

know what they are speaking, you see, and they want to know what is going on.

"The gay language is more than 100 years old. It's very familiar in the colored and black townships. I can have a complete conversation in the gayle language and other people will not understand it. My lover is teaching all of the white lesbians to gayle. I don't teach them, because I want to gossip about them," she laughed.

"We are all colors, shapes and sizes in ABIGALE. Because of apartheid the government separated our people into the white, the black, the colored. I always say I am a colored, but my lover says, no, you are a black woman. She wants it to be just one people.

"For white lesbians the situation is different because of education. They can go off on their own at 16 or 18 to varsity [university]. In the colored or black community, you don't get that. I left school when I was 14 to help support the family because my mom had eight kids and my father couldn't support them all, so the girls left school very early.

space for ourselves. So I hope people will see our budget and send us some money for office rental.

"I get a small grant from the government because I have rheumatoid arthritis. It pays for my food. My lover got this good job. That helps a lot. I work full time for ABIGALE.

"Gay people need education so that other people can't take advantage of them. Education is the weapon. I think that it is very important for ABIGALE members to get an education. Some gay youngsters ran away. We gave them jobs and put them back into school."

I asked Theresa what she would like to see happen for lesbians now.

"There are different things that different gays and lesbians want. Like some lesbians want to get married. I don't want to get married. But if they want it, then I will fight for it. We need to do a survey on that. That's what we did for the gay rights charter for the Bill of Rights.

"We must be careful because the right wing is coming out now. They didn't come out earlier. That is why it is important for ABIGALE to make

"It is very difficult for women to come out as lesbians. We had two cases in ABIGALE. They told one woman she was a witch, and they wanted to burn her."



ABIGALE

The boys did finish school. They say the girls don't need education because they will marry and have kids.

"I always say every one of us has got a little bit of racism in us, and it will take a long time for us to work that out. We don't appear to be racist, but we are. In many ways, it comes out. I think that's also why it's difficult for white and black lesbians to mix, as well.

"We need money now for education because we need to upgrade our people's English and bookkeeping and gay literature. If ABIGALE elects a chairperson there must be two—one knows what is going on and the other one is learning. Two treasurers, two secretaries, because then one can give the skills to the other one.

"It will be easier for us to work if we have an office. We're working from the place where we live. That is a bit difficult because we don't have

themselves visible and to say 'we are here, and we are here to stay. We must all stand together.'"

Despite our efforts, a photo of the members of ABIGALE was unavailable by press time. ABIGALE sells T-shirts of two women kissing (\$15) and the book Defiant Desire—the first stories of gay men and lesbians in South Africa (\$25). These mail-order fund-raisers are available from ABIGALE, PO Box 16534, Vlaeberg 8018, South Africa.

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission monitors human rights abuses against sexual minorities and people with AIDS and HIV. Write IGLHRC, 1360 Mission St., Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103, or call (415) 255-8680, fax (415) 255-8662.



For the Price of One Week's Vacation, You Could Vacation 365 Days a Year.

Before you buy a spa, any spa, compare the quality and simplicity of a Hot Spring Spa from Oregon Hot Spring Spa. We've been helping our Just Out customers relax in style for 11 years. If you deserve the best, a Hot Spring Spa is the spa to buy. We offer:

- A completely unique line of spas.
- Professional sales team to answer all your questions.
- 5 year comprehensive warranty.
- Low energy usage guarantee.
- Comfortable, easy-care Endurol™ surface.
- Stress relieving Moto-Massage® jets.
- A healthful, relaxing retreat.

Please mention this ad when calling.



PORTLAND, 1904 NE 82nd, Just North of I-84, ph. 253-3551
 BEAVERTON, 10367 SW Canyon Rd., Just East of 217, ph. 643-5002
 SALEM, 3966 Silverton Rd. NE, Just West of Lancaster, ph. 363-4000