

America has always been a magnet for talented entrepreneurs. It still is.

# KEEPERS OF THE DREAM

By RICHARD MINITER

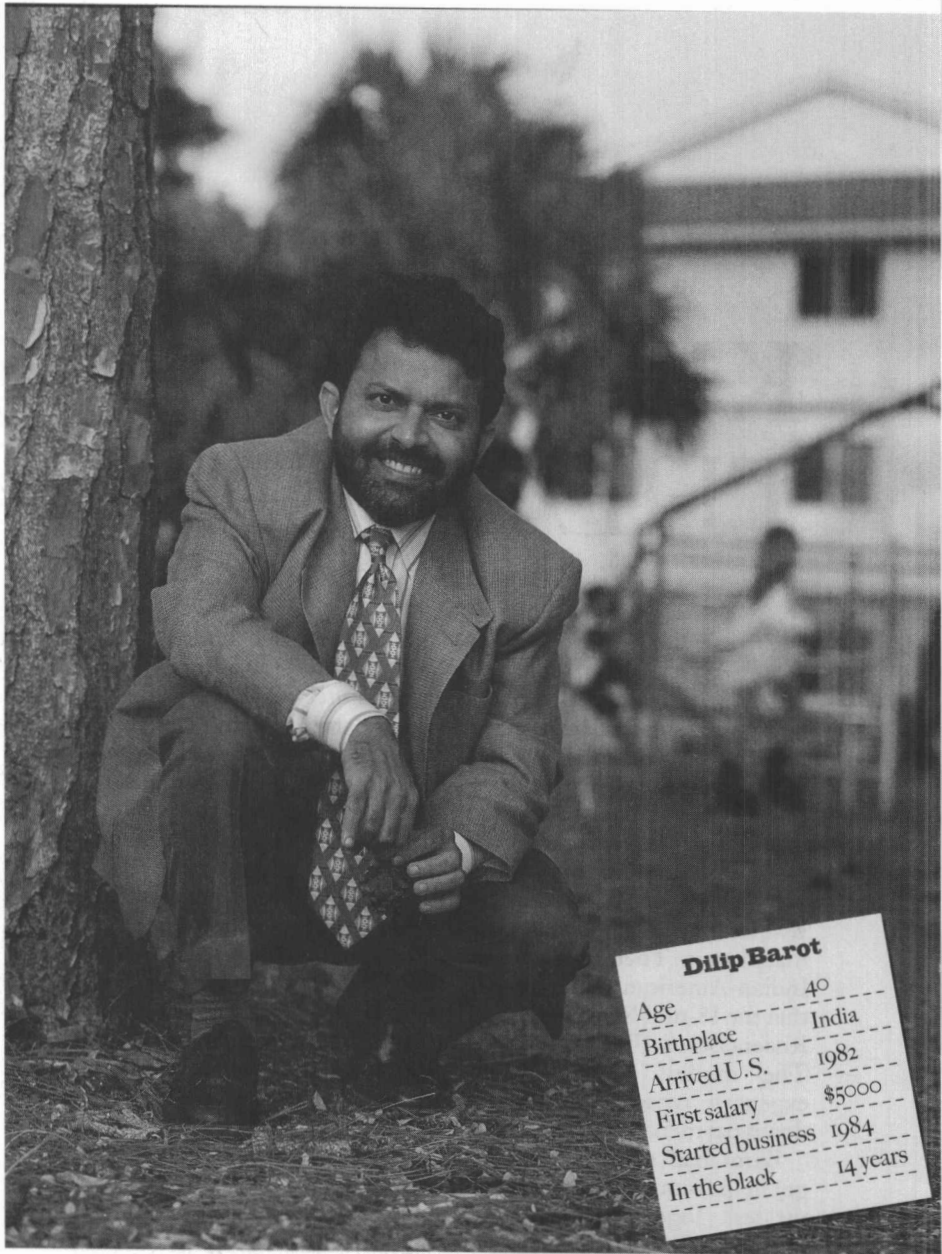
**D**ILIP BAROT, from Gujarat, India, was trained as a pharmacist, but learned within days of landing in the United States that he would have to start at the bottom. He went to work for another Gujarati at a motel in New Jersey for \$100 a week. A year later he got a job as a pharmacy intern. Then he read in an Indian-American newspaper that the 18-unit Rock Garden in Riviera Beach, Fla., was for sale. The modest motel needed expensive repairs and a hefty down payment—\$60,000.

Barot had saved \$8000 and got help from two Gujaratis for the rest. Together they bought the motel. To save money, Barot

did the repairs himself and bought used furniture from other hotel owners. Within a year Barot bought a second motel. Today Barot's Naimisha Group owns hotels and apartments in seven states and grosses more than \$50 million per year.

Patricia Pliego Stout is another immigrant entrepreneur who worked hard to succeed. When she tried to start a travel agency in San Antonio, she couldn't get a loan. Friends said that she had three strikes against her: she was single, Hispanic and female.

Stout, a former university administrator born in Mexico City, wasn't buying that. Pouring her life's savings of more



**Dilip Barot**

Age	40
Birthplace	India
Arrived U.S.	1982
First salary	\$5000
Started business	1984
In the black	14 years