

## CLAMSHELLS

## Protests continue at Seabrook

By Duncan Harp

SEABROOK, N. H.

ON VETERANS DAY, WHEN many Americans were laying wreaths at the graves of our war dead, veterans of another kind of struggle came to pay their respects at a different sort of monument.

As before, the Seabrook nuclear power plant was the issue. And the "mourners" were 200 members of the Clamshell Alliance, with a few others. They came to rally at the Rocks Road site entrance to New Hampshire's Public Service Co. nuclear power plant. They were there to protest PSC's continuing refusal to allow public access to disputed road property. The latest Clamshell wave action, this was the second to focus on the Rocks Road issue. In another action later that day, five Clams were assaulted as they attempted to climb a fence at PSC's dock.

Originally organized by Cape Cod Clams and set for Oct. 14, today's action was rescheduled when the Ku Klux Klan announced a Seabrook rally for that date. By this weekend, local townspeople had taken the lead in organizing the protest, and support had spread to a number of other Clam groups.

The controversy over Rocks Road originated in the town of Seabrook's 1969 decision to cede land to PSC for the nuke. At the time, PSC agreed to allow perpetual public access to all parts of the road, which leads to a popular recreation area and to ancient Indian burial grounds. The company didn't fulfill its agreement. Today Rocks Road is divided by a metal gate, and the company's construction work has desecrated the burial grounds.

The problem facing PSC is that Rocks Road runs directly through the nuke's "exclusion zone"—an area that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has made off limits for security reasons. Public access to the road might spell the end of the Seabrook project.

Townspeople recently voted to reclaim the road, and protesters had received a town parade permit to march its



The vigilantes, a motorcycle gang protecting the Ku Klux Klan at Seabrook Oct. 16.

full length. When PSC refused to open its gates today, the demonstrators rallied outside.

Residents charge that regulations were not followed in the original transfer, making the agreements invalid. A court suit is currently pressing their claim.

The day's rally was addressed by two Native Americans. One, Mohawk Bob Gustafson, told IN THESE TIMES, "We see this clearly as a Native issue." Asked if he thought cooperation between the Alliance and Native Americans will increase, he replied, "Absolutely, because the issue is one of survival on this planet."

Seabrook resident and longtime Clam Guy Chichester said we have to identify people "in positions of power and authority in this country, who can with a word and a signature stop this insanity. We have to find where they are and put before them the evidence of the deadly nuclear technology that is now killing people everywhere there is a facility." If, after having been informed," Chichester concluded, they "refuse to say those

words and sign the papers, we have to put the finger on them as mass murderers!"

In keeping with tradition, a PSC official videotaped the demonstrators. Outlining some of the state's harassment of Clam activists, Chichester expressed concern that, with intensified resistance, "we're going to encounter new levels of repression."

Later in the day, five Clams were physically attacked as they sought to gain entrance to PSC's fenced-in dock site. State and PSC security officials reportedly stood by and did nothing to end the assault, apparently by a construction worker who bashed demonstrators' fingers as they climbed the seven-foot high fence. The five managed to make it to the other side, although some were injured by the barbed wire atop the fence. Two Clams were taken to the hospital for treatment of minor injuries.

#### Clamshell reaches out.

While civil disobedience actions can be expected to continue, there is a growing

belief that the antinuke movement must broaden its limited base. The labor movement is a major target, although environmentalists have been unsuccessful in weaning domestic unions away from their generally pro-nuke positions, and Clamshell's efforts along these lines are still very much in the embryonic stage.

Connecticut Clams had some success in gaining labor support for the anti-nuke struggle, but Nancy Folbre of Clamshell's Labor Committee, could not name specific unions that the Clamshell has allied with. She told IN THESE TIMES, "Basically, we're just getting started to send some letters out, make some contacts..."

But Environmentalists for Full Employment has raised people's consciousness about the labor issue, she said, adding that "Labor is under pretty strong attack from the right, and is looking for allies." And labor could be "a really good ally for us."

Duncan Harp is a free-lance writer in Cambridge, Mass., and a member of the Clamshell Alliance.

## Local 189, a union of teaching unionists

By Pat Strandt

TWO AUTOHARPISTS PLAYING songs commemorating Joe Hill's death 64 years earlier; new films on occupational safety and health, multinational corporations, and women's labor history; presentations by the Scientists Institute for Public Information and several similar groups, and two panels of rank-and-file labor organizers marked the Nov. 17-19 winter meeting of Workers Education Local 189 in Gary, Ind.

"Why are we in Gary?" asked Wells Keddie, the organization's first vice-president and a teacher at Livingston College, Piscataway, N.J., rhetorically. Obviously because it wasn't in anti-ERA Illinois.

Another reason, of course, is that it is in the heart of District 31 of the United Steelworkers, a maverick rank-and-file-oriented area that appeals to Local 189 members.

Local 189's devotion to the rank and file, to union activism and democracy, and to various liberal and left causes has been central since it was established by staff of Brookwood Labor College, Katonah, N.Y., in 1922.

These characteristics led to the local's being thrown out of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, by AFT president Albert Shanker in 1976, after a series of bitter convention floor fights and appeals to the board over several years. "Eventually, the deed was done by a constitutional change requiring multi-

state locals to be composed only of persons employed by a single employer.

The decision to continue independently may be one of the best things that has happened to Workers Education Local 189. Although anti-Local 189 persons are publishing articles calling it "moribund," the group is alive, well and growing.

When Shanker thought he was driving a stake through its heart, Local 189 had 400 members. Many of them, such as AFL-CIO legislative director Andy Biemieller, were presumably happy to get a comparatively cheap union card and a prestigious listing in the local's famous directory of members. Now, it has 178 paid-up members, most of whom fork over from \$36 to \$60 a year for voluminous mailings, twice-a-year meetings, chapter memberships, job referrals and constant reinforcement and renewal of the belief that they are on the right track. For those whose jobs take a lot of stamina and a big emotional, intellectual and physical toll, this is vital.

The conference opened with everyone taking a tour through U.S. Steel's Gary Works. Much of the weekend's program was planned by Suzanne Maffei of United Auto Workers Local 5, South Bend, whose labor-education students served as the bulk of the panelists.

These included Alice Bush of Local 1199, Gary; Oradell Harrison, Retail Clerks staff, Gary; and Al Goddard, business manager of Local 1392, IBEW, South Bend.

"You don't look like the typical IBEW business rep," someone told Goddard, whose hair is not-quite-waist-length. Goddard explained that when he was hired into the Northern Indiana/Michigan Power Co. powerhouse "I didn't look like this. If I had, I'd never have been hired."

His hair was then moderately long. Nevertheless, during his probationary period he was told to cut it, and he did. But he has never cut it again. He pursued and won a pay grievance of his own, and "they made me a steward," he reported. Sixteen victorious grievances for others later, Goddard told the group, "People said, 'Okay, we'll work with you.'"

Bush, in explaining her 11-year history as a hospital worker, told about her attempts to organize from the inside, and her failures. She described the types of help needed, which Local 189 could give. She also noted "the respect workers give you as educated persons," and suggested, "don't pretend you punch a time-clock, but give them your expertise."

Bush said that in the Gary area, "for the most part, workers organized for respect, dignity on the job, to be treated as a person.... My union will give workers one thing," she added: "education and an alternative to where they're at."

The afternoon panel, "Workers Education in Action: Making Union Democracy Work," included George Terrell of Steel Workers Fight Back, Chicago; Dan LaBotz, a member of Teamsters for a Democratic Union; Velma Lott,

member of Steel Workers Local 2697 and of USWA District 31's women's caucus and of the "40-3" (minority workers) caucus, as well as president of Northern Indiana CLUW, the Coalition of Labor Union Women; and John Bowman, walking delegate of the Eugene V. Debs Local 1834 of the Steel Workers at Pullman Standard, Steger, Ill. One of the members of the audience asked to be on the panel, and was included. He was Dan Dale, a Seafarers union member since 1969, who is also a member of the Norwegian Sailors Union, who spoke about worker education on shipboard. The panel was moderated by Betty Balanoff of Roosevelt University, and like most of the others, a Local 189 member.

Local 189's Michigan chapter, one of the most active, plans a Nov. 28 meeting at Central Methodist Church, downtown Detroit, to hear H.L. Mitchell, founder in the 1930s of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, discuss "Organizing the South: Then and Now."

Local 189's membership is open to people who are involved in workers education, which the group defines as "education carried on by, for, or with unionized or currently unorganized workers, their organizations or families, to meet learning needs at the workplace or in the community." Brochures are available from Lee Balliet, treasurer, Workers Education Local 189, Rt. 1, Box 146, Independence, W.Va. 26374.

Pat Strandt, union editor, has been a member of Local 189 for 13 years.

# IN THE WORLD

## NICARAGUA

### Young guerillas remember screams

By Ron Ridenour

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

**E**ARLY LAST WEEK, 43 MEMBERS of the Frente Sandinista Liberacion Nacional (FSLN) were released to fight again, and the jail guards were happy. They allowed this story to be written from inside the cooperative prison where the 43 were staying.

Costa Rica is neutral, technically, in the war between the new regular army of the FSLN and the National Guard of the Anastasio Somoza Debayle government. It periodically captures handfuls of guerilla soldiers who live in foot camps near the border.

After a few days in jail, the Sandinistas are deported to Costa Rica's southern neighbor, Panama, where the political climate is even more openly pro-Sandinista. Here, the guerillas prepare to fight a massive full-scale war.

In the *Tercera Campana Guardia Civil* in Costa Rica's capital, a dozen of the 39 men and four women gave interviews to *IN THESE TIMES*.

#### Always a Sandinista.

The students, small farmers and peasants and city workers are serious yet happy to be going back to battle. They are mostly youths in their teens or twenties, but some are in their forties.

"We will fight again as soon as we get back," said Javier. At 19 he has been a guerilla for three years. He commands a sophisticated view of world politics gleaned from his years of opposition to Somoza's regime.

"I became a FSLN Sandinista after the *guardia* put me on a wanted list when I was a student protestor. I have always been a Sandinista.

"We all want the same thing regardless of our political outlooks: liberty and justice. There is only one army now: Sandino's." Augusto Cesar Sandino (1895-1934) fought the U.S. Marines who ran Nicaragua directly for two decades. Somoza's family was placed in power and had Sandino assassinated.

Javier has spent half of his three years fighting in the Chinadega area, one of the bombed cities of the North, where, he says, he has killed many soldiers.

Javier has spent the other half of his time living off the land in the east of Nicaragua, near the Atlantic coast. "We eat whatever we find: pigs, birds. And the people feed us. We eat a lot of beans and rice. We are hungry much of the time. The mountains are hard to live in. We move a lot. We are constantly on guard for food and *la guardia*."

Javier and the other youths I interviewed said that their families support their decision to fight Somoza. They say that the people in Nicaragua are ready for what will come (a war is expected within weeks) because it will benefit all.

#### Horrendous measures.

Many in the cities I visited this month are clearly worried about losing their lives. But most seem resigned to fighting. Violent death has become daily fare. Some 20,000 lost their lives or were wounded in the two weeks of intensive fighting in September. Most of the civilians killed died of genocidal bombings and *guardia* sweeps in Esteli, Masaya, Leon, Chinadega and Matagalpa. Currently, the *guardia* rounds up scores of people in those cities and in Managua every night. Between three and ten were killed each night this reporter was there.

One of the horrendous massacres was seen by a 14-year-old masked Sandinista, interviewed in prison here.

"I fought for five days in Masaya,"



"I fought for five days in Masaya," the 14-year-old hooded Sandinista told *IN THESE TIMES*.

the thin, bronzed-skinned youth said. "On the last day the *guardia* came into houses and down the streets steadily shooting unarmed people. One patrol stopped a group of ten kids (eight to ten years old) and cut off their hands with bayonets. Twenty hands fell to the ground as the boys and girls screamed," the boy soldier said. "I'll never forget those screams." He joined the FSLN after the *guardia* killed his entire family.

#### Life is hard.

Carlos fought in Masaya, Leon and Matagalpa. He says he learned guerilla warfare in a church in Masaya. At 18, he has been a Sandinista fighter for three months. He joined after the *Frente* took over the National Palace Aug. 22. This act gave him confidence in the former rag-tag guerilla group.

"The priests are good people. They fight with the people and for the land," Carlos said. A chorus of enthusiastic youths joined in: "*buena gente*" (good people). Some of the new guerillas are priests or lay clergy. Most of the many hundreds who have joined since the September blood bath are practicing Catholics.

The guerillas say the people in the cities pressed the FSLN to fight. In Masaya, for instance, the battle was started with only eight guerillas and the people joined in by the thousands. The FSLN claims 400 army soldiers were killed.

Six of the guerillas in Masaya got away after the bomb attacks and before the patrols came in. They took 30 new recruits with them to the surrounding hills.

Some of the group of 43 Sandinista prisoners here were captured after attack-

ing the Nicaraguan border patrol at Penas Blancas. They escaped to a nearby camp where they slept on the ground. Some guerillas have made houses of tree branches and earth.

"Life is hard for us," said 17-year-old Ricardo. "The terrain is dangerous. We eat off the land and roots. Sometimes we get shrimp and fish, always beans and rice." This youth was the only guerilla who complained of his lot. But he was quick to add that nothing guerillas had to do would dissuade him from fighting.

As the guerillas climbed aboard a Costa Rican Civil Guard bus, they yelled out their appreciation for the "good treatment" the sympathetic guards had given them. The smiles on the guards' faces confirm a problem Somoza has often expressed about his Latin neighbors. They want him overthrown. ■

## National guard guns down civilians

MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

Every night, the air explodes with the sounds of *bombas de contacto* (contact bombs), a homemade bomb of powder and rope, and shots. Every night, three to ten Nicaraguans are gunned down by Anastasio Somoza Debayle's army patrols who ferret people out of their homes and off the streets. The *guardia* responds indiscriminately to the citizenry because, as almost any civilian will tell a reporter, "The guard feels, correctly, that the entire people are the enemy."

Most of the killings are never explained by the *guardia* or are said to be legal acts committed against guerillas. But the people killed are almost always in their homes or near them as curfew laws force the people behind their doors. And most of the killed unarmed people are "suspects," the *guardia* says.

The guerillas recently reorganized into a regular army of the *Frente Sandinista Liberacion Nacional* (FSLN), announce their actions: almost daily bank robberies and attacks upon border patrols or checkpoint patrols that dot the small

nation of 2.6 million people.

For instance, on Nov. 6, the FSLN announced the following actions had been taken against the government army during the last week:

- Attack upon a patrol of 15 near the San Juan river; five were killed and several wounded;

- Three more soldiers killed in Nindirí, Masay;

- A robbery of the Nicaraguan-owned *Banco de America* (the sixth since the September war) in Managua. \$5000 was taken, and checks amounting to \$200,000;

- In La Paz Centro, where the U.S. Marines once had a military base and ruled the farm town, two more army soldiers were killed.

In Managua, Leon and other cities last week there were many other attacks by youths not in the FSLN. No one was killed as a direct result of these actions (there was little property damage done as well), but the *guardia* responded by arresting scores of citizens who claim involvement. The *guardia* attacked

youths at a Leon high school wounding several and killing a woman, 57, who was across the street standing in her doorway.

During the week, the FSLN suffered some losses as well. In San Benito and Chinadega, eight guerillas were killed by an army patrol. They were discovered in small camps near town. Some small arms were confiscated. Also, in Leon, four militant youths not connected with the FSLN were shot down at home. Many youths who survived the war in September form cells and hide in various homes. When discovered by the patrols, they are shot down without question.

The embassies of Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Panama report hundreds of exiles have poured into their buildings. They are flown to neighboring countries as soon as safe passage can be obtained. Refugees continue to flee in vehicles and on foot to the Honduran and Costa Rican borders. Some 50,000, estimated by the Red Cross, have already left the country.

—Ron Ridenour