



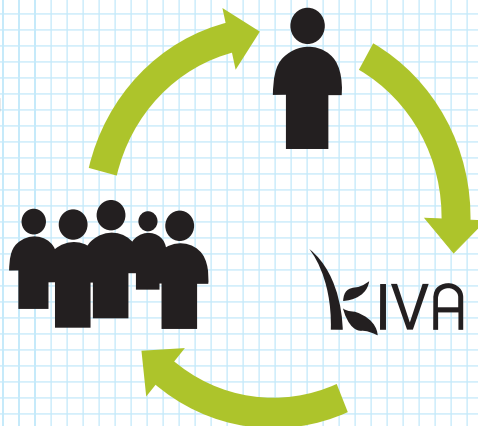
WORLD BEAT

For anyone who misses the days of popping a mix tape in the car stereo and rocking out to its carefully curated sound track, Ryan Goldman is your new nostalgia guru. In 2003, Goldman founded the International Mixtape Project (www.myspace.com/mixtapeproject),

a group of music fans who make monthly compilations and send them to other audiophiles in far-off locales. The effort, which gained chain letter-like momentum from the get-go, happens to dovetail nicely with Goldman's day job in international education policy reform. "There's a sense that certain objectives are universal," he says, "enjoyment and exchange of music, access to and quality of education." Today, the IMP boasts 500 participants from more than 30 countries. At \$10 a year, and a tape (or CD) a month, nothing beats the payoff—a customized library of music from around the globe. —Susan Pike

A LITTLE LARGESSE GOES A LONG WAY

Have you always wanted to give like Bill Gates, but you lack the "disposable" part of "disposable income"? Kiva (www.kiva.org), a San Francisco-based microfinance institution, connects individuals interested in loaning small amounts of money with entrepreneurs from underdeveloped countries. Becoming a junior philanthropist is simple: select from a list of profiled small businesses in countries such as Ecuador and Uganda, choose any loan amount (as low as \$25), and send it via PayPal. The recipient posts an online journal that lets you scope out where your money is being spent, how it's helping the community, and when payments are made. Once the loan is repaid, you get your scratch back, ready to reinvest or withdraw. If only the Rockefellers had it this easy. —SP



FREEZE-DRIED DRESSES

Though everything in Japan is pint-sized, no one likes it when their clothes emerge from the wash three times smaller. To address the common problem of shrinkage, Japan's Toshiba Consumer Marketing Corporation added an air conditioner to its new combo washer/dryer unit. Three years in the making, the TW-2500VC with Air Con dries a load of wash with humidity-free air instead of heat. The interior environment it creates is like drying clothes in the desert sun, if there were deserts in Iceland.

But the machine does more than keep things cool and ready to wear. Toshiba's Yoichiro Honda says the appliance keeps utility bills from overheating by using half the electricity and water of a washer-dryer the company came out with last year. It also keeps the bathroom's dressing area—where most Japanese keep their machines—from becoming a sweat lodge. Now that's a sell: properly sized clothes and fewer bad hair days. —Brian Ashcraft

1989}

Cartoonist Scott Adams creates *Dilbert*, a comic strip that harps on the monotony of cubicle life. The main character, a middle-aged engineer who is dizzied by the absurdist protocols of corporate life, strikes a chord with workers everywhere.

1999}

Mike Judge directs *Office Space*, a satire on cubicle culture based on the Milton sketches he created for *Saturday Night Live*. The film chronicles the awesomely dull life of software company employees in suburban Texas. The movie becomes an instant cult classic.

today}

Companies are ditching the partitioned cubicle in favor of open-space work environments, with several people seated at one long desk, a design that looks very similar to the original Büro Landschaft. —Kira Deutch