

Top News

U.S.

World

By State

By Topic

Politics

Sports

Entertainment

Business

Technology

Science

Health

Strange

Search

Photos

Classifieds

Autos

Jobs

Real Estate

## LOCAL

### Dan Collins: A look into the fast-paced world of speed dating

[Printer Friendly](#) | [PDF](#) | [Email](#)

Dan Collins, The Examiner

Aug 19, 2006 5:00 AM (3 days ago)

Current rank: # **5,523** of 6,103 articles

**BALTIMORE** - If there's one thing we Americans like, it's variety. And whatever else we may like, we like it FAST. Our messages, coffee and gratification better be instant.

Couple these two fun facts with another — there are nearly 96 million singles in this country, according to a 2004 report from the U.S. Census Bureau — and you've got a nation that's ripe for speed dating.

You walk into a room (in my case, the Babalu Grill), meet 10 to 12 strangers of the opposite sex, chat each up for 6 minutes, go home and check a Web site to see if anyone you met was entranced enough by your Adidas Sport cologne to chat with you again.

I had the speed-dating experience several years ago with another service at the Inner Harbor Hard Rock Café (loud distracting music, bad lighting and lots of alcohol definitely facilitate these events) and found my evening courtesy of the folks at Cupid.com/PreDating to be about the same, but with subtle differences.

With Pre-Dating, you are identified by first name only, and are allotted 6 minutes per "pre-date" (I liked to think of it as a kind of mini job-interview. ... What's your sign? Come here often? What are your strengths and weaknesses, and where do you see yourself in five years?).

"Six minutes seems to be the perfect amount of time to determine if this someone I'd want to go with on a date," said Jaynie Beard, an event coordinator for Cupid.com/Pre-Dating who has split her time bringing people together in Baltimore and Harrisburg, Pa., for three years.



