

Tu arrived in Saipan in the summer of 1996 and planned to work in a garment factory for two years. At a \$3.05-an-hour sewing job here, she could earn more in one year than in four back home.

She fell in love with a Chinese laborer and became pregnant. When her factory found out, Tu said, it pressured her to return to China to have an abortion. She said a supervisor summoned her four times to deliver the same message.

"She didn't say, 'You must go back to China for an abortion.'" Tu said, "but she always said, 'Think about it.'"

It is difficult to get an abortion on this predominantly Catholic island. But in China, abortion is widely used as a form of birth control for women limited by the government to one child. In Tu's home province of Jiangxi, women, by law, are not allowed to marry until they are 23 and may not legally bear a child until they are 24.

Tu refused to have the abortion. She wanted to work until the baby was born (she is due in May) and return to China only after her two-year contract with the factory had expired in July.

But in December, she missed several days of work because of a pregnancy-related illness. Her boss at the factory, owned by mainland Chinese and Hong Kong investors, told her not to come back, she said.

Steve Yim, a Hong Kong-based management adviser for the factory, Micronesian Garment Manufacturing Inc., denied that anyone pressured Tu to return to China for an abortion and said she "deliberately" stopped going to work.

Six months pregnant, Tu now rents a room near a busy road. Her bed consists of two wood planks on blocks. She has little food on her shelves and no money to see a doctor. Her biggest fear, she said, is being forced to return to China, where she would risk being pressured to undergo a late-term abortion.

"I don't want to have an abortion," Tu said. "It's a small life; it's six months old. I'm afraid."

The tens of thousands of foreigners brought to Saipan as "guest workers" are recruited by middlemen who operate in a murky business that is loosely regulated and open to abuse. Local recruiters who promise to find jobs for foreigners work in tandem with agents in such places as China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Philippines.

Fifty-five Chinese men from northeast China said they arrived here in September, only to find there were no jobs waiting. The men, recruited from a down-and-out industrial region of China with high unemployment, each paid \$7,000 to a Chinese agent for transportation, passports, and the promise of construction jobs. Most had to borrow money from friends, family members or loan sharks, they said.

For weeks, the men were holed up in a dirty, hot, crowded, metal barracks near a golf course with an ocean view. They had little to eat and limited fresh water, they said. J&J International, the employer who had promised them work, had only been able to place a few of them.

On Oct. 21, the rest of the men marched in protest to the offices of the U.S. Department of Labor, carrying a banner that read, in English and Chinese: "We need live. We need work."

The U.S. federal government could not help them. One of the unique things about the Northern Mariana Islands is that the local government has full authority over immigration. It also is responsible for policing recruiters.

Kim Long, an employee for J&J International, said in December that the company had found work for 10 men and that the others were seeking too much money, demand-

ing wages of \$5 an hour instead of the island's minimum wage of \$3.05 an hour.

The men told a different story. They said they would work for any wage at all.

In a letter to U.S. labor officials in October, they wrote, in Chinese: "Many Chinese regard the United States as heaven on earth. But there are swindlers out there who dare to bring shame to the American government."

The jobless laborers protested again in December. This time, having been kicked out of their barracks, they carried bedrolls under their arms. Embarrassed local officials went on television to seek jobs for the men and leaned on garment factories to find them work.

Some of the men got work building a casino on a neighboring island. About a dozen became so frustrated that they returned to China.

Another batch of workers from Bangladesh, meanwhile, has not been as fortunate.

In early 1997, 134 men from Bangladesh paid \$5,000 apiece to recruiters for jobs that, as it turned out, did not exist. The local go-between, responsible for arranging the work in Saipan, fled to the Philippines.

Today, many of the men are still without work, left to scrounge for food and shelter, fearful of being deported and knowing that angry loan sharks would be on their tails back home.

Naive and unschooled, many of these workers believed the tall tales they heard from unscrupulous recruiters. One was promised a U.S. passport as soon as he got here. Another said he was told he could take a bus from Saipan to California. He is still looking for work.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO HOLLIS DYER, OAK GROVE, MO'S, BUSINESSPERSON OF THE YEAR

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 1998*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the Oak Grove, Missouri, Chamber of Commerce has named Hollis Dyer as Business Person of the Year.

Born in Independence, Missouri, Hollis Dyer's family moved early in his life to Odesa, Missouri, where he graduated from Odesa High School at the age of 16. In 1945, Dyer began a short career in the Army, and then went on to attend Southwest Baptist Junior College in Bolivar, MO. He received an Associate of Arts degree from that school, and then attended Central Missouri State University. Before graduating from CMSU, Dyer became a teacher, and he continued to teach from 1947 through May 1955. In 1955, Dyer began a new career in banking, and became president of the Commercial Bank of Oak Grove in 1962. Dyer has served as president of the bank ever since, and he has established himself as an outstanding community leader.

Over the years, Dyer has attempted to make his hometown a better place to live and work. He, along with the community, brought one of the earliest senior citizen apartment complexes to the region, and this facility became a model prototype. Dyer was also involved with naming the streets in Oak Grove in order to create better insurance rates for

the residents of the small community. In addition, Dyer supported the schools and churches of the area, as well as their many worthwhile projects.

Hollis Dyer's endless interest in the growth of the community and the well-being of its residents makes his name a household word to many who live in the city and the surrounding area. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating Oak Grove, Missouri's Businessperson of the Year.

IN HONOR OF PICABO STREET

#### HON. MIKE CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 1998*

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention the exciting news from the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

Picabo Street, an outstanding ski racer and pride of Sun Valley, Idaho, which I have the honor of representing, has captured the gold medal in the Women's Super-G event. This announcement is particularly exciting for the whole country because this medal represents one of the first two medals won by any U.S. competitors in Nagano. My colleagues will also be interested to know that, in addition to being from the world-renowned ski resort of Sun Valley, she is also named for the town of Picabo in Idaho's Second Congressional District.

As you may recall, Mr. Speaker, Picabo Street has already become a well-known sports star from her silver medal triumph in Lillehammer, Norway, four years ago. But yesterday's accomplishment is much more heroic when you consider that she has only just returned from a knee operation that would have ended most careers and a frightening fall twelve days ago that resulted in her becoming unconscious. I'm pleased to join my colleagues in saluting her today.

And the news only gets better. The Super-G is not Picabo Street's preferred event. As a downhill specialist, her triumph in the yesterday's event firmly establishes Picabo Street as the favorite for Saturday's Women's Downhill event. Mr. Speaker, our heartfelt thanks go out to Picabo Street for ending America's medal drought in Nagano. I'm sure you will be watching eagerly the contest on Saturday.

#### HONORING THE 1998 FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VALOR AWARD WINNERS

#### HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 1998*

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 1998 Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Valor Award Winners. On Thursday, February 12, 1998, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce will present the Annual Valor Awards at the McLean Hilton.

The Valor Awards honor public service officials who have demonstrated extreme self-sacrifice, personal bravery, and ingenuity in the performance of their duty. There are five categories: The Gold Medal of Valor, The Silver Medal of Valor, The Bronze Medal of