Quaeda attacks this summer evoked a feeling of disbelief. Why make the Bush administration a martyr and validate their statements? Why play into our hands, generate and reverse opposing public opinion among the world community? Well, maybe their thinking is as skewed as ours was in invading Iraq. Maybe they are that desperate. Maybe the attacks will happen. OK, now what?

Or is the Bush administration so out of sync with the world at large that our foreign policy of occupying Iraq has encouraged present, former and new enemies to be even more eager to attack us and sabotage the U.S. occupation plan?

Or are the statements of Tom Ridge a political ploy to keep the country on edge to attempt to forego "changing horses midstream" and bolster Bush's political stance as "Commander-in-Chief"? As a political moderate, I cannot believe that I would consider this notion, but, given the current adminstration, I am considering that question.

I do not have answers to these questions, but I think we should all consider them.

Kate Wallace
Springfield

UNPATRIOTIC ACT

You are going to see a Bush ad about Kerry and the U.S.A. PATRIOT Act. A lot of Congresspeople on both sides have a problem with the act. They voted for it, then wanted to change it. GOP Majority leader Dick Armey, who voted for it, said, "I told the president that his Justice Department was out of control." Are we going to save ourselves from international terrorism by denying fundamental liberties to ourselves? It doesn't make sense to me.

Kerry wants about 95 percent of the PATRIOT Act to remain, because he knows we have to protect ourselves, but he believes as I do that mistakes are made, wrong information is shared and officials do lie. At the very least, we need hearings. One man should not have all that power, we need checks and balances. Bush has lied to us about everything ... The newspapers and media evidently didn't investigate his claims until the truth came out. I don't know why Kerry would want the presidency. I wouldn't. What a mess. I don't know if Kerry is elected if he can undo the damage that Bush and the Republican congress has done with Americans and the world. The world sends a lot of things to America; they could do a lot of damage that way unless we undo the damage of this administration.

Bush has said he will take Social Security, Medicare, school funding, etc., to give to Iraq. He will start the draft again. I believe Bush has threatened Iran, Korea, Syria, China, France, Germany, Cuba, and Bush will start WWIII. And I believe Kerry will do his best not to. The choice is up to you.

Peggy Kreager
Sandusky, Ore.

DAILY IMPROVEMENTS

In news coverage and letters-to-the-editor policy the *R-G* reached its nadir, in my opinion, quite a few years ago. Since then it has improved considerably.

The lead paragraph of a 12/9/83 *R-G* news story described former Senator and 1972

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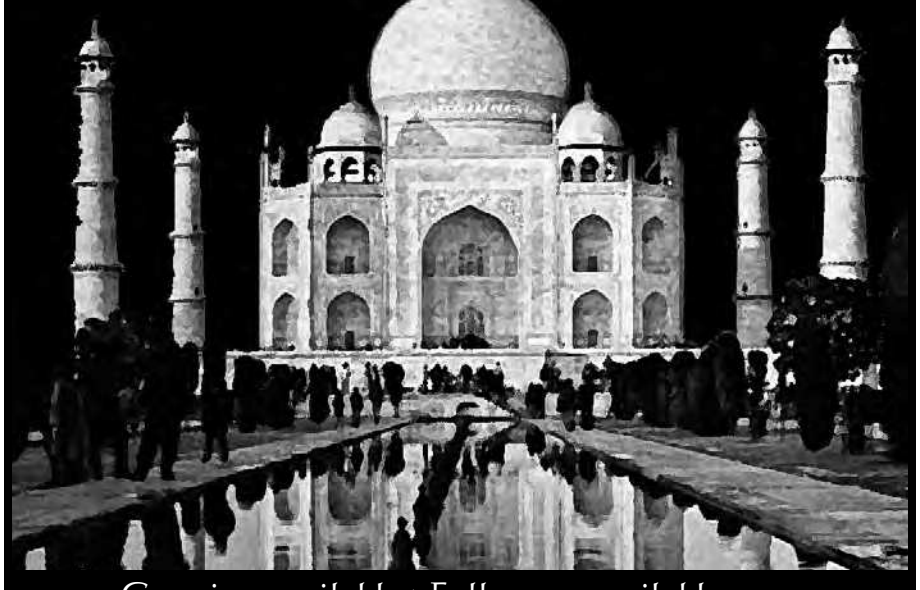

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