

# LOOK out K

WEEKEND

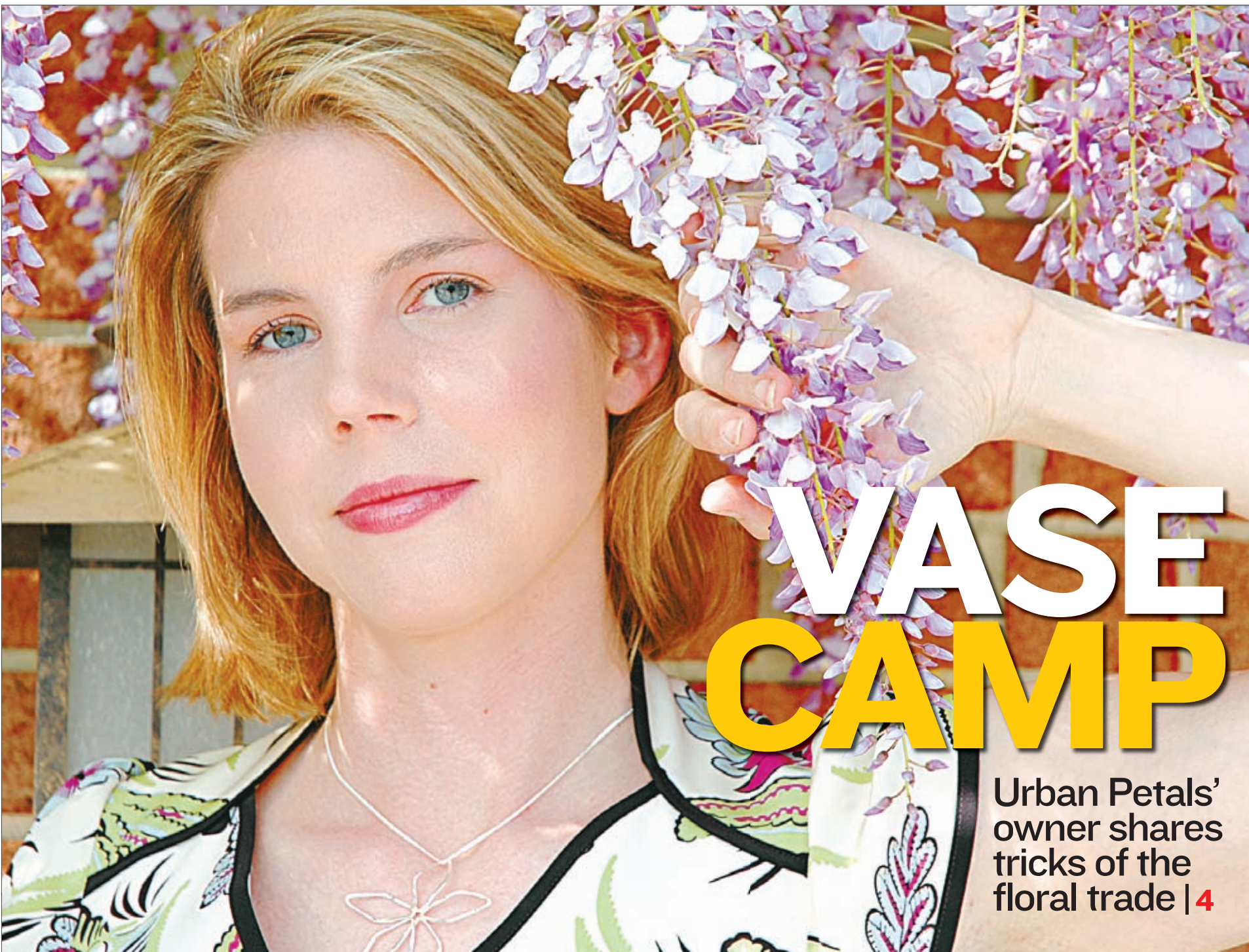
## Kassel in A Crowd:

The NPR host on late-night D.C. and his own voice | 3



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PROWLING THE WASHINGTON AREA FOR THE BEST IN SHOPPING AND DIVERSIONS >> APRIL 28-MAY 4, 2006



# VASE CAMP

Urban Petals' owner shares tricks of the floral trade | 4

**FLOWER GIRL:** Floral designer Sarah von Schrader regularly teaches folks to build better bouquets. Inside, she shows off blooming fashion and turns supermarket poses and wild containers into hip arrangements.

# Bloom Boom



Hydrangeas, snapdragons and leaves snipped from house-plants overflow from a shell-shaped ice bucket. (\$170, GORE DEAN, 3338 M ST. NW; 202-625-9199)

Ice cube trays look mod stacked and stuffed with roses, mums and kumquats. "The little compartments can hold leftover flowers," Sarah said. (\$10, HOME RULE, 1807 14TH ST. NW; 202-797-5544)

"This makes me think of a beach wedding," said Sarah, who tucked mums and lilies into a tiny china seashell. (\$12, ANTHROPOLOGIE.COM)

**Floral designer Sarah von Schrader** masses roses on cakes for weddings and fills towering containers with orchids for corporate clients. But the owner of Urban Petals is also known for flower-empowering house parties, where she shows the arranging-impaired how to mix posies and produce in unusual vessels. "There's an excitement to putting different things together and making them look good," she said. Here, using supermarket blooms, fruits and veggies plus eclectic containers, she shows how to "think outside the vase" — while showing off some flower-strewn fashion. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)



"A tall vase calls for tall flowers," said Sarah. In this marbled resin number, peppers (secured on skewers!) spice up sprays of white lilies. (\$45, VASTU, 1829 14TH ST. NW; 202-234-8344)

Sarah blossoms in Nanette Lepore's silk dress (\$330, ALL ABOUT JANE, 2839 CLARENDON BLVD.; 703-243-4424) and A. Marinelli mules (\$95, BETSY FISHER, 1224 CONNECTICUT AVE. NW; 202-785-1975). Gilding the lily: a posy necklace. (\$38, SOUTH MOON UNDER, 2700 CLARENDON BLVD.; 703-807-4083)



Office grace: Who knew a metal drawer liner could make a flower holder? Sarah soaked floral foam in H2O, then spiked it with roses, artichokes and greenery. (\$6, LOGAN HARDWARE, 1416 P ST. NW; 202-265-8900)

Tropi-cool: Treesje's Cuban chic hobo marries a retro, floral fabric with lime-green suede ruffles. (\$216, PINK NOVEMBER, 1529 WISCONSIN AVE. NW; 202-333-1121)



We bet Isaac Mizrahi's Pop-party, tulip-print dress will become a collectible, so harvest yours before the stock wilts away. (\$25, TARGET.COM)



Hello, English roses. Raffia fleurs festoon slides by Brit clothier Boden. And there are no thorns here, since these babies are lined with pink suede. (\$84, BODENUSA.COM)



Sarah put different elements in this ceramic vessel's three chambers. It'd also look serene filled with one type of flower. (\$95, SIMPLY HOME, 1412 U ST. NW; 202-986-8607)



When stacked together, crinolated plastic pot liners form an unusual flower urn. Tulips and parsley add punch. (\$1.50 EACH, GARDEN DISTRICT, 1801 14TH ST. NW; 202-797-9005)



## HOW-TO LIST



Kumquats, limes and even rhubarb rock an unusual bouquet by Sarah.

## Petal Pointers

Sarah von Schrader, floral designer, tells how you can put glory in your flower arrangements. For more info on her work and parties, visit [urbanpetals.com](http://urbanpetals.com). J.B.

### What tricks do you reveal in your classes?

Gather a flower bunch in your hands, then secure it with a rubber band. Put it in a vase, and it'll stay in place. Anchor things like peppers and kumquats with shish kebab skewers.

### How do you choose containers?

Go with what speaks to you. Sometimes that's a vase. Other times it's something like a drawer organizer, or even red plastic cups from CVS. I once arranged flowers in silver trophy cups!

### How do you keep posies fresh?

Don't put foliage below the water — that creates bacteria. And feed flowers by adding Sprite or sugar to the water.

### How do I get good blooms at the grocery store?

Ask the floral department which day of the week things arrive, that way you can get the freshest flowers. Pick up what appeals to you, maybe a mixed bouquet you can split up and some colorful fruit.

### What about your flower parties?

They cost \$75 per person for a minimum of eight. I come to your house with flowers, and each guest leaves with at least two arrangements.