

The year 2005

This special retrospective issue of the Helix Courier Limited Messenger newsletter covers the year 2005. Yet to come in this series are the years 2010 and finally 1968, the year in which Helix was founded.

We hope you enjoy this series as much as we enjoy preparing it for you.

The year 2005 is the year of the rooster on the Chinese calendar. In 2005 George W. Bush started his 2nd term as President of the United States. Pope Benedict XVI became the 265th pope. The world population reached 6,453,628,000 people. Popular gadgets/hardware that were introduced in the year 2005: Mac Mini, Pentium D, Xbox 360 and the Ipod Nano.

Top 10 movies:

- The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
- Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
- Batman begins
- Sin city
- The 40 Year Old Virgin
- Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith
- Pride & Prejudice
- Wedding Crashers
- Brokeback Mountain
- The Family Stone

Top 10 songs:

- 1 Hollaback Girl - Gwen Stefani
- 2 Gold Digger - Kanye West, Featuring Jamie Foxx
- 3 Since U Been Gone - Kelly Clarkson
- 4 My Humps - Black Eyed Peas
- 5 Photograph - Nickelback
- 6 Boulevard Of Broken Dreams - Green Day
- 7 1, 2 Step - Ciara Featuring Missy Elliott
- 8 Don't Phunk With My Heart - Black Eyed Peas
- 9 Switch - Will Smith
- 10 Sugar, We're Goin' Down - Fall Out Boy

Political events in the year 2005

Tony Blair became the first Labour Party prime minister to win three successive terms in Great Britain but his party lost a large number of seats in the elections.

The European Union abandoned plans to ratify the proposed European constitution by 2006, after both France and the Netherlands vote against it.

The Sudanese government and Southern rebels signed a peace agreement to end a 20-year civil war that had claimed the lives of over two million people

Former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein went on trial for the killing of 143 people in the town of Dujail, Iraq, in 1982.

Terrorist attacks

On July 7, 2005, London, UK, was hit by Islamic terrorist bombings, killing 52 and wounding about 700. It was Britain's worst attack since World War II. The London bombings (often referred to as 7/7) were a series of coordinated suicide attacks upon London's public transport system during the morning rush hour. On that morning, four al-Qaeda associated militants detonated four bombs, three on London Underground trains in quick succession, and a fourth bomb exploding an hour later on a double-decker bus in Tavistock Square.

The explosions were homemade, organic peroxide-based devices packed into rucksacks. The bombers were motivated by the teachings of Osama bin Laden, opposition to British support of Saudi Arabia, and anger over Britain's involvement in the Iraq War.

Natural events in the year 2005

The year 2005 saw the aftermath of the December, 2004 earthquake and tsunami waves in Asia. Additionally, hurricanes in Central and North America caused millions of dollars in damage. Hurricane Katrina triggered flooding in the US city of New Orleans. The year 2005 also saw famine after crops were destroyed by locusts in Niger.

Virtually unnoticed by the outside world was tiny El Salvador where the country's highest volcano, Ilimatepec, erupted on October 1st, displacing more than 7,500 people and killing two. A few days later Hurricane Stan swept through and killed about 70 people with floods and mudslides.

Elsewhere, a 7.6 earthquake centered in the Pakistani-controlled part of the Kashmir region killed more than 80,000 and left an estimated 4 million people homeless

The North American blizzard of 2005 was a three-day storm that affected large areas of the northern United States, dropping more than 3 feet (0.9 m) of snow in parts of southeastern Massachusetts, as well as in much of the Boston metropolitan area. While this was by far the hardest hit region, it was also a significant snowstorm for the Philadelphia and New York City areas, which both suffered occasional blizzard conditions and 12-15 inch (30-38 cm) snow accumulations.

The storm began dropping snow on the upper Midwest on

Thursday, January 20, 2005. It slowly moved eastward affecting the Great Lakes region and the Mid-Atlantic states on Friday and Saturday, January 21 and January 22, 2005. On Saturday evening the storm entered the Southern New England area. The strength of the storm, coupled with the extreme Arctic temperatures, created a light, fluffy snow which increased the snowfall totals.

The storm shut down airports in the area while also impairing road travel throughout much of Massachusetts due to the high amount of snow cover. Practically all schools in the Metrowest and South East regions of Massachusetts were closed for at least two days or more.

After traveling across the Atlantic Ocean, the storm system hit parts of Great Britain and Ireland and the Scandinavian peninsula, causing even more widespread blackouts and some of deaths in the region.

2005 quiz

1. Which U.S. Senator championed this year's most infamous example of pork barrel spending, the so-called bridge to nowhere?

Senator Ted Stevens championed the \$223 million project connecting Alaska's Gravina Island (pop. circa 50) to the town of Ketchikan by a bridge almost as long as the Golden Gate. He threatened to resign if the bridge was scuttled.

2. Which fabulously wealthy executive has donated almost \$5 billion to developing nations to fight AIDS and malaria?

Bill Gates has become a champion of health care in the developing world. In recent years, Gates and his wife, Melinda, have established the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to help fight poverty and improve health care and education around the world. It is the world's largest charity, and has a \$29 billion endowment.

3. Which woman was elected leader of her country in 2005?

Ellen Sirleaf-Johnson became president elect of Liberia. She was the first female head of state of any African country.

4. Who was the Russian oil tycoon convicted and imprisoned on a variety of charges, which many believe may have been trumped up by Vladimir Putin?

In 2005, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, founder of the Yukos oil company, was convicted and jailed on charges of fraud and tax evasion. The Russian government also seized the 44% of the company owned by Khodorkovsky. Many considered the moves retaliation for Khodorkovsky's outspoken opposition to President Vladimir Putin.

5. Who was tried and convicted for manslaughter for the 1964 murder of three young civil rights workers in Mississippi?

On June 21, 1964, three young civil rights workers -- a 21-year-old black Mississippian, James Chaney, and two white New Yorkers, Andrew Goodman, 20, and Michael Schwerner, 24 --were murdered near Philadelphia, Mississippi. On January 7, 2005, Edgar Ray Killen was charged with three counts of murder. He was accused of orchestrating the killings and assembling the mob that killed

the three men. On June 21, 2005 -- the 41st anniversary of the murders--Killen was convicted on three counts of manslaughter.

6. Which government employee raised serious questions about a \$7 billion no-bid Halliburton contract and found herself rewarded with a demotion?

Bunnatine "Bunny" Greenhouse, a U.S. Army official who supervised contracts at the Army Corps of Engineers, was demoted in August of 2005. Long considered a stellar employee who earned high performance reviews, Greenhouse began receiving negative feedback in 2003, when she questioned why Kellogg Brown & Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton, won \$7 billion in no-bid contracts and other preferential treatment for work in Iraq.

7. Which Middle Eastern leaders made shockingly poisonous remarks in 2005 that identified him as a mortal enemy of Israel?

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the new president of Iran, stated in October that Israel should be "wiped off the map." He continued his inflammatory comments in December, saying of Israelis, "Today, they have created a myth in the name of Holocaust and consider it to be above God, religion, and the prophets."

8. Which journalist was paid by the government to plant favorable stories about the Bush administration?

Armstrong Williams, syndicated columnist, was widely criticized in early 2005 for getting paid by the government to promote President Bush's No-child-left-behind agenda.

9. Who stood up to the IRA in 2005 and turned even many staunch Catholic sympathizers against their organization's philosophy of violence?

The McCartney sisters, five sisters from Northern Ireland, challenged the Irish Republican Army's code of secrecy and silence after their brother Robert was killed in a brutal bar brawl in Belfast in January. Several members of the IRA were suspected of being involved in and covering up the murder. The women's campaign to hold the IRA accountable reached an international audience and prompted many to question the legitimacy of the IRA, even in Catholic communities that had once been IRA strongholds.

Some of Murphy's Lesser Known Laws

- Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
- The things that come to those who wait will be the things left by those who got there first.
- Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.
- Flashlight: A case for holding dead batteries.
- When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.