

I have been very disappointed in the stand *The Greenville News* has taken on the Earle E. Morris Jr. Highway. The highway was named for a man who had for some 40 years been a servant of the people of Pickens County and the state of South Carolina. He had served admirably in a number of positions — as state senator, lieutenant governor and comptroller general.

He was known primarily for his work on behalf of the blind and the mentally handicapped and was loved and admired by almost everyone. Then along came HomeGold which bought Carolina Investors.

I hired Morris (who had retired from active political duties) as a figurehead for his good name and reputation. HomeGold had been a profitable firm but the market it dealt in was gradually dried up.

I believe Morris when he says HomeGold kept bleeding money from Carolina Investors while assuring him that their condition was a temporary setback. That is the message he transmitted to the investors.

The state attorney general assures us that his investigation of HomeGold is ongoing but we have seen little evidence of it. Perhaps the newspaper could spur him into action.

It is a crying shame to heap all this blame on the shoulders of one man. Yes, I like many others had stock in Carolina Investors and was well aware that it was not insured.

**Marshall J. Parker**  
*Seneca*

## Columnist delineated King's perspective

I was greatly encouraged by the guest editorial by Reggie Ecarma in the Jan. 17 edition. As an African-American college student in Greenville, I found it refreshing to see a clear perspective of Dr. King's intentions and visions of what America should be.

If more people, black and white, adopted Ecarma's viewpoint (and Dr. King's perspective), we would truly judge and evaluate individuals by the content of their character which would result in a more united America and a stronger nation in every regard.

It is frustrating to see such unnecessary divisions within our country. As Ecarma stated, "Bitterness is counterproductive, but forgiveness opens the door for hope."

## YOUR FEEDBACK

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A lot is in the past, but we are the future. Let us rejoice in our differences and use diversity as an advantage, not as a wall of separation. God has given everyone the gift of life, now it's time for each of us to give every human the respect they deserve without a pre-conceived bias in our mind.

**Nate Bramsen**  
*Greenville*

## Plan returns tax money to parents

Many have written lately to express their concerns with putting parents in charge of education. The one issue that seems to always come out is that private education will be funded by public funds. This is a lie.

Where do we think public funds come from? They come from the hard-working citizens of this nation. My wife home schools our children, and I would like some help funding it. Would I be taking public funds? Absolutely not. I would be using money that I put in.

I would also like to clear up a myth that only wealthy parents can choose other forms of education. If that were the case, most of the children being home schooled or enrolled in private schools would not be there. The choice not to use public school is less about money, and more about parental sacrifice.

**Chad Patterson**  
*Fountain Inn*

## Juvenile responsible for his own actions

When are we going to start taking responsibility for our own actions? I am disturbed by the

antidepressant Zoloft made him kill his grandparents.

The defense wants to prove that Pittman was not responsible for his actions because Zoloft made him do it and that he did not know right from wrong. I have taken Zoloft since I was 15 for bipolar disorder and I, nor anyone I know, has ever gone insane by taking it. Just the opposite.

The antidepressant keeps an individual sane and functioning. Now, I am not saying that these medications have no side effects, but I cannot believe that a medication would drive you to kill. After all, this medication has been around for many years with few problems.

The bottom line is the juvenile killed his grandparents because they disciplined him and he did not like it. Period. Until we start holding people responsible for their own actions and quit blaming everything else these cases will not go away and we will live in a blameless society where anything goes.

Oh, by the way, did anyone think that maybe he had problems long before Zoloft? People are not put on antidepressants because they don't have problems.

**Amy Scholtes**  
*Taylors*

## It's time to support President Bush

"President Bush could become a runaway train if you don't at least tap the brakes," states columnist Deborah Mathis in *The Greenville News*, warning "dear Reddies" in all too typical Monday morning fashion.

"We should be ashamed of ourselves" to let slide President Bush's decisions in Iraq, while she makes no mention of the United Nation's absence of backbone that could have changed our history. We all celebrated the pulling down of statues of Saddam Hussein, and his eventual capture in a rat hole, hoping that this was the end of hostilities. No one could predict the onslaught of insurgence, suicide bombers and cowardly masked kidnappers.

"Speak up," Mathis says. "Now is the time for all good Red Americans to come to the aid of their country." I say that all Red, White and Blue Americans should come forward now, and support the dutifully elected President of the United States of America, especially in these troubling times.

**Val P. Damm**  
*Lyman*



**James J. Kilpatrick**

CHANCE. The combination gave Adams a lovely dactylic trimeter. Of such happy happenstance is epic poetry born. If Poe's raven had

croaked "never again" instead of "nevermore," the whole thing would have collapsed. If Mudville's outfielder had been named Chesterton instead of Casey, the hometown hero's infamous whiff would have made no history.

My point, in case you were wondering, is that the devices of poesy can play a useful role in the writing of prose. I've said all this before, but it bears saying again: Our lives are constantly touched by the mundane rhythms of the world around us — the ticking clock, the beating heart, the tides that ebb, the tides that flow. We may not be conscious of these common cadences, but an inner ear is listening. Writers who respond to the tug of language will be rewarded.

This train of thought was set in motion a month ago by my annual visit to the adverbial "only." Constant readers will recall my recurring admonition: The "only" should be snuggled as closely as possible to the word it modifies. There is a significant difference between "we were drinking only orange juice," or "we were only drinking orange juice," or "only we were drinking orange juice." Especially if we were drinking gin.

In that January lecture I cited several misplacements by *The New York Times*. Then I said, "I don't mean to pick only on the *Times*," and went on to the shortcomings of other malfactors.

Stanley Ensminger of Vero Beach, Fla., and Herman T. Bailey of Brevard, N.C., were the first ones to pick on me. They asked why I had not followed my own sage advice. Shouldn't I have said, "I don't mean to pick *on* only the *Times*?"

No, sir. I remember my struggle with that column. I repeatedly typed the alternatives: "only on," "on only," "only on." Duty called! Obviously, "*on only the Times*" would have been syntactically precise. It would have neatly illustrated my theme. Thousands of attentive readers would have applauded. Hours passed in restless contemplation. Christmas came and went. A deadline loomed. "Copy!" cried my editor.

At last I discarded "on only *The New York Times*" and settled upon the incriminating "only on *The New York Times*." This is what provoked readers Ensminger, Bailey, and an unidentified thousand others crying "Gotcha!"

Is all this much ado about nothing?