Technology trends may push Silicon Valley back to the future.

Carver Mead, a pioneer in integrated circuits and a professor of computer science at the California Institute of Technology, notes there are now workstations that enable engineers to design, test and produce chips right on their desks, much the way an editor creates a newsletter on a Macintosh.

As the time and cost of making a chip drops to a few days and a few hundred dollars, engineers may soon be free to let their imaginations soar without being penalized by expensive failures.

Mead predicts that inventors will be able to perfect powerful customized chips over a weekend at the office — spawning a new generation of garage start-ups and giving the U.S. a jump on its foreign rivals in getting new products to market fast.

“**We’ve got more garages with smart people,**” Mead observes.

“**We thrive on anarchy.**”

And on Asians.

Already, orientals and Asian Americans constitute the majority of the engineering staff at many Valley firms.

And Chinese, Korean, Filipino, and Indian engineers are graduating in droves from California’s colleges.

As the heads of next-generation start-ups, these Asian innovators can draw on customs and languages to forge tighter links with crucial Pacific Rim markets.

For instance, Alex Au, a Stanford Ph.D. from Hong Kong, has set up a Taiwan factory to challenge Japan’s near lock on the memory chip market.

India-born N. Damodar Reddy’s tiny California company reopened an AT&T chip plant in Kansas City last spring with financing from the state of Missouri.

Before it becomes a retirement village, Silicon Valley may prove a classroom for building a global business.

Chip engineers will be able to 'let their imaginations soar' in the future because they will not have to worry about making expensive mistakes.

The phrase ‘garage start-ups’ refers to the way enterprising individuals have developed computer hardware and software without the support of big business, i.e., in their garages.

As well as their computer skills, Asian computer engineering staff can provide a knowledge of customs and languages that will help to establish connections in Pacific Rim markets.

It's hard to know what direction fashion is taking this year, as there are so many trends.

One month last year, the temperature suddenly, and unusually, soared to 32°C.

Although the girl got all the questions correct, she was penalized for her untidy handwriting.

The information they had obtained gave their company a jump on their competitors in the same business.

They have been business rivals ever since they opened shops next door to each other ten years ago.

Most plants will thrive on water and plenty of sunshine.

Our town has recently twinned with a town in France and there is going to be a meeting soon to create closer links between the two communities.

They have just finished a most crucial meeting, which will decide the future of the company.

My wife and I set up this company together exactly a year ago.

Shell and Exxon have a near lock on the oil industry in the West.

Many scientists are now extremely concerned about the effects of global warming on our climate.

Computer Engineers can design computer chips on their desks, which best expresses the main idea of the first paragraph. Although the three other statements are true, they do not summarize the main idea of the first paragraph as this statement does.

Oriental and Asian American Chip engineers can help the US beat the competition expresses the main idea of the second paragraph.

A lot of people are afraid of speaking in public.

I always believe in telling the truth.

Poor eyesight prevents me from driving a car.

Would you be interested in buying a second-hand car?

A lot of people object to smoking these days.

As soon as your sister arrives, please give me a call.

We’d better tidy the house up before my mother gets back from work.

I’m going to wait here until he arrives.

We go through Customs after we collect our luggage.

Did you notice what the man was wearing?

"**This is just what we want students to do,**" observed the visitor as he inspected students at work in the laboratory.

"**This is a beautiful village,**" she remarked, "**I’d like to live here.**"

A lot of people in Britain like chips so much that they eat them with everything.

The explorers set off at dawn.

Winter has set in early this year.

We’ll have to set aside some money if we want to buy a car.

What time do you set out tomorrow morning?

If we are all set to, we can finish this job in no time.