

# Cutler Bay

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SERVING SOUTH DADE

## After I am gone, I hope some kids will remember Mr. Sochin

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*Vice Mayor*



Mister Avery is dead! At least I assume so because he was my sixth grade history teacher back in 1948.

Why do I even remember or think about Mr.

Avery? Well he said certain things in class that still resonate in my head all these many years later. He said, back then, that someday China would become a world power. Imagine how weird this sounded at a time when China was thought to be a bunch of tiny people running around with rickshaws and wearing funny round hats.

Each time I read the economic news of the day, I think of Mr. Avery. He also said, "Man will never learn to stop

destroying himself!" Each time I read the news from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Libya, The Sudan, and yes, Miami, I have to dwell on those words.

Why is all this important to me? Well for one thing, I am not a believer in the hereafter. (I am taking a cell phone with me just in case, but I doubt that I will be able to use it.)

No, my only hope is that someday, someone might remember something profound that I might have said, just like I do of Mr. Avery.

I recently had an opportunity to speak to a bunch of kids in school. Being the big shot politician that I am, they welcome me doing this and, frankly, I love it! I got to speak to four classes each at a middle school and then an elementary school. My purpose was to instill in these kids the need to preserve our planet and how solar energy and fuel cells might be part of the answer.

As examples, I told them how I used to fill my car up with gasoline for \$3 and now it just cost me \$65.

I asked, "How much do you think it will cost when you start driving?"

I told them of predictions that oil would run out in 40 years and the effects of the "greenhouse effect" on our area — a 20-foot rise in tides if just Greenland's ice melts.

To illustrate some of the possible solutions, I demonstrated a little car that I made from a

kit that ran solely on solar power, and water. The little car began driving itself, lights flashing around the floor and changed directions when it struck something. The primary school kids were totally dazzled by this and had a million questions.

For some reason most of the middle school students couldn't care less. The teachers and principal said that middle schoolers tend to be that way and some of the classes were after lunch, apparently a time when kids stop thinking.

I also demonstrated a little steam engine and showed them how solar power could be used to heat water to create energy. I told them about a shopping center that I visited in Denver, CO, that instead of having acres of hot black-top parking lots, built garages, covered in solar panels to provide electricity for the shopping center. This raised a few eyes.

I had to be careful with how I presented to the various age groups. The second graders though it might be a great idea to go back to horses rather than cars. Maybe they have something. When I suggested that many of them would someday grow old, get married and have kids of their own to think about, one little girl exclaimed, "Not me!" Again, maybe she has something.

One thing that I learned, is what a tough job our teachers have instilling anything into these young minds. I was totally exhausted at the end of each day.

Back to Mr. Avery. I sure hope that after I am gone, at least some of these kids will someday remember "Mr. Sochin" for something he said. If not, I guess I will always have my cell phone.

