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The Buena Vista Mobile Home Park: a working-class enclave in pricey Palo Alto.

SPECIAL REPORT The

Shrinking Middle Class

Chasing the American dream used to be exhilarating. Now it's exhausting. How did our vision of prosperity get so out of whack? And how can we fix it?

FORTUNE SHRINKING MIDDLE CLASS

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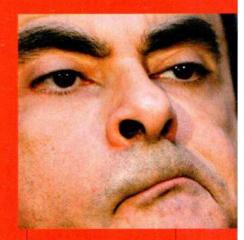
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the laggard enterprise known as
U.S. health care. Life expectancy,
meanwhile, has barely budged.
Text by CLIFTON LEAF; graphics
by NICOLAS RAPP

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