

# Woman threatened by hotel robber

**MASOOD BOOMGAARD**

“SCREAM and there will be a bloodbath,” a Witbank woman was told after being confronted by a knife-wielding intruder in her Durban hotel room early on Thursday morning.

Michaela Harmsey had been holidaying in Durban and was staying on the 10th floor of the Blue Waters hotel on the beachfront when she was robbed of all her valuables.

“I was fast asleep when I was woken by a loud noise. It was about 2am. I got out of bed and went to check it out and found a man standing in the bathroom. He had apparently climbed through the window,” Harmsey said.

“I asked him what he wanted and he showed me his knife. He kept telling me there would be a bloodbath if I made any noise.”

Harmsey said she pleaded for her life and feared the worst.

**Blue Waters Hotel in Durban - this is the third robbery, that we know of, in a 12-month period.**

**The other two victims did not go to the Sunday Tribune so I wonder now if management will invest in proper security!?**

“I basically negotiated with him. I told him I’d give him everything I had as long as he didn’t harm me. He took my Blackberry, my Nokia cell-phone, my cash and my pair of binoculars. I even opened the safe in the room. He took everything but thankfully when he took my wallet, he just emptied out the cash but left the wallet with all the bank cards inside.”

Harmsey said she urged the intruder to leave but he lingered.

“He kept asking if I was hiding anything, if I hadn’t told him about other valuables I had in the room. I told him I wasn’t. He said if I was lying he would kill me. He was turning the room upside down and I kept telling him there was nothing else.”

Eventually the ordeal came to an end.

“He left, but before he did he warned me again not to shout or scream after he walked away,” recalled Harmsey.

As soon as the intruder was out of sight, Harmsey rushed to the hotel reception and reported the incident.

“There I was in my pyjamas, absolutely hysterical. The manager came up to the room and they had a look. They helped me report the incident to the police,” she said.

Harmsey said she was still traumatised from the incident.

“You expect to be safe and secure in your hotel room. You don’t expect people to climb through your window in the middle of the night,” she said.

Hotel management declined to comment on the incident pending the outcome of a police investigation.