

Editorials

Small Is Beautiful

"And the same God who guides this world can bring harmony to your life. No problem of yours is TOO BIG for him to handle...And nothing that disturbs your peace is TOO SMALL for him to notice..."

—GEORGE E. VANDEMAN

German born British economist E.F. Schumacher became a hero to many people 13 years ago with the publication of his book, "Small Is Beautiful—Economics As If People Mattered".

Schumacher says candidly, "...from bigness comes impersonality, insensitivity, and a lust to concentrate abstract power." This is evidenced by the continuous religious wars in the Middle East, the ideological struggle between Russia and the United States and the competition between already big corporations seeking to get even bigger.

Our preoccupation and obsession with bigness has so narrowed our thinking and our vision that we seem compelled to equate "success" with bigness or high visibility. Therefore, success is measured by Michael Jordan, Bill Cosby, Michael Jackson, IBM, McDonalds or the bigness of an individual's automobile or his house. The success of these individuals and corporations in and of themselves is quite positive. However, when their success is portrayed to the general public, usually through commercial channels, it is done in a way to imply that doing something on a small scale or living an obscure life somehow makes one feel "unsuccessful." Thus, many of us to often wish we were important people doing things that would attract fame and publicity.

Nevertheless, we should be forever mindful that "precious things come in small packages".

Earlier this year Israeli police were confronted with a mysterious package near the Palestinian Temple Mount, holy ground to both Jews and Moslems, but the scene of considerable violence by many extremists. Fearing a possible terrorist act, a bomb squad was called in. A sudden movement of the package resulted in the weak cry of an infant. Thus, the "bomb" was in fact a day-old baby wrapped in rags.

Rosa Parks

Thirty-one years ago, a tired female black domestic worker named Rosa Parks, ignited the civil rights movement when she simply refused to move to the back of the bus in Montgomery, Alabama, so a white person could have her original seat. She was fined \$14. Two years later, in 1957, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation practices enforced on public transportation vehicles in Montgomery were illegal.

A baby and an old woman tell us clearly that precious things come in small packages. Yet the most precious of these "Small things" occurred nearly 2,000 years ago when another baby was born in an obscure village. The child of a peasant woman. The baby grew up in another obscure village where he worked in a carpenter shop until the age of 30. This was followed by three years as an itinerant preacher.

This preacher never wrote a book never held an office, never had a family, never owned a home, never attended college, never visited a big city or traveled more than 200 miles from where he was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness.

He was only 33 years old when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind progress.

"One Solitary Life"

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that have ever sailed, All the parliaments that ever sat, all the Kings that ever reigned put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that ONE SOLITARY LIFE of our Lord and savior JESUS CHRIST.

We can restate the greatness of the small things about Jesus in our modern technically advanced world in this way. Jesus never graduated from the seminary, never preached in a great cathedral or 80,000-seat outdoor stadiums, never had the advantages of world-wide satellite television and radio, never had computerized mailing lists or massive fund raising efforts, and never utilized jet airlines, bullet railroad trains or an air conditioned limousine with tape recording equipment. Yet, Jesus is the center piece for the conversations and sermons of modern day preachers who have all of these material things.

Thus, as we enjoy and celebrate this Christmas Day, let us be forever mindful of the deeper meaning of what this day really symbolizes — the birth of child in an obscure village, who, when he became a young man, uttered words that have had a lasting impact on the minds of man and women everywhere.

Miller Says:

Santa Claus Gets "Dressing Down" For Being Late

By Sherman Miller
Special To The Post

As we walked into the shopping mall my eyes focused on the people tossing coins into the fountain. A pain shot through my foot. The benches surrounding the fountain were to be a god-send, if only I could convince my wife to let me perch on one of them. With her knowing I kept a notebook and a couple of ballpoint pens in my pocket, I knew it would be tough to convince her that I was not about to work on Christmas Eve.

Never having learned to control my workaholic nature, I somehow managed to abandon the idea of rest, raised my head away from my wife's knowing eyes and salvage some semblance of pride, and follow her from store to store.

It seemed as if we visited every store in the mall. Finally, I heard her say, "We can get the goldfish here. I need to get out of here and get that cooking finished tonight."

Her words brought relief to my ears. I put on a poker face to avoid putting subtle pressure on her that could encourage her to change her mind. She quickly picked out two goldfish, but took her own good time purchasing 10 tiny assorted ones.

When we got home she headed straight for the kitchen. It took her only a few moments to fill the air with titillating aromas. My



Sherman

contribution was limited to keeping the dishes clean and preparing simple dishes.

The Christmas Spirit mesmerized our house. We stopped work periodically to sing Christmas carols. But the bulk of the time the air was filled with the melodious sounds of the 24 continuous hours of Christmas music provided by WFLN, an all classical radio station in Philadelphia, PA.

The evening rapidly slipped away from us. I was worn out and I eased into my office to rest my eyes for a few moments. My old sofa always made me feel like I was floating on air and it drove me into a deep and restful sleep.

I heard this voice crying out, "Daddy! Daddy!" I couldn't discern where the sound was coming from. These calls seemed to grow louder.

As I See It

It's That Time Of Year

It is that time of year again when visions of dollar signs dance in merchants heads. Yes, it is The Christmas season. The season that represents the birth of Jesus Christ. The season where giving and sharing symbolizes the celebration of the immaculate birth. Of course all of this has been somewhat lost over the years, as Christmas continues to become more and more commercialized. Each year the Christmas shopping season gets an earlier start. Merchants use to wait until Thanksgiving before beginning the Christmas hoopla. This year several merchants were well on their way



Gerald

by the first of October. WE have taken Christ out of Christmas and replaced it with \$mas.

Yet, on occasion something happens to remind us that the

now. I did, however, manage to get them back into bed.

I stumbled and fumbled for an hour or more getting the toys assembled. The 10 tiny fishes had died and the dreaded words, "some assembly required" haunted me. Nevertheless, the gleam in the children's eyes offered me some comfort when they came back downstairs.

After Christmas dinner, my wife whispered to me, "Honey, you know that was the first time I have ever heard anyone dress down Santa Claus for being late on Christmas."

IRA Announces

New Interest Rate

The IRS has announced that for the calendar quarter beginning January 1, interest will be paid on overpayments at the rate of eight percent and charged on underpayments at the rate of nine percent.

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 requires that the rate of interest be determined on a quarterly basis rather than a semi-annual basis and that the rate on underpayments be one percent higher than the rate on overpayments. Under the Tax Reform Act the interest rate is based on the federal short-term rate determined during October, 1986.

The rate used in determining the individual estimated tax penalty will also be nine percent, the IRS said.

That rate will be in effect for individual estimated tax penalties for the period January 1, 1987, through April 15, 1987.

true meaning of Christmas is a flame still burning in the hearts of many. Such was the case with the recent "Christmas Is For Kids" party sponsored by the Avon Corporation. Linda Ford-Tellis, Avon's consumer communications specialist from Atlanta, started the coordination efforts in early August to put this party together. Because of her efforts "Christmas Is For Kids" turned out to be a great success.

The City of Charlotte recommended several agencies that could provide disadvantaged youngsters to participate in the program. The youngsters had to participate in community service projects to earn Avon dollars. The Avon dollars could then be used to purchase Avon products as gifts for relatives and friends. During the month of November, these kids participated in such projects as Piedmont Courts cleanup project, Adopt a Grandparent project where they did odd jobs for the elderly, mural painting projects where murals were painted in various parts of the city, and other worthwhile projects.

The culmination of these efforts happened at a grandiose party given at the Civic Center on December 13, 1986. The youngsters were rewarded Avon dollars commensurate with their community service work. The party provided a variety of entertainment and food as well as mounds of Avon products to choose from. Local Avon representatives and members from the Hidden Valley Optimist Club volunteered their time and services as Santa's helpers to make sure the party went smoothly.

For the first time in their lives many of the kids that participated in this program were able to give Christmas gifts to their loved ones. Gifts that they earned through their efforts by helping others.

BE A PART OF THE NEW AWARENESS

BLACK BUSINESS MEN AND POLITICIANS SHOULD BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF LONG-RANGE PLANNING FOR IT IS ONLY THROUGH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CLOUT THAT ETHNIC GROUPS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE UP THROUGH SOCIETY.

MORNING CHRONICLE



SUBURBIA

THE PLANT OF CAPITAL FROM BLACK COLORED MARRIAGE