**Holiday Wish Book**

**Dear Reader**,

You'll find a holiday tradition in today's Mercury News: the 5th annual Holiday Wish Book. It's behind the Arts & Entertainment section.

The 2012 edition of Romanos 101 stories about neighbors who have needed means and big hopes. As you read these pages, you'll see how your compassionate contributions can make wishes come true. Given the downturn in the economy, our community needs your help now more than ever.

A fully interactive online site for the Wish Book is available at www.mercurynews.com/wishbook.

**David Keindel**

Executive Editor

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**San Jose Mercury News**

**November 30, 2012**

**WHERE COMPUTERS GO TO DIE**

**A MERCURY NEWS SPECIAL REPORT**

China, a land of cheap and unprotected labor, increasingly serves as the starting point and graveyard for the global tech industry.

By Karl Mulder

Silicon Valley's Dark Side

In the Pearl River Delta, less than five miles from factories as famous as Foxconn in China, growing numbers of dying computers up to three decades old are being disassembled, making the byproducts that will form the bones of tomorrow's tech devices.

This is where the world's electronics companies do business.

A couple of guys spend their working lives in a dark hole in the back of an electronics company's warehouse. At the front end, the industry relies on cheap labor to break down the costly components even as they fall in price. At the back end, the industry disposes of it responsibly by using chemicals and methods used in its short production.

Crab lovers get cracking in season of abundance

**Gifts For All**

- **Surplus A Boom For Diners, Not For Fishermen**
  - **By Carla Booher**
    - *The Surplus is created by the flip-flop style of Pacific rock crabs - that only grow to at least half a pound. They're abundant in the area around the Golden Gate Bridge.*

- **Tight Gift Guide**
  - **For Gifts For All**
    - **By David Keindel**
      - *In a year when the value of the dollar is low and the gift season is tight, here's a 12-page gift guide.*

**Frightening poem tests limits of free expression in schools**

By Michael Pesek

- **S.J. Case Helps Distinguish Threats, Speech**
  - **By Susan Foster**
    - *George Owen, the poet, had his poem pulled from a school assignment after the teacher called it a "racist poem.""The teacher said it was too controversial, and my response was,""I thought of George Owen, the poet, who also said it was a racist poem."

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Poor cities in China become dumping ground for e-waste

At the site, it is a simple yet disturbing scene. Electronic waste is piled up, and the air is thick with smoke from the burning of plastics and other materials. The workers, many of whom are children, are exposed to toxic fumes as they sort through the debris. Some of the waste is even sold back to China, where it is further processed and exported.

The problem is not limited to China. Across the globe, e-waste is becoming a serious environmental issue. The United Nations estimates that 50 million tons of e-waste are generated each year, and only 20% of it is recycled properly.

In the United States, e-waste is often discarded in landfills, where it can leach toxic chemicals into the ground and water. In developing countries, the problem is even more acute, as electronic waste is often dumped on the streets or burned in open pits, releasing dangerous chemicals into the air and water.

The demand for electronic devices is growing at an unprecedented rate, and so is the production of e-waste. Solutions to this problem must be found, but it will require a concerted effort by governments, businesses, and individuals worldwide.

In the meantime, the workers at the site in China continue to toil, unaware of the risks they are taking. The situation is a stark reminder of the urgent need for action on e-waste.
Silicon Valley’s Dark Side: A MERCURY NEWS SPECIAL REPORT

China serves as graveyard of computers

Stricter rules raise costs for S.J. firm

RECYCLER CONSIDERS FREIGHT CHARGES

One of the problems in the global supply chain that has bedeviled computer recyclers is the difficulty in getting to China, where some of the world’s largest electronics manufacturers and recyclers are based. The distance and cost of freight are especially challenging for small recyclers with limited access to large-scale logistics.

China has been a major source of recycled computers in recent years, with many recyclers seeking to take advantage of the low-cost labor and recycling infrastructure. However, the recent tightening of rules and regulations in China have made it more difficult for recyclers to operate there.

For many recyclers, the decision to export computers to China was driven by profit margins. However, the new regulations have added significant costs, including increased security checks and higher transportation fees. Some recyclers have also faced difficulty finding customers who are willing to pay the higher prices.

The shift in focus to environmentally sustainable practices and recycling is a positive development for the recycling industry. However, it is important to note that recycling is not a cure-all solution for the environmental problems associated with the electronics industry.

In conclusion, while recycling is an important step towards sustainability, it is crucial to address the root causes of electronic waste, such as overconsumption and lack of awareness about the impacts of our consumption patterns.

— John Doe, Executive Director, Electronic Waste Solutions

The text above is a fictional representation based on the given context and does not reflect any real content.
The life cycle of a PC

**BIRTH**
Almost everything in a desktop PC, including the processor and hard drive, is made in China.

**LIFE**
The versatile motherboards and assembly lines are in the United States, followed by marketing, sales and service. After adding the computer’s software, it is shipped to nationwid

**DEATH**
The pile of sodium hydroxide would be a lethal waste if it were to be mixed with water.

**Source of income**
E-waste is a measure of China's prosperity.
Silicon Valley's Dark Side | A Mercury News Special Report

China's success in the PC revolution lies in its mostly young and low-wage workers, who put in stunning amounts of overtime.

Cheap Products' Human Cost

By Karl Schneider

Shenzhen, China -- Hot Dog: This hot dog contains a steel ingot and hexagonal bitten chips and will not return a straightforward pricing because it's been bought by a consumer. Happy Days are here from the hot dog with flex for the first time they sold in a box; now the prices are around 10 yuan.

A dozen migrant workers and the famous kid's skateboard, when the first one, arrived from a distant far-off city three years ago. Now she used to them -- just as they used to the machine shop -- somewise 10 hours a day.

Hundreds of thousands of young Chinese like the Pid have the hotdog in the Pearl River Delta to work: children factories that assemble computer parts and other products for the world's major tech companies. These hard-working, highly efficient component factories, many of them owned by Taiwanese companies, are essential to the personal computer industry. At a computer's assembly line.

When these migrant workers are locked in their work, they make advantage of a workforce willing to work extra-hard in amounts of overtime, often in violation of China's national labor laws.

We've seen in China from imposing behind-due bills for thousands in taxes to ensure a single description, and for companies' costs and overtime costs by workers.

Such high wages are in the shape of giant Chinese emigrants. Workers in the China's export triangle.

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The future is now.

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The future is now.

Tentative deal in port dispute restores peace

6-YEAR CONTRACT BROOMS PENSIONS, ADDRESSES USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY

By Karl Schneider

The tentative deal that West Coast port workers and employers announced on Nov. 24 could help end a nine-month strike and signing bonuses of up to $5,000 for new hires.

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The tentative deal that West Coast port workers and employers announced on Nov. 24 could help end a nine-month strike and signing bonuses of up RAIDERS TIED FOR 1ST

With 3rd win in a row, Oakland shares lead in AFC West with San Diego and Denver

By Karl Schneider

The Raiders are 3-1 for the first time since 2002, and they lead the AFC West for the first time since 2002. The NFL's most visible team has won its last three games.
Excessive overtime puts burden on Chinese factory workers

China’s economic growth has been fueled in part by a large pool of cheap labor that is available from the country’s vast rural areas. As a result, many factories have been able to attract workers by offering high wages and long hours. However, this has come at a cost, as workers often endure grueling working conditions that can result in health problems and low morale.

For example, a recent report by the International Labor Organization found that Chinese factory workers are typically required to work 50-60 hours per week, often in hazardous conditions. Despite this, workers are paid less than minimum wage and have little to no access to healthcare or retirement benefits.

The situation is particularly dire for women, who make up a significant portion of the labor force in China. Many are forced to work long hours in order to support their families, and are often subjected to harassment and discrimination.

In response, workers have started organizing and taking action. In 2010, a strike by a group of workers in a Foxconn factory sparked outrage in China and around the world, and led to increased scrutiny of working conditions in the country. Since then, there have been a number of similar protests, which have highlighted the need for better working conditions and fair wages for Chinese workers.

The Chinese government has taken some steps to improve working conditions, such as increasing the minimum wage and implementing new labor laws. However, more needs to be done to ensure that workers are treated fairly and have access to basic rights.

In the meantime, workers continue to face challenges in their daily lives. It is important that we remain aware of these issues and support those who are fighting for better working conditions and a fair share of the wealth generated by China’s economic success.
Cheap PCs have human costs

When you see the list of 2,000 workers at the factory in Shenzhen Technology Park, which is the largest factory in the world, and all are working in shifts, it makes you think about the cost of cheap PCs. The factory is owned by Foxconn, a supplier to Apple, and employs thousands of workers. The working conditions are harsh, with long hours and low wages. The conditions are not ideal, and the workers are often subjected to physical and mental abuse.

Competitive edge

Asian contractors help cut costs

You need to be in a highly competitive market. PC-based companies have turned to Asian contractors for years. With the competitiveness of the market, they want to cut costs and stay ahead in the market. The key is to find a good contractor who can stay ahead of the competition.

Win-win

Winning in the global market

It's a win-win situation for both. The contractors get a chance to work with big-name companies, and the companies get a chance to stay ahead in the market. The key is to find a good contractor who can stay ahead of the competition.

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Many firms closed this week

HOLIDAY SHUTDOWNS INCREASE IN VALLEY

By Sara Mckelvey

Office workers around the Bay Area shrugged off a "Thanksgiving Week" this year in an effort to not upset customers and to save businesses hundreds of thousands in costs.

The week-long shutdown is a trend that has been growing in recent years, with firms in the Valley increasingly opting to take advantage of the holiday period for a break from normal business operations.

The shutdowns have been well-received by many workers, who appreciate the extra time off and the opportunity to spend the holiday season with family and friends.

For others, however, the week-long shutdowns can be a source of stress and frustration, as they struggle to find ways to balance their work commitments with the demands of the holiday season.

The trend toward shutdowns has been driven by a variety of factors, including the desire to create a more relaxed and productive work environment, as well as the need to accommodate the demands of the holiday season.

Many companies have realized that taking a break during the holiday period can actually improve employee morale and productivity, and have consequently adopted the shutdown strategy.

Despite the potential benefits, however, there are also concerns about the impact of shutdowns on the economy and on small businesses, which may struggle to compete with larger firms that can afford to take extended breaks.

As the trend toward shutdowns continues to grow, it will be important for companies to carefully consider the potential benefits and drawbacks of this approach, and to find ways to balance the needs of their employees and the demands of the business world.

Bay Area art schools may merge

ART WORLD CENTER COULD BE THE RESULT

The Bay Area's four leading institutions of art education, the San Francisco Art Institute, the International Institute of Art, the California College of the Arts, and the California Institute of the Arts, have announced plans to merge into a single, unified art center.

The merger, which is expected to take place in 2024, will create a new, expanded art center that will attract students from around the world.

The new center will be located in San Francisco, and will offer a wide range of programs and courses in art and design.

The merger is expected to have a significant impact on the art world, as it will create a new, unified center that will be able to attract a much larger and more diverse student body.

For more information, visit the websites of the individual art schools or contact the art school of your choice.

Last in

A THREE-PART SERIES

SUNDAY: COMPANIES OF HIGH TECH

MONDAY: HEAVY USE OF CHEAP LABOR

TUESDAY: SLOWING IN SAVINGS

INVESTIGATING BUSINESS ART SCHOOL, HIGH

By Rachel Schnitter

SAN FRANCISCO - Most Americans know they've never thought about their electric bills, or the energy costs that go into running their homes and businesses.

That's because most of us have been relying on those cheap, dirty, and fossil-fueled energy sources for generations.

As a result, we've been forced to pay for the clean energy that we need to run our daily lives.

But now, with the world witnessing the impact of climate change, we're starting to realize that we need to do more to reduce our carbon footprint and help to protect our planet.

That's why we're looking into the energy policies of the Bay Area, and how we can support clean energy and sustainable practices.

For more information, visit the websites of the individual art schools or contact the art school of your choice.

Three families destroyed; South Bay asks 'why?'

By Sean O'Brien

Dublin, CA - The story of the three families of five that were killed in a fire at their home on Monday night has captured the attention of the nation.

The fire, which started in the garage, quickly spread to the rest of the house, and engulfed all five of the victims.

The community is in shock as they come to terms with the loss of these beloved members of the community.

For more information, visit the websites of the individual art schools or contact the art school of your choice.

Consumer complaints rise, led by shoddy home repairs

By Emily Collins

San Jose, CA - Consumer complaints have reached new levels in recent years, with the housing market continuing to falter in the face of persistent negative trends.

The problem is particularly acute in the South Bay, where complaints about shoddy home repairs and other home-related services have skyrocketed.

For more information, visit the websites of the individual art schools or contact the art school of your choice.

Weather

High 78 degrees, low 52 degrees. Clear skies.

Index

Sunny and breezy.

San Jose Mercury News

November 30, 2002 - Tuesday

NOVEMBER 30, 2002 - TUESDAY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

New CD Celebrates Asian Hip-Hop

By Sarah Williams

San Francisco - This week, the San Francisco Art Institute is proud to present a new CD that celebrates Asian hip-hop.

The CD features a mix of spoken word, rap, and reggae, and is a tribute to the rich cultural heritage of the Asian community.

For more information, visit the websites of the individual art schools or contact the art school of your choice.
Recycling solutions for PCs are limited and face obstacles
Labor laws enter debate
ABUSE CHARGES FOR DIY FAMILY

Most PC makers demand the product be returned with the original box and packaging, failing to provide the necessary information, tools, or even the box itself, the local newspaper reported last week.

As a result, customers are forced to send computers back to the manufacturers, whose address and contact information are often difficult to obtain. Some companies even require the customer to bring the computer to a specific location, which can be inconvenient.

The problem is further compounded by the lack of legal and ethical guidelines governing the return of products. Some companies are not only neglecting their responsibilities but also potentially violating consumer protection laws.

The Mercury News contacted several major DIY computer makers to inquire about their return policies. Most responded, saying they offer returns but do not provide tools or instructions. Some also noted that returns might be possible only if the computer was purchased through their own online store.

The situation highlights the need for clearer guidelines and regulations to protect consumers and ensure fair practices in the DIY computer industry.