

Monterey Bay *Bulletin*

Labor Contracts Update

Recent Crimes at the Monterey Bay Travelodge*

- Sep 9 Travelodge reports the burglary to their main office. Taken was \$7000.00, mens watch, laptop, and safe which property was kept in ... Unknown total at this time.
- Oct 13 Travelodge reports theft of \$15.00 from an unlocked Coca-Cola machine on the second floor of the motel
- Oct 15 Victim reports the theft of tools from his unlocked vehicle while parked at the Travelodge
- Oct 15 Travelodge reports vandalism to their coke machine that was in the parking lot on the south side of the building
- Oct 15 Victim reports theft of his 2001 green BMW 5251 Ca. license 4SUH048 while parked at Travelodge
- Oct 18 Victim reports being battered by unknown BMA. Occ: Travelodge
- Oct 19 Travelodge reports the burglary to the office ...Taken: US currency. Value: unknown at this time
- Oct 28 Victim reports an unknown to have struck and damaged her vehicle while parked in the parking lot of the Travelodge

* As reported in Monterey Police Case Logs. Direct quotes except times removed and Travelodge at 2030 North Fremont address removed above.

Workers call for BOYCOTT of Monterey Bay Travelodge

UNITE HERE Local 483 announced a boycott of the Monterey Bay Travelodge at a 100-person rally in front of the hotel on November 18.

"We urge everybody not to stay at the Monterey Bay Travelodge until the owner signs a fair contract," said Juana Enriquez, Travelodge housekeeper and chief shop steward for UNITE HERE Local 483. The hotel's owner, Kilsoo Seo of Bethel, Alaska, has eliminated all contributions to the employee health insurance and pension plans, while freezing hourly wages at \$8.84. "This is outrageous. He took away our children's health insurance". Ms. Enriquez added, "We have to protect our families, so we are asking for the community's help. Please do not make reservations at the Monterey Bay Travelodge, and if you already have, please cancel them and visit another Monterey Bay hotel."

The Monterey Bay Travelodge contract with its 13

Latino housekeeping and maintenance workers expired on December 1, 2003, and is the only unsettled contract of 15 unionized hotels on the Monterey Bay with UNITE HERE Local 483. Contract negotiations between

Local 483 and the Travelodge continued through July, at which point Mr. Seo issued his "last and best" offer, demanding the end of his employees' health and pension plans. The first of dozens of weekly community rallies in support of the workers at the hotel, which have drawn over 1,000 participants, began on July 29.

On that day, a letter from Mr. Seo's attorney stated that "due to the downturn in the travel industry" the Travelodge "is



Monterey Bay Travelodge workers were joined by over 100 community supporters in their call for a Boycott of the Monterey Bay Travelodge.

required to institute extensive cost-cutting measures." However, just one month later, Monterey County property records indicate that Seo purchased a home in the new upscale Seaside Highlands development for \$982,500. "It looks like he is spending our health insurance on a fancy new house," said 13-year Travelodge employee Ms. Enriquez.

Crime-Lodge at the Fairgrounds

The Monterey Bay Travelodge has been the scene of eight crimes in the past two months, according to City of Monterey Police Case Logs—seven of these in October alone.

One victim reported being battered at the hotel.

Burglaries totaling over \$7,000

in cash, a safe, a laptop computer, a watch, money from soda machines, and a BMW automobile accounted for the bulk of the crime reports.

In addition to the stolen BMW, the Travelodge parking lot also saw reports of a damaged parked vehicle and tools taken

from another parked car.

"We are concerned for the safety of the workers and the guests at the Travelodge," said UNITE HERE Local 483 Secretary-Treasurer, Leonard O'Neill.

See the sidebar to the left for more detailed information from the police case logs.