

# BEAT OF WASHINGTON

## MOST PROMISING CHEF

Many associate the Southern-style cooking at downtown DC's Vidalia with chef/owner Jeff Buben, but much credit also goes to longtime chef de cuisine **Peter Smith**. In his teens, Smith cooked on weekends at the Country Club of Fairfax. After graduation from L'Academie de Cuisine in Gaithersburg, he worked at the Occidental Restaurant. Now, after 14 years with Buben, Smith, 34, is scouting locations near the MCI Center for a relaxed, upscale Modern American restaurant of his own. Judging from the success of the Vidalia cooks Smith has taught over the years—from City-Zen's Eric Ziebold to Matchbox's Graig Gluffing—he'll do well.



**WASHINGTON'S BEST HOPE:** Coach Joe Gibbs came back after 11 years of football retirement to make the Redskins great again. It's been a rocky start, but most Washington fans have faith that he can do it.

Here are some of our favorite people, places, and things—coffee, cocktails, getaways, dance clubs, desserts, neighborhoods, blogs, ski slopes, pizza, boutiques, and more. Plus holiday treats, New Year's Eve celebrations, and 20 young people to watch in 2005 and beyond.

*Washingtonian staff contributing to this section were Chuck Conconi, Sherri Dalphonse, Susan Davidson, Mary Clare Fleury, Cynthia Hacinli, Thomas Head, Stephanie Jones, Ann Limpert, Drew Lindsay, Chad Lorenz, Leslie Milk, William O'Sullivan, Cindy Rich, and Jeremy Stahl. Also contributing were writers Cathy Alter, Ann Cochran, and Jenny Sullivan.*