

Gavin Reinink (10), Trent Mulder (12), Peter DeKam (20), Blake Wiltzer (22), Andy Gilde (24), Kyle Eisenga (25), Travis Nederhood (30), Luke Bronkema (34), Ryan Westdorp (40) and Dan Bazuin (32).

The dedication that these players put forth throughout the entire season is one of which the entire district can be proud. Their victory not only brought the team together in great spirit, but their family, friends and community as well.

Once again, on behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I would like to congratulate the coaches and members of the McBain High School Varsity Basketball Team on their achievement. I wish them the best in their future seasons.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2002*

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 25, 2002, I was unable to be present for roll-call vote No. 115.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 115.

#### HONORING TRULIANT FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2002*

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize a committed and longstanding financial institution in my hometown of Winston-Salem, North Carolina—Truliant Federal Credit Union. For the past fifty years, Truliant's family-like tradition of progressive thinking, reliability and accessibility has served more than 200,000 members in five states. On their 50th Anniversary, the founders and executives of Truliant are to be commended for maintaining a valued and trusted reputation and their tireless contribution to the community.

In 1952, the Radio Shops Credit Union—what was to become Truliant—was chartered in Winston-Salem to serve employees of Western Electric. Founder Tom Pullen built the Credit Union on four cornerstones—member ownership, democratic governance, volunteer directors and access for working families. Pullen's success as a trusted and loyal financial guide immediately brought in 2,000 members and more than \$100,000 in assets. His commitment to providing the best technology and friendly, personal attention grew his reputation, diversified his membership and tripled his holdings. The recent change in name to Truliant certainly reflects Pullen's mission to maintain relationships of mutual respect and trust with all of the Credit Union's members.

Winston-Salem is thankful for Truliant's philosophy of "people helping people." Truliant members are leaders in the community, sponsoring the Special Olympics, American Red Cross blood drives, Habitat for Humanity builds, Junior Achievement events and the an-

nual March of Dimes' walk. Truliant also sponsors a scholarship fund that has helped 52 high school graduates gain access to over \$26,000.

Today I applaud Tom Pullen and every member of the Truliant family for fifty successful years of endless community to their members and the Winston-Salem community.

#### CHILD LABOR

#### HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 1, 2002*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this spring at the University of Vermont. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see government do regarding these concerns.

ON BEHALF OF ANDREA SHAHAN, DANIELLE HARVEY, REID GARROW, TROY AULT AND STEFANIE GRAY

REGARDING CHILD LABOR

(April 8, 2002)

REID GARROW: On the western edge of Dacca, Bangladesh, on a man-made ridge constructed to prevent flooding, dust is everywhere. The air is full of a single-sound sequence: The sharp sing of hammers hitting stone anvils. The sun beats bright as the children with their naked dust-covered bodies hammer away with tiny hammers in imitation of their mothers.

Many mothers work here. Hundreds, even thousands, are employed in breaking bricks for the foundations of the buildings. And by many mothers' sides, living in horrible conditions, are their children, laboring away. There are many places such as the factory described in Dacca, Bangladesh, all over the world. Children are forced to work in horrible conditions, with extremely low wages, and with no rights whatsoever.

We are the beneficiaries of child labor. Many of us here today are wearing clothing made overseas, and a significant percentage of it is made by small children. The United States has the world's largest economy, and with just a little effort, our government could drastically reduce child labor, and maybe even someday eliminate it.

DANIELLE HARVEY: A common way for children to become exploited in the system of child labor is to be sold by their parents to a bondsman in order to pay off a debt. The debt is usually very small, ranging from 500 to 7,500 rupees, which, when converted to U.S. currency, amounts to about \$14 to \$200. Destitute families are offered these loans, and most families accept them, because they need to pay for the cost of an illness, to provide a dowry for a married child, or perhaps just to keep food on the table.

A significant job in the workforce is the manufacturing of domestic and export products. Some of these products include silk, bee, which are hand-rolled cigarettes, silver jewelry, synthetic gemstones, leather products, including footwear and sporting goods, handwoven wool carpets, and precious gemstones and diamonds. Some services that bondsmen force bonded children to perform include prostitution, small-restaurant work, truck-stop work, tea-shop services, and domestic servitude.

STEFANIE GRAY: Child labor prevents children from receiving a good education.

Without an education, they are unable to receive jobs at reasonable pay as an adult. Children want a good education, and they believe that the only way their beliefs will be fulfilled is if they are willing to work.

With the lack of support from their parents and their employers, it is hard to be a student and an employee. There are some companies in Nepal, Pakistan, that give classes to employers and parents to recognize the students' education rights.

Child domestic workers cannot join a normal school. A little twelve-year-old boy cleans utensils, washes clothes, and sweeps the house. He rarely sees outside the small four-walled house where he works. He wants to go to school and study, and is unable because of his housework. Children work in the hope they will make enough money to go to school, and, in the end, they realize they won't every make enough money. And it is hard for them to get out of work once they enter. They become disappointed that they won't get the education that they had hoped for.

TROY AULT: Child debt servitude has been illegal since 1933 in India, when the Children Pledging Labor Act was enacted under British rule. There are specific laws which were meant to govern child labor in factories, in commercial establishments, on plantations, and in apprenticeships. There are also laws about the use of migrant labor and contract labor. A recent law established in 1986 was set in place by the Child Labor Prohibition and Regulation Act, and designates a child as a person who has not completed their 14th year of age." It purports to regulate the hours and conditions of some child workers, and to prohibit the use of child labor in certain enumerated hazardous industries. Most importantly, there is a law that was established in 1976 by the Bonded Labor System Abolition Act, which strictly outlaws all forms of debt bondage and forced labor.

Why these laws have not been enforced. The governing systems in Asia feel that child labor is inevitable. They think that it is caused by poverty, and cannot be changed by force, that it must evolve slowly towards eradication. It has been discovered, though, that some governments fund child labor in their country, which isn't making the population of child workers any smaller.

Many feel that the systems are concerned only with maintaining a lead in the global marketplace, rather than the condition of their nation's youth. The problem at hand is really that, with the laws formed by these nations against having child labor in their countries are not being enforced harshly enough, and that an involvement with the American government, which has much more power, would make much more of an impact on child labor.

ANDREA SHAHAN: Rosy, from the Philippines, who is 14 years old, has to take care of the household as well as her employer's 14 breeding dogs. She says, The dogs are so big. I'm afraid to go near them. Every day, I prepare kilos of dog food, wash out their pens, and take care of the mother dogs with newly born puppies. Sometimes I can't sleep properly for three nights or the puppies may die.

All dogs are made in heaven, they say, but some domestics live in hell. My employer doesn't allow me to have any of the leftover food from their table, and I can't just help myself. I'm always hungry. One day, I couldn't tighten my belt anymore, so I ate the food of the dogs.

Saneena, from Nepal, who is twelve years old, in an interview, says: I have been a domestic worker for the last two years, and recently started going to school. At first, my stepmother didn't allow me to attend, but I used to go to the class anyway, without telling her. A few days later, she caught me, scolded me, and gave me a slap.