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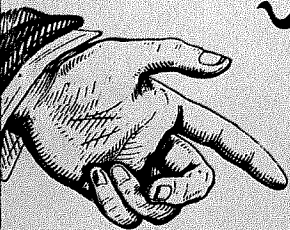
# BEST

of BALTIMORE

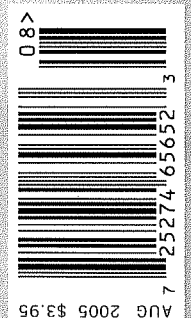
2005

**THE REGION'S BEST BETS  
FOR DINING, SHOPPING, AND MORE!**

**PLUS! EDITORS' PICKS:  
30 Hidden Treasures**



**INSIDE: THE NEXT INNER HARBOR? • CLASSIC  
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first in a special bulletin from the daily e-mail service of the *Baltimore Business Journal*. For the mere five minutes it takes to sign up at [baltimore.bizjournals.com](http://baltimore.bizjournals.com), the estimated 6,500 subscribers get an update on business news every workday at 3 p.m.—a deadline that publisher Jim Breiner says affords the BBJ the opportunity to beat the dailies at their own game.

**Local Stock** Sure, there were local penny stocks with impressive revenue jumps (1,000 percent gains!) in the past 12 months, but then again, 1,000 times a penny is still just 10 bucks. Thanks to the research gurus at Hardesty Capital Management, we know that the place to make real money in the past year was Towson-based power-tools giant **Black & Decker**, whose stock (BDK) jumped about 30 percent, to \$85 a share, after increasing its sales to \$5.4 billion.

**New Company** A dating service for companies? That's the big idea behind three-year-old **BDMetrics Inc.**, which has created a networking software to help "hook up" (professionally speaking) the busy executives, sales managers, and even journalists who attend the 13,000 trade shows held in the U.S. each year. And it seems to be working. The company had 300-percent growth in sales last year, and CEO Rick Geritz just moved his 40 employees to swank new digs at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County's research park.

DAVID COLWELL

## ✦ HIDDEN TREASURE: Maximum Medians

You don't need a road sign to know you've crossed the Mason Dixon Line back into Maryland. You'll know you're home when you're greeted by **one of the most ambitious highway landscaping programs in the nation**. Our median strips and roadsides are awash in a sea of poppies, wildflowers, cosmos, daffodils, and assorted native flowers—not to mention the shrubs, trees, and crawling ivy that are strategically planted to "soften the impact" of concrete sound barriers.

Charlie Adams, director of environmental design for the state highway administration and a 33-year department veteran, is the man behind the plan, assisted by Dan Uebersax, a 17-year veteran and the division chief for landscaping architecture.

"It's a big tourism draw but there are also safety motives," explains Adams. "It breaks up the monotony of driving, controls snow drifting, and in some cases is intended to block the glare from headlights in the opposite lanes."

Adams's work does not go unnoticed. Apparently, he and his cohorts even have median-strip groupies. "We get letters, postcards, and calls about the beauty of our roadways compared to other states, how it brightens people's drives to work, and helps them decompress even if they're stuck in traffic," says Adams. "It really makes our day." —Ken Iglehart

