



JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK

MONDAY – 4/02/2007

HOW DID THE TERM “APRIL” ORIGINATE?

[Plain] The fourth month of the year, after March and before May

[Quaint – Phrase & Fable] April is the opening month, when the trees unfold, and the womb of nature opens with young life.

[Harsh - Wasteland] T.S. Eliot (1888–1965): April is the cruelest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain.

Online Etymology: 1297 – *aueril*, from Old French *avrill* (11th c.), from Latin (*mensis*) *Aprilis* "(month) of Venus," second month of the ancient Roman calendar, dedicated to the goddess Venus.

Latin *aperire*, "to open," in allusion to its being the season when trees and flowers begin to "open," is supported by comparison with the modern Greek use of ἀνοιξις (opening) for spring.

Clarification: April was the second month of the old Roman calendar, but it became the fourth month of the Gregorian calendar year during the time of the decemvirs (10 men in ancient Rome appointed to a special judicial or executive capacity) about 450 BC.

Conventional Wisdom: April = National Poetry Month

Moment of Zen: The beat of a pulse the warm sun stirs in the air beckons the heart and soul into the allure of April's dream.