

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Everything we do in life is insignificant ... but it is important that we do it anyway."

So I went to a local race, and that certainly qualifies as insignificant. Now being the older runner, I'm paying more attention to my surroundings. But the race of today is not what it once was. I am amused, and a bit cynical, as I look around during the pre-race activities. Am I at a carnival? A sideshow to something else that is more "significant"?

In the old days a race was a race. Today I first notice all the i-pods and headphones for those who prefer music while they "race". And then we have mom who showed up with her stroller and small child. She, too, is part of the race. Dogs with bib numbers attached to their owners. And costumes for some who need more attention.

I fashion a thought, and it reflects that this is not a race. It may have started out that way, but now they added a walk, a roller skate, runners with dogs, moms with strollers, etc. They've also added the 1/2 walk, and the slow walk, and the relay team just in case you can't "race" the whole distance.

Yes, there was a time when a marathon was a marathon, and that's all you got ~ No 1/2 marathon, relay, 5K walk, or crawl. No bikes on the course. None of what I see today, which all comes under my personal heading of "unsafe". And safety should be the key factor in a race.

Some will say these are just the rants of an old man. While it is true ... I am an old man ... and I'm ranting ... and none of it is "significant" unless, of course, you think it is. But it's important that I rant. And while ranting I wish to thank Mr. Gandhi for his significant comments regarding life and the insignificant.

I'll have to close for now as I'm hearing the final instructions from the race director. And I'm going to try to squeeze in here between a stroller and a poochie. The "race" is almost ready to begin. Hope we all make it safely to the chute.

May the wind be always at your back.

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