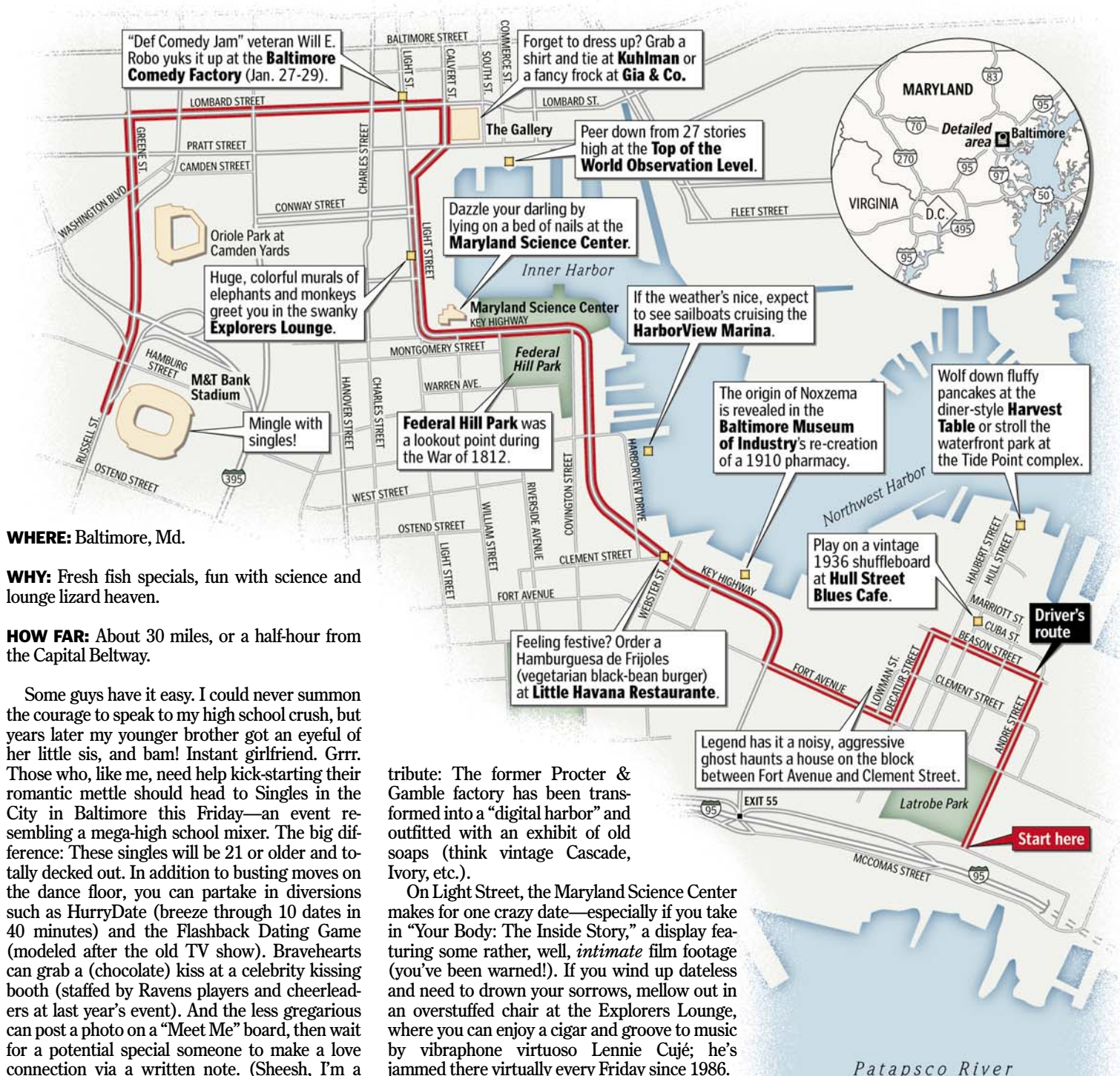


# ROADTRIP | Singles in the City



**WHERE:** Baltimore, Md.

**WHY:** Fresh fish specials, fun with science and lounge lizard heaven.

**HOW FAR:** About 30 miles, or a half-hour from the Capital Beltway.

Some guys have it easy. I could never summon the courage to speak to my high school crush, but years later my younger brother got an eyeful of her little sis, and bam! Instant girlfriend. Grrr. Those who, like me, need help kick-starting their romantic mettle should head to Singles in the City in Baltimore this Friday—an event resembling a mega-high school mixer. The big difference: These singles will be 21 or older and totally decked out. In addition to busting moves on the dance floor, you can partake in diversions such as HurryDate (breeze through 10 dates in 40 minutes) and the Flashback Dating Game (modeled after the old TV show). Bravehearts can grab a (chocolate) kiss at a celebrity kissing booth (staffed by Ravens players and cheerleaders at last year's event). And the less gregarious can post a photo on a "Meet Me" board, then wait for a potential special someone to make a love connection via a written note. (Sheesh, I'm a writer—why didn't I think of that?)

Start with a loop through Locust Point, a turn-of-the-(last)-century manufacturing town that's morphing into a hipster hangout. There, the Hull Street Blues Cafe is housed in a rustic 1889 building with exposed brick and a tin ceiling. Next, the Tide Point complex contains a true pop-culture

tribute: The former Procter & Gamble factory has been transformed into a "digital harbor" and outfitted with an exhibit of old soaps (think vintage Cascade, Ivory, etc.).

On Light Street, the Maryland Science Center makes for one crazy date—especially if you take in "Your Body: The Inside Story," a display featuring some rather, well, *intimate* film footage (you've been warned!). If you wind up dateless and need to drown your sorrows, mellow out in an overstuffed chair at the Explorers Lounge, where you can enjoy a cigar and groove to music by vibraphone virtuoso Lennie Cujé; he's jammed there virtually every Friday since 1986.

— Tony Sclafani

**Singles in the City.** M&T Bank Stadium, Club Level, 1101 Russell St.. 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Pricing and other details at [www.singlesinthecity.net/Main/events/event\\_baltimore-2.html](http://www.singlesinthecity.net/Main/events/event_baltimore-2.html). (The D.C. edition takes place Feb. 11 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.)