

In each new edition of "What Color Is Your Parachute?" Nelson Bolles reminds us that the person who gets the job isn't always the one who will do the best work. It's the prospect who comes out on top in the interview.



Musings

By Robert Morton-Ranney

said. Enter Fred Thompson and the smooth, steady delivery of gravitas.

But we're not electing a news anchor.

Following W's ascension to the Oval Office, Supreme Court actions aside, it was suggested that a good number of Americans voted for him because they thought he was the kind of person they'd enjoy having a beer with.

It's hard to pick out any dart-throwers in this group.

The next person who redecorates the White House will have a great many duties. He or she will be Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, Comforter-in-Chief in the event of disaster, Celebrant-in-Chief at national ceremonies, Vetoer-in-Chief of congressional bills, and many, many other things.

But surely the most important task facing the next President, as has been the case with all Presidents for a great many years, is dealing with foreign countries.

Knowing how to talk to them. Knowing when to ignore them.

It was estimated at the beginning of this round in the ever-earlier presidential sweepstakes that the successful candidate would have to raise \$100 million for the campaign. The initial dustup between Senators Clinton and Obama was seen by many as aimed not at voters, but at big contributors.

Leading up to the election of 2000, there was widespread agreement that the best fund-raiser in either party was a former part owner of the Texas Rangers named George W. Bush.

The difficulty here is that the purpose of the head of the U.S. government is not to raise funds.

Nor is fund-raising the only category that comes into play. The significance of the 1960 debate between John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon is legendary. Those who listened in via radio felt Nixon won. But more people watched on television, and Kennedy was better looking.

Mitt Romney must be hoping that little slice of history gets repeated this time around. But we're not choosing the next Marlborough Man.

Ronald Reagan was the Great Communicator. You just loved listening to him, no matter what he

Knowing how to encourage trade with them. Knowing when to attack them. And knowing when not to.

Now, let's see. What might be the most important skill for dealing with foreign countries?

Being a good fund-raiser? Um, not really.

Being good looking? No.

Communicating well? Ah, could be getting warmer. But when it's crunch time substance trumps style.

Sitting down next to you in a bar? I'll leave that for you to consider.

Let me see, now. Perhaps, when it comes to dealing with foreign countries, the most important skill to be brought bear would be . . . well, having experience dealing with foreign countries.

Strange idea, isn't it?

The only legal requirement for becoming President is being born here. That makes most Americans eligible. As far as practical requirements, we've touched on a few.

But what if things were set up a little differently? What if the best fund-raisers became college presidents? The good-looking people could head for Hollywood—it's a shame so many movie types can't act.

The great communicators should stick with communicating. There's always somebody around to tell them what to say, and to pay them for saying it.

And the beer buddies. Why don't they just stay in the bars?

As for the Presidency? If we wanted, we could elect people on the basis of their foreign experience. Ask them how many years they spent in the diplomatic corps. Or the Peace Corps.

Even people who have spent extended periods in other countries doing business or reporting as journalists have developed a significant understanding of another part of the world.

What we require is a President who understands what it means to say that the United States of America is not the only country on earth. It does not represent the only viewpoint. It does not house the only group of people willing to do anything to protect their way of life.

We require someone who is capable of dealing with perspectives beyond our own.

And we need a selection process that will produce appropriate leadership.

Bike path survey bid awarded

By Dotti Farrington

Town Councilors last week approved the low bid of \$8,670 by Crossman Engineering Inc. (CEI) of Warwick for an aerial survey of the Jamestown school campus and surrounding neighborhood, bounded by Narragansett, Melrose and Arnold Avenues and North Main Road. The survey is part of the Rolling Agenda plan to encourage youngsters to ride bikes to school, the library, ball fields and other locations in town and to coordinate the plan with work to create a bikeway to connect the island's north end with the school area.

Town Councilors early last month approved \$5,000 as the town's share for the Rolling Agenda plan. The funds came from \$5,000 donated by Disney Films as its courtesy fee to the town for unrestricted town use and cooperation in filming of the movie "Dan in Real Life" in Jamestown last fall. The town's share is to be supplemented by fund-raising by the Rolling Agenda workers.

Rolling Agenda has been underway for two years, initiated by Carol Nelson-Lee and others to brainstorm a bike program. The effort is growing into a broader project to ensure safe bike routes, and to coordinate other uses of school property.

Rolling Agenda is also seeking contributions from school, organizational, state, federal, and private sources.

Holland

Continued from page 1

Holland remarked.

The business was closed barely a year before Holland changed his mind. His father took him for a ride to the Mt. Hope Bridge, pointed out the light fixtures, and said he wanted to make them. "I came on board in 1977," he noted. The elder Holland turned over all of the decision-making to his son, and agreed to provide the young man with expertise. "At 30, I had a lot more respect for him," Holland added. "I was fortunate enough to have that expertise."

A turning point came in the family business when General Electric called Holland in 1982 with an offer. "They said if you use G.E. air conditioners, we'll train you to be a central air conditioning dealer," Holland noted. The air conditioning business was booming at that time, with a 300 percent increase in installations between 1970 and 1980. Holland knew the proposal was a good idea.

The company has since grown into an established provider of heating and air conditioning services, and continues to manufacture ductwork in residential and light commercial buildings. Holland stood at one end of the 50-foot workbench and displayed the traditional process of cutting galvanized metal. He then walked

over to a large machine called a bending brake to demonstrate how to press a 90-degree angle into a long steel sheet. "These are all hand tools," he explained.

The company installs advanced systems as well, Holland went on to say. He described the high efficiency of geothermal heat pumps, pumps that extract heat from deep in the ground.

Holland spoke with gratitude about his wife, Sharon, who has been in the business almost as long as he has. He pointed out that being in business with a family member either works or not. "One benefit is that he or she (the family member) knows your weaknesses and calls you on it," he said. He also spoke with pride about his daughter, Emily, who is about to graduate high school. "Emily shows about as much interest in the business as I did at that age," Holland chuckled.

He briefly mused how life might have been different if he had decided to follow through on his notion as a young man to become a priest. "The transition from seminary to business was a big leap," he admitted. Nevertheless, Holland regrets nothing and exudes confidence in his profession. He quoted his father, "If you're going to do things, you should do it right."

For more information about H.V. Holland, visit online at www.hvholland.net, or call 423-0614.

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LEGAL TIP

A dialysis center could be held liable for an accident caused by a patient who was not warned about the risks of operating a motor vehicle after treatment, the South Carolina Supreme Court has ruled in reversing a trial court.

The plaintiffs were injured when the patient's car struck their vehicle. The accident occurred minutes after the defendant administered dialysis treatment to the patient. The patient was a diabetic who took hemodialysis treatment three times a week, with each treatment lasting almost four hours.

The plaintiffs claimed that the patient was experiencing insulin shock or low blood sugar when he left the dialysis center, and that the center did not perform the normal post-treatment tests or monitoring prior to releasing the patient.

The court agreed that the defendant had a duty to the plaintiffs to warn the patient of the risks of driving after dialysis.

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