“We’re all eccentrics. We’re nine prima donnas.”
—Harry A. Blackmun, Supreme Court Justice

May 5, 1862
Origins of the Cinco de Mayo Holiday
During the French–Mexican War, a poorly supplied and outnumbered Mexican army defeats a French army attempting to capture Puebla de Los Angeles, a small town in east-central Mexico. Today, Mexicans celebrate the Battle of Puebla as Cinco de Mayo, a national holiday.

May 6, 1937
The Hindenburg Disaster
The airship Hindenburg, the largest dirigible ever built and the pride of Nazi Germany, bursts into flames upon mooring in Lakehurst, NJ, killing 36 passengers and crew members. After the disaster, no rigid airships survived World War II.

May 8, 1984
Soviets to Boycott LA Olympics
The Soviet government announces a boycott of the 1984 Summer Olympic Games to be held in Los Angeles. The boycott is the result of strained Cold War relations and retribution for the U.S. boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games.

May 12, 1970
Harry Blackmun Confirmed to Supreme Court
The Senate confirms President Richard M. Nixon’s nomination of Federal Circuit Judge Harry A. Blackmun to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1973, Blackmun authored Roe v. Wade, which held that a woman’s right to an abortion fell within the right to privacy protected by the Fourteenth Amendment.

May 1, 1997
Labour Party Returns to Power
After 18 years of Conservative rule, British voters give the Labour Party, led by Tony Blair, a landslide victory in British parliamentary elections. Conservative Prime Minister John Major was rejected in favor of Scottish-born Blair, who at age 43 became the youngest British prime minister in more than a century.