



**FYI**  
Family seeks  
better labeling  
of food. C5

## Accents

### Clarification

The correct dates for Celebrating the Quilt: An American Legacy, a quilt show sponsored by the Greater Ann Arbor Quilt Guild, are Saturday-Sunday, July 27-28.

The show will take place 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days at Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Drive, between Huron River Drive and Clark in Ann Arbor. Admission is \$5. Parking is free.

### Heads up

The Sports Gallery Inc. in Birmingham finally has it back in stock: the official locker room cap for the 2002 Stanley Cup Champions, the Detroit Red Wings. This cap sold out immediately after the Wings won their third Cup over the last five years.



The caps are black with the NHL and all other official logos, and sell for \$24.99 each. They are only available for a limited time.

The Sports Gallery Inc. is at 269 S. Old Woodward. For more information, call (248) 642-0044 or e-mail info@sports-gallery.com.

### Smoke screening

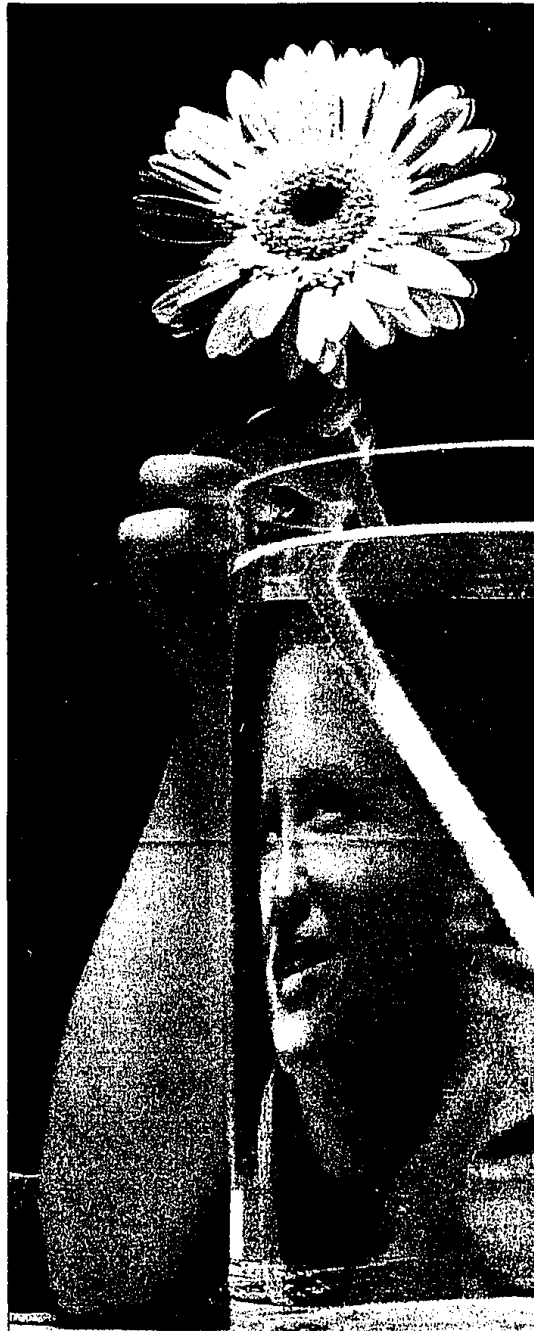
Home Safeguard Industries introduces a first-of-its-kind aerosol smoke alarm spray tester. The tester, called Smoke Check<sup>®</sup>, is a hand-held spray that is like real smoke.

The spray is non-toxic and environmentally safe. Smoke Check<sup>®</sup> is UL listed and meets the National Fire Protection Association code 72 test requirements.

Smoke Check<sup>®</sup> retails for \$4.99. One can offers more than 10 bursts. The product is available at ACE Hardware Stores and Home Centers, and will be available at The Home Depot and other retail stores.

For more information, contact Home Safeguard Industries at (800) 822-5676, e-mail info@homesafeguard.com, or visit www.homesafeguard.com.

"Smoke Check<sup>®</sup> allows the homeowners to test their detectors just like fire safety professionals do in commercial buildings by simulating the full range of fire conditions," said Scott Pyle, Home Safeguard Industries president. "Unlike the standard 'button test,' the Smoke Check<sup>®</sup> aerosol is a complete test. It checks the power source. It tests the alarm's electronics and it checks the alarm's sensor."



A floral designer since age 15, Laural Wayna of Blossoms in Birmingham places a Gerber daisy in a vase of water.

# Floral design from the garden

BY NICOLE STAFFORD  
STAFF WRITER

In truth, no flower is perfect. Yet, an inspired, if not seemingly perfect, display of summer blooms plucked from the garden brings a sort of pure completion to the home and the cycle of living.

Since flowers aren't perfect, floral arrangements can't be. In other words, don't turn the pleasurable experience of working with flowers into a stressful one.

"Every flower has imperfections. No flower is the same," said Laural Wayna, floral designer at Blossoms, a Birmingham flower shop well known for its creative arrangements. "So go with what it is and enjoy it for what it is."

Forcing structure and getting hung up on design rules tends to ruin the natural beauty of flowers' lines anyway, she said.

That's also a way to zap creativity, said Wayna, a floral designer since age 15 who has a degree in horticulture.

That said, floral designers draw on general design principles, none of which is too complicated for the average home gardener to grasp.

Design and arrange in odd-numbered clusters of flowers of the same variety. Instead of placing one stem at a time into a vase or container, says Wayna.

"Odd numbers arrange easier to the eye than even numbers."

It's also a good idea to work with one cluster of the same variety at a time, she said.

One hydrangea with three lilies and five roses, for instance, offers a stunning, multi-bud focal point and a textured background pattern.

"But that doesn't mean you can't get away with two, two and two," said Wayna. Odd numbers simply help create texture and keep the eye moving within the arrangement.

Altering flower height also creates texture, says Wayna. And, working with different heights encourages the habit of layering your elements and seeing arrangements in full, three-dimensional form.

Layers are best built on greenery, which provide a base of support and control, plus a way to prop up flowers. Greens also hide the mechanics of an arrangement. If you choose to place a mesh top or strips of tape over the vase opening for stem support.

When you're done designing, add greens to fill in empty spaces.

"You can always go back and touch up with some greenery to fill holes and hide stems," said Wayna.

If you're unhappy with your arrangement, play and experiment by making small changes. Simply cup your hand underneath the bloom where it meets the stem and remove the flower. Remember, give each stem a fresh cut before returning to

## Design tips from the pros

Design and arrange using clusters of one variety of flower at a time.

Group different flowers by variety and cut each grouping at the same length, but alter stem length for texture.

Odd-numbered groups of flowers appeal to the eyes and are easier to arrange.

Choose a vase or container that's equal to or about half the size of your flower arrangement's height and volume.

Think in terms of layers and groups, and view vase from all sides during arrangement process.

Create a focal point with a cluster of flowers, a contrasting color or use of a single large bloom.

Thrive arrangements to the size and style of the room where they will be placed.

Use greens to form an arrangement base and prop up flowers.

Add greens to a finished arrangement to fill holes.

Greens also hide the mechanics of an arrangement, such as a mesh vase top or an oasis.

When arranging with an oasis, make sure stems are well-inserted and the oasis can't be seen.

Experiment with rocks, stones, marbles, seashells and even greens at the bottom of clear vases for more texture.

Try to enhance the natural flow and movement of flowers and greens.

Think of color as mood and don't worry about coordinating shades — ultimately, they all work well together.

## Proper preparation gives flowers staying power

BY NICOLE STAFFORD  
STAFF WRITER

When working with fresh flowers, a little preparation goes a long way — literally.

Proper tools and preliminary techniques prolong the life of floral arrangements. So take note of the fundamentals before leaping into design.

Most important — and it can't be stressed enough: Give each stem a fresh cut immediately before placing in vase water.

"Otherwise, it won't draw up

water like it's supposed to," said Jim Holland, owner of Holland's Floral & Gifts in downtown Rochester.

It's also a good idea to soak and store freshly cut flowers in a basin of water while you're arranging.

As important, make fresh cuts at an angle with a knife, not scissors and not pruning shears, says Laural Wayna, floral designer at Blossoms in Birmingham. Though commonly used by home gardeners to give

fresh cuts, pruning shears crush stems and don't make a clean, sharp slice, which is key to longevity.

Having clean vase water also pro-

longs an arrangement's life, says Ann Rogers, florist greenhouse manager at English Gardens in West Bloomfield. To keep water clean, use a floral preservative and change water every one to two days, remembering to give stems a fresh cut each time.

Removing all stem leaves, except those above the vase water line, helps to keep water fresh and flowers bright and alive.

Watch out for natural elements that reduce an arrangement's



If you're unhappy with your first arrangement, experiment and make small changes. To remove a flower from a vase without damaging it, cup your hand underneath the blossom at the base of the stem and draw it out of the arrangement.

PLEASE SEE FLOWERS, C4

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