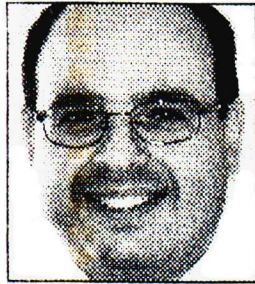


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A career change

Manos Lingunis, 47, a semiconductor designer with a Ph.D from the University of California-Los Angeles, had an agreement with his wife, Esther, also an engineer. The first one to be laid off would



Lingunis

start a business. “We said, engineers get laid off. It would be nice to have something of our own,” Lingunis recalled.

In March, Lingunis lost his job as a test chip designer at a valley semiconductor company. Instead of looking for another high-tech job, he bought a franchise in a home health care business, BrightStar.

Based in Mountain View, he already has two employees — one permanent and one temporary.

“Having been unemployed myself, it is exciting to employ other people,” he said.