

Hello, I am tianhaoyu, from sociology 1802. Today my prestation is about a trash picker.

His name is Jake Orta and he is 56 years old. In SAN FRANCISCO, Three blocks from Mark Zuckerberg's \$10 million home , Mr. Orta lives in a small, single-window studio apartment filled with trash.

He used to be a soldier in the military. But now Mr. Orta, is a full-time trash picker, working in front of multimillion-dollar homes, searching for things they can sell.

His goal is to earn around \$30 to \$40 a day from his discoveries, a survival income of around \$300 a week.

**Trash picking is illegal in California — once a bin is rolled out onto the sidewalk the contents are considered the possession of the trash collection company. But the law is rarely enforced.**

Mr. Orta says he only takes what people have clearly thrown away, although 14 years ago he spent a few months in jail for breaking into someone's garage and trying to steal a wrench for his bicycle.

For years San Francisco has been a global beacon of recycling, attracting a stream of government ministers, journalists and students from across the globe to study the sorting facilities of Recology.

But the city is also full of young, affluent people preoccupied with demanding jobs and long commutes for whom the garbage can is a tempting way to get rid of that extra pair of jeans or old electronics cluttering their closet.

Trash pickers fall into several broad categories. For decades, elderly women and men have collected cardboard, paper, cans or bottles, lugging impossibly large bags around the city and bringing them to recycling centers for cash.

Trash pickers like Mr. Orta are in yet another category, targeting items in the black landfill garbage bins whose contents would otherwise go to what's known as the pit — a hole in the ground on the outskirts of the city that resembles a giant swimming pool, where nonrecyclable trash is crushed and compacted by a huge bulldozer and then carried by a fleet of trucks to a dump an hour and a half away. The city exports about 50 large truckloads a day.

Mr. Orta sells what he retrieves at impromptu markets on Mission Street or at a more formal market on Saturdays on Julian Avenue.