8/2004

Re: Liberal Goals

I am so relieved to hear from James Byrant (RG Letters, 8/24/2004) that it's really the liberals who share the same goals as terrorists. And if that is indeed the case, I suppose I can stop worrying that extremists who plant bombs in medical clinics and snipers that shoot doctors through their kitchen windows share the goals of terrorists that plant roadside bombs and assassinate humanitarian aid workers in Iraq. Maybe now I can be assured that partisan fanatics that use police, FBI and the state government to intimidate and harass black voters in urban districts in Florida, don't share the goals of terrorists in Afghanistan that threaten, disrupt or attempt to corrupt democratic elections. From now on, maybe I can assume that neoconservatives whose policies eliminate civil liberties in order to arrest American citizens in the middle of the night and hold them indefinitely without charges, hearings or access to a lawyer, don't share the goals of terrorists who torture political opponents or kidnap journalists and hold them hostage.

Maybe Islamic terrorists and Christian neo-conservatives don't both claim to speak for God, or carry out "his will" or share the same goals of crippling democratic processes and eroding personal liberties by attempting to institute fundamentalist religious based government policy in their respective countries. Maybe, just maybe... but at the very least they sure do seem to share similar methods.

John Donovan Eugene, OR