

Skeptics Predictions for 2006

On 2 December 2007 the Phoenix Skeptics held their annual Predictions meeting at which the membership produced the following list of predictions for the next 14 months and beyond. In the fifteenth year of our ongoing experiment in prognostication, we had 53 of 60 answers correct, for a hit rate of 88.33%. Our Hall of Fame predictions had 13 of 13 right, for a hit rate of 100%.

Among our hits in 2006 were the Mark Foley scandal, the Democratic Party victory in November's elections, the e. coli in raw spinach problem, Mel Gibson's racist meltdown and the stock market's record high.

Our thesis with this experiment has been and continues to be this: a dozen or so reasonably well informed individuals can accurately predict events in the near future without reliance on any supernatural powers. Our hit ratio continues to be higher than that of the professional psychics out there – which begs the questions: are their powers faulty, or are they just not reasonably well informed? (The answer to that question is more predictable than the government's buggy reaction to criticism.)

In our tenth year of predictions we decided to shift our format slightly and continue with it. Not only do we have over fifty predictions for 2007, but we continue with our **Hall of Fame** for predictions that have been right so often in the past that we're fairly certain they'll continue to be true in the future. Nothing succeeds like success and with these predictions, past performance *is* indicative of future results.

Hall of Fame Predictions

- 1) Jesus Christ will again forego his return to this world.
- 2) A major sports figure will be involved in a sex scandal.
- 3) O. J. Simpson's search for his ex-wife's murderer is fruitless this year.
- 4) Last year's winner of the World Series will not repeat in this year.
- 5) Last year's winner of the Superbowl will not repeat this year.
- 6) Scientists discover a new comet.
- 7) Advances in cloning technology fuel an ethics debate.
- 8) Abortion becomes a hot topic of debate.
- 9) Death haunts the House of Windsor.
- 10) A sex scandal ends a politician's career.
- 11) Major new dinosaur species discovered.
- 12) Bigfoot and Yeti elude capture.
- 13) The age of the Universe continues to get older.

Our predictions for 2006 and beyond are:

World News:

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| 1) Turkish Army enters Middle East conflict. | 6) Iraqi civil war continues to accelerate. |
| 2) A reversion to monarchy not in Iraq's future | 7) Assassins unexpectedly end a politician's career. |
| 3) Iraqi partition comes closer to reality | 8) Tensions dominate politics in Mexico |
| 4) Cuba hails democracy as a new way of life. | 9) Castro regime continues in Cuba. |
| 5) Darfur moves to the fore in International arena | 10) Leadership shakeup affects close US ally |

War on Terror

11) iPod ban fails to bring North Korea to its knees.

12) Israel attacks Iranian nuclear capabilities

13) Terrorists pull off an attack on American soil

U. S. News.

14) McCain presidential hopes die in a temper tantrum.

15) Global Warming causes firefight in Washington, DC

16) US officials skirt war crimes indictments.

17) Kissinger continues to avoid France in his travel plans.

18) The Governator not made eligible to run for President.

19) Democratic retreads dominate race for presidency.

20) The Supreme Court gets hot over Global Warming

21) CEO pay rates blows up.

22) Dick Cheney resigns citing health reasons.

23) Rats start leaving the White House cabinet.

24) Volcanic activity threatens national monument.

25) Major Earthquake event causes crisis in continental United States.

26) Major US currency redesign

Entertainment

27) Bollywood invades American entertainment scene.

28) Dixie Chicks regain fans and strength.

29) Major conservative talk host bites the dust.

30) Rush Limbaugh's career heads into remission.

31) Katie Couric survives another year in the anchor chair.

32) 60 Minutes loses another anchor.

33) Lindsey Lohan engages in mayfly marriage.

Economy

34) Oil prices spike on world market.

35) Dow average cracks 13000

36) Explosive hybrid car sales dominate news.

37) Halliburton indicted for war profiteering.

38) Federal Minimum wage raise passed.

39) Drug prices rise.

40) New drug for erectile dysfunction pops up on the market.

41) GM hits bankruptcy.

Sports

42) New Cardinals coach has successful debut season.

43) New uniforms do not make the Arizona Diamondbacks a better team.

44) Death stalks major NASCAR celebrity.

Arizona News

45) Arizona 9/11 memorial controversy festers.

46) The Arizona Water Conservation board in crisis.

47) Home schooling wildly popular across Arizona.

48) Controversy continues to stalk Arizona state government.

49) Phoenix Light rail isn't rolling in 2007.

Science and Technology

50) Global Warming proves to have played major role in Dinosaur extinctions.

51) New animal species discovered.

52) Smart wheels promise revolution in automobile design.

53) Supernova strikes nearby.

54) Evidence of extraterrestrial life revealed.

And, as always, we predict our hit rate will be better than that of the supermarket tabloid psychics.