

Capital Plaza Animal Hospital

By Robert Blair

Dr. David Smith of Capital Plaza Animal Hospital has been a veterinarian for over 13 years. Originally from Georgia, he moved to South Florida nearly twenty years ago.

"I've always loved animals," said Smith. "I went to work for a veterinarian at a young age to see if I'd like it. I did it, I stuck with it, and I love it."

Although many people know him from his hospital, he also runs two animal emergency centers. Most of his professional career has been with such emergency centers.

He explained that working at an emergency center



Dr. David Smith and friends

was much different that operating a hospital. He stated that with other emergency centers he saw some animals that were obviously abused. He said, "We really don't have the authority to take the animal away from someone if we think it's being abused. But, once we confront them with it, they usually just leave the animal and walk away."

Only a few tales of abuse comprise his emergency career. Some of the odd creatures that he has treated include an alligator that someone found on their front porch and an ostrich that swallowed a tee shirt. He stated that the owner of the alligator kept it for some time. Surgery had to be performed on the ostrich.

Unlike emergency centers, Dr. Smith designed the hospital to feel more like a home. "To set Capital Plaza apart we decorated it to be comfortable, to keep the client and the pet at ease. We make sure it doesn't smell like an animal hospital."

Placing an emphasis on customer service, Smith stated, "A lot of places have been in business for quite some time and can treat people like they're an annoyance." He said that is not the way he conducts his facility.

He has also been issuing each animal a pet picture ID card. He jokingly stated that they are not a driver's license, but simply a learner's permit.

Smith has always been an animal lover,



he has 3 dogs and 3 cats at home and the hospital has 3 full-time feline "ambassadors."

He said, "We greet every person and pet that comes in. We make it a point to know our client's name... We strive for overall comfort."

Capital Plaza Animal Hospital is located at 2372 N Federal Highway and can be reached at 954.537.3505.

Misnamed, Generalized, and Put Down, It Goes On...

(Continued from page 24)

fight the racism that remains pervasive within gay and lesbian society ... fight the urge to look through the women in the room ... you know, the look that says they're invisible. For the women, I urge you to come back and try again ... and again ... don't let Michael Alvear's-garbage get you down. When I see the religious right raising thousands, to our hundreds, I could cry. Couldn't you? If you don't get it, wait ... you will.

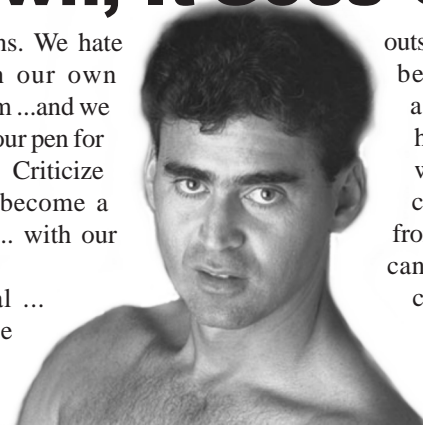
I goad you, Alvear ... taunt you ... use

your access to address the one thing we have in common. We are hated and we also hate. The religious zealots hate us and they are gaining ground. They are well organized, with beliefs that are deeply ingrained and they work every day to destroy us. No matter they ignore the instructions of their own lord; hate has been a successful tool used by religious leaders for centuries to strike down minorities they hated.

Gays and lesbians will never find community or a sense of caring for each

other for similar reasons. We hate the minorities within our own societies too ...all of them ...and we treat them poorly. Use your pen for something constructive. Criticize this! Challenge us to become a community ...to unite ... with our hearts and our wallets!

One common goal ... freedom to choose without prejudice ... from inside or



outside the community we can be! When you help to accomplish that, I'll be happy to meet you and we'll give and take criticism from each other in front of Macy's window! You can tell me about my poor choice of colors and I can tell you how close to a peacock you are ... but not until then.

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