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## Adventurer to hop a plane, but he won't know to where

SARAH'S WORLD by SARAH CRUMP

Steve Belkin, father of three from University Heights, will board a 747 on April 26 in Los Angeles with a small carry-on bag. He'll be heading west. At about the International Dateline, he and 49 fellow travelers will find out where in the world they will be plopped with nary a Lonely Planet guidebook.

Belkin is among the contestants in GreatEscape2004: The Global Scavenger Hunt. The three-week, around-the-world charity endurance event was hatched by William D. Chalmers, author of the irreverent travel book "A Blind Date With the World."

"I thrive in chaotic situations, so there will be no downside for me," said Belkin, 40, who has spent the past year traveling in India, New Zealand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia to prepare for the contest. Belkin, a sports marketer who has been to 15 countries, said he was selected for the trip through a frequent-flier Web site.