" her career has taken a whole new turn, she surpassed the 2.5 million copy mark and it was on the New York Best Sellers list for 77 weeks. Her work is truly inspiring and meaningful and can help a lot of young women who are going through hardships in life. Happy National Poetry Month Rupi Kaur.

