

1933

Adolf Hitler secretly meets with German industrialists to arrange for financing of the Nazi Party's upcoming election campaign.

1935

Caroline Mikkelsen becomes the first woman to set foot in Antarctica.

1942

Lieutenant Edward O'Hare becomes America's first World War II flying ace.



1943

American movie studio executives agree to allow the Office of War Information to censor movies.



The government shutdown that ended on Jan 25 was followed soon by Trump's declaration of a national emergency to build his wall.

filled with a certain ideology and paints everything with it. To supporters of the wall, I ask: Is it time to take down the Statue of Liberty?"

Rep Veronica Escobar, the successor to Beto O'Rourke, now a possible Democratic presidential candidate, took me down to the spot, near a stretch of existing wall, where border agents detained an eight-year-old Guatemalan boy, Felipe Gómez Alonzo, in December. He later died in US custody.

The spot is over the Rio Grande, in the United States, but just short of the wall, raising the question of the barrier's usefulness. That is a question the president has refused to address with any seriousness. His wall is much less about security than macho symbolism — "a monument to bigotry," in Escobar's words.

I got talking to an agent who stopped us as we stepped south of the wall. He said agents in that area detained "300 bodies a day." He said the "bodies" were jumping the line. He said by the time their cases came before an immigration judge, "the bodies

are somewhere else so they get to stay." So, he concluded, "we really have no authority to enforce the law."

Bodies, I noted, is a term generally used for dead people. Would it not be better to call them people or human beings, as this is what they are? The agent said he didn't mean that they are dead, but that "bodies" was the favoured term.

I was subsequently advised not to read too much into this "law enforcement vernacular." Border agents are under a lot of pressure. Their gestures of humanity — a birthday cake, a soccer ball — tend to go unrecorded. Still, if you talk about bodies you are liable to see bodies: that is to say, people stripped of their humanity, their agonising choices, their humble ambitions and their hopes. It is then easier to treat them with callous harshness, to forget what we Americans are and where we came from.

When I walked back across the bridge, a US passport control officer pored over my passport for several minutes: the Iranian visa, the Iraqi visa, the Chinese visa, the Indian visa. She asked what I do, whether I had crossed the bridge before, why I had entered Mexico. She was hostile.

"This guy's from The New York Times," she said, turning to the agent next to her. "What should I do with him?"

He looked me over. "Let him go," he said. I thanked her for the warm welcome home. "Just doing my job," she said.

Trump's rhetoric is not innocuous.

(Roger Cohen is a columnist with The New York Times.)

(In collaboration with New York Times)

n't enough

his sentence reduced in return for his testimony. With audio recordings of Guzman setting up drug deals, you have to question whether it was necessary for prosecutors to work with such hardened criminals.

"Lunatics, drug dealers, maniacs, given sweetheart deals," the defence lawyer Jeffrey Lichtman said in his closing arguments. In rebuttal, Assistant United States Attorney Amanda Liskamm said, "The day that cocaine conspiracies are made in heaven is the day we can call angels as witnesses."

These witnesses spoke of bribes to Mexican officials, from the police and soldiers right up to the former President Enrique Peña Nieto, who was accused of receiving \$100 million. Tragically, this came as little surprise to people here in Mexico, where there have long been accusations of corruption at the very top.

Yet there is little hope they will lead to punishment. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has said the Mexican government would need more solid evidence to go after Peña Nieto. "We can't judge him if we don't have proof," he said. He has also said that going after former presidents could

The tales of Guzman running naked through tunnels with his lover, the glamour of his beauty-queen wife coming dutifully to the court.

plunge the country into confrontation while he is trying to build unity.

Questions about the dubious practices of American agents were shut down by the prosecution and judge. The jurors were not allowed to hear about the so-called Fast and Furious debacle, in which agents watched as thousands of guns were trafficked south, including a .50-caliber rifle found in the last hideout of Guzman. Or about the cooperating witness who had previously claimed that his cartel had been protected by the United States government while it informed on rivals.

And despite Guzman's infa-

my, there are questions about whether he was truly the biggest drug trafficker in Mexico or just one of various powerful kingpins, including his fellow Sinaloa trafficker Ismael Zambada, called El Mayo, who is still at large. Indeed, the prosecution said in its closing argument that it didn't matter if Guzman wasn't the supreme head of the Sinaloa cartel, so long as he was one of its bosses.

A veteran agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration once admitted to me that the policy of taking down kingpins didn't stop the flow of drugs. But he said that it did stop certain drug traffickers who were becoming too infamous and powerful, which made them a threat to governments.

Perhaps the conviction of Guzman at least shows to aspiring drug traffickers that they cannot become as notorious as El Chapo and escape the law. But for the families looking for their loved ones in the mass graves here in Mexico and the families of those who have died of drug overdoses in the United States, the search for justice and peace continues.

(Ioan Grillo is a contributing opinion writer.)



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Senator Sherrod Brown: "He couldn't get the Mexicans to build the wall. He couldn't get Congress to vote the money in. This is in fact the first emergency declaration like this, with that kind of construct, where he got turned down by Congress and then went ahead and did it"

@EdwardTHardy

02



Inspired by the vision of Atal Ji and Balasaheb Thackeray Ji, BJP-Shiv Sena alliance will continue working for the well-being of Maharashtra and ensuring the state once again elects representatives who are development oriented, non corrupt and proud of India's cultural ethos.

@narendramodi

03



The lawsuit filed by 16 blue states without standing claims Trump has no Constitutional powers to reallocate funds to the wall based upon his declaration of a national emergency. Um, no powers other than those granted to him in the National Emergencies Act which Congress passed.

@mitchellvii

04



As I predicted, 16 states, led mostly by Open Border Democrats and the Radical Left, have filed a lawsuit in, of course, the 9th Circuit! California, the state that has wasted billions of dollars on their out of control Fast Train, with no hope of completion, seems in charge!

@realDonaldTrump

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Wide Angle

Oscars 2019: The battle for best picture



JOEL INDRUPATI

For the first time ever, a Netflix movie 'Roma' has a chance to win the Oscar Award in the Best Picture category.

It won't be easy. On Sunday evening, at Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, only one of these eight movies will be announced as the winner — 'Roma', 'A Star is Born', 'The Favourite', 'Bohemian Rhapsody', 'Black Panther', 'Green Book', 'Vice' and 'BlacKkKlansman'.

In the movie, 'Roma', the director of Alfonso Cuarón, tells us an intimate story of a domestic worker in Mexico City in 1971, based on his own childhood. It's natural outlook, its black and white magic, and its heart-tugging story makes it a top runner.

If 'Roma' wins, it could also be for the first time ever, that an Oscar for best picture and best foreign language film would be going to the same film.

But, the biopic 'Bohemian Rhapsody' - which has nominations in five categories - is my favourite.

And, while on favourites, I must say that 'The Favourite', according to my friends, seems to have a bigger chance.

A film, figuratively speaking, is the soul of its director. So, when a film gets nominated for 'Best Picture' but when its director does not get nominated for 'Best Director', it hurts the filmmakers.



It is sad that Bradley Cooper, the director — this was his directorial debut — did not receive an Oscar nomination. But it is good that Bradley Cooper, the actor, has received one.

In fact, this would be his third nomination for the Best Actor Award; after 'Silver Linings Playbook' (2012) and 'American Sniper' (2014).

Let's hope he will be 'third time lucky', and finally win an Oscar for acting. Even though, not surprisingly, just a few days ago, he has already won a Grammy Award, for singing!

His performance "Shallow" (with Lady Gaga), which was adjudged the Best Pop Duo/Group Performance, is from the same movie: 'A Star Is Born'.

'Black Panther' is a great movie too, but is unlikely to win an Oscar, according to some movie critics. They say that a superhero movie with a mainly black cast will never win the big one. But, it is sure to take home at least a few awards, from the six nominations it has got.

A film, figuratively speaking, is the soul of its director. So, when a film gets nominated for 'Best Picture' but when its director does not get nominated for 'Best Director', it hurts the filmmakers.

In 2013, when 'Argo' got nominated for 'Best Picture' while director Ben Affleck did not get nominated for the 'Best Director' category, actor Bradley Cooper had commented: "Ben Affleck got robbed."

Strangely, now, Bradley Cooper himself is in that situation. His movie 'A Star Is Born' is nominated, but his directorial effort has been snubbed.

In 2013, 'Argo' had won. In 2019, let's just hope Bradley Cooper won't be robbed of his film, or of his acting.