

# Monterey Bay *Bulletin*

## Labor Contracts Update

### Growing Protest at the Monterey Bay Travelodge

Dec 1	Employee contract expires, negotiations continue
Feb 7	Employees delegate general manager
June 29	Company demands elimination of employee health insurance & pension
July 29	1st Protest Rally, 70 people
July 30	Monterey Bay Central Labor Council sends letter supporting workers to owner
Aug 5	6 Community leaders delegate general manager
Aug 7	League of United Latin American Citizens passes resolution supporting workers
Aug 11	2nd Protest Rally, draws 100; Company hires private security guards
Aug 12	Union files Unfair Labor Practices charges
Aug 16	Rev Alice Ann Glenn sends letter supporting workers to owner
Aug 18	3rd Protest Rally, 40 people
Aug 26	7 Monterey area hotel workers delegate general manager
Aug 26	4th Protest Rally, 75 people
Sept 2	5th Protest Rally, 50 people
Sept 7	NAACP sends letter supporting workers to owner
Sept 9	6th Protest Rally, 65 people
Sept 13	Assemblymember Laird sends letter to owner
Sept 17	7th Protest Rally, 40 people
Sept 21	8th Protest Rally, 40 people, bringing total number of protesters to 480

## Community Protest Grows Against Monterey Bay Travelodge Over 450 Have Participated in Rallies at Hotel

"He says, 'No health insurance. No pension,'" explains Monterey Bay Travelodge housekeeper, Juana Enriquez, referring to the hotel's owner, Kilsoo Seo. "We say, 'No justice, no Peace!'"

Public protest at the Travelodge by the Monterey County Fairgrounds has been mounting for the past two months after the Bethel, Alaskan owner, Mr. Seo, demanded to eliminate entirely the health insurance and pension plans of his employees, while freezing their hourly wages at \$8.84.

On the last day of summer, September 21, the eighth community rally for Travelodge workers drew the 450th participant in the two month public campaign. The *Monterey County Herald* (8/13/04) reports that as many as 100 people at a time have

participated in these weekly protests, including Seaside City Councilmembers Steve Bloomer, Tom Mancini, and Ralph Rubio.

A recent op-ed article in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* (9/5/04) sums up the situation: "Weekly pickets led by hotel workers continue at the Monterey Fairgrounds Travelodge, where the company's 'last best offer' proposes to freeze pay and abolish health-care coverage for all employees. As members of more and more unions and community groups gather in support of the hotel workers, 'solidarity power' is

growing on the Monterey Peninsula, while Travelodge is rapidly becoming known as a 'poster child' for bad corporate citizenship."



Monterey Bay Travelodge workers and their community supporters protest in front of the hotel on September 17—one of eight rallies involving over 450 people, so far.

## Union Files Unfair Labor Practices Against Travelodge

National Labor Relations Board agents are currently investigating Unfair Labor Practices charges filed by UNITE HERE Local 483 against the Monterey Bay Travelodge on August 12, 2004.

According to the *Monterey County Herald* (8/13/04), the union filed the charges "because the motel owner allegedly barred employees from distributing leaflets" in front of the hotel at 2030 North Fremont Street in Monterey.

The paper quotes Local 483 President, Julius de Vera, "This is outrageous. It is a federal right of employees to leaflet customers at their work site on their own time."