

Monterey Bay *Bulletin*

Labor Contracts Update

Free Parking ... If you dare

Crimes in the Monterey Bay Travelodge Parking Lot*

The Monterey Bay Travelodge advertises "free parking," on its website, but it doesn't tell travelers about the risks ...

4/24/04 Victim reports theft of two cameras and a camera bag valued at \$300.00 from their unlocked vehicle which was parked at the Travel Lodge, N. Fremont. Valued \$260.00.

10/15/04 Travelodge reports vandalism to their coke machine that was in the parking lot on the south side of the building.

10/15/04 Victim reports theft of his 2001 green BMW 5251 Ca. license 4SUH048 while parked at Travelodge

10/28/04 Victim reports an unknown to have struck and damaged her vehicle while parked in the parking lot of the Travelodge.

6/20/05 Victim reports the theft of his rear license plate Ca/lic/4VYT-804 from his 2002 Toyota Highlander while parked in the parking lot of the Travel Lodge 2030 N. Fremont between 6/19/05 2200 and 6/20/05 0900 hours.

9/23/05 Victim reports a WMA driving a black or charcoal gray GMC or Chevy full size 2-wheel drive pickup, with a partial plate of 40232, to have struck and damaged her vehicle while parked in front of 2030 North Fremont, Travelodge.

* Partial list. As reported in Monterey Police Case Logs. Direct quotes except that names of people involved, and times of incident reports are removed above.

Protests, Anger Grow at Monterey Bay Travelodge Employees without contract for 2 years, Without health insurance for 16 months

The chants thundered through the air, "Is Seo fair? No, he's not! It's the Monterey Travelodge Boycott!" as dozens of area hotel workers and their community supporters marched, rattled, and drummed on a picket-line in front of the Monterey Bay Travelodge on January 26.

At the end of the rally, a housekeeper at the hotel who has been honored by the State of California as the 27th Assembly District Woman of the Year, Juana Enriquez, summed up the protest over a bullhorn to the crowd: "We [the Monterey Bay Travelodge workers] have been without a contract for 2 years; without health insurance for 16 months; without justice

for too long! We are angry, but our anger makes us even more determined to fight until we win!"

Public rallies and picket-lines began in July of 2004 as a protest against the labor contract demands of Travelodge owner, **Kilsoo Seo**, of Bethel, Alaska. Seo eliminated his employee health insurance and pension programs, while freezing hourly wages at \$8.84 on October 1 without the approval of the workers' union, UNITE HERE Local 483.



A scene from one of more than 70 rallies at the Monterey Bay Travelodge that have drawn over 2,300 protesters.

The Monterey Bay Travelodge housekeeping and maintenance workers called for a boycott of the hotel in November 2004. Local 483 launched a website, www.BoycottMontereyBayTravelodge.info, the following month.

International Hotel Workers Rising Campaign Hits Monterey

"The [Monterey Bay] Travelodge situation—all the chanting and protest—is something we hope to avoid come contract negotiation time at other Monterey area hotels this year and at hotels all across the country," said James Hood, a banquet worker at the Park Hyatt Highlands Inn. "Union workers all over America and Canada are coming together to help make hotel jobs middle class jobs. We're calling it 'Hotel Workers Rising.'"

The UNITE HERE Hotel Workers Rising campaign represents an effort to empower thousands of hotel workers in hundreds of properties in cities across North

America as they work to improve their jobs and secure better lives for themselves and their families.

These workers—largely minority and immigrant women—work hard to create a welcoming home away from home for business travelers and tourists. But many are suffering serious physical injuries from the workloads imposed on them by large multi-national companies like Starwood, Hilton, and Hyatt. Severe understaffing coupled with an increase in room amenities like heavier mattresses and linens are hurting these workers.

In addition, many hotel companies have been cutting back on wages and benefits in an effort to reduce costs and increase profits. Wages for the same jobs vary wildly from city to city, and workers find themselves fighting to keep important benefits like health care and retirement plans, as well as their right to organize a union.

Hotel employees are uniting in the Hotel Workers Rising campaign across North America in major tourist cities, including Monterey, San Francisco, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Seattle, Honolulu, Chicago, Toronto, Boston, and New York, among others.