RETAIL THERAPY

Island Dreamin'

M AY IS SUCH A FLIRT, REALLY. She beckons us with her sunny disposition only to coyly disappear behind a nimbus cloud at whim. When she is really riled up, I prefer to admire her technique via the weather channel from points south along the East coast. But, invariably, with the arsenal of graduation invites in route, escape via Reagan National is often delayed until after Memorial Day.

Lucky for me, my ability to ferret out style with a twinkle and a twirl has only improved since downgrading my cable package from all access to internet only. With an extra 3 hours a week, why not put my newly sharpened fashion investigator abilities to the test? Surely, I can disregard May's antics and find full frontal summer in DC before June.

Mariessa Terrell

PHOTOS BY ANGELA HEATH
Blouse, skirt, earrings from Buffalo Exchange; Beaded necklaces and Set design courtesy of GoodWood

Canary earring and brooch set from Buffalo Exchange

Multicolored vintage shopping bag from Meeps

As always, I confine my search to the Midcity section of the District. At 1318 14th Street, NW, I snag a sheer ruffled white blouse, jovial printed trapeze cotton skirt and a translucent canary lucite earrings/broach set all for less than $30 at Buffalo Exchange. Then at 2104 18th Street, NW, I come upon a juicy multi colored vintage shopping bag at Meeps sprinkled from front to back with what look like enlarged Skittles candies. Lastly, at 1428 U Street, NW, I scout an entire collection of oversized Tibetan beaded necklaces in various stages of escape from a series of wooden drawers. The scene perfectly imagined by the team at Good Wood (Dan, Anna, Aaron, Justin and Rachel) looks remarkably like an island girls' personal treasure trove.

How can the smallest Ward (1) in the city boast such an eclectic mix of independent retail? Its magic, darling!
—*Fashion attorney Mariessa Terrell, aka Simone Butterfly, Fashion Investigator, does her sleuthing at www.simonebutterfly.com and @SimoneBtrfly.*