

In Abundance

Local Berries, Cherries and Veggies

by Joe Gabriel

Late June signals the farewell to strawberries (it's not too late but you'd better hurry), and welcomes the raspberry and blueberry season. If the weather continues to be warm and dry, raspberries will be in copious supply by the 15th of July and blueberries the third and fourth week of July. Raspberries come and go quickly—don't miss your chance this season. Also, berries picked after a series of sunny days taste the best.

July fourth marks the start of the cherry season. Tom Armstrong of Tom's Orchard on Beacon Drive says the harvest may begin a week or two later this year because of a late bloom. However, the warm weather, if it continues, will mean a harvest date of July 10th at the latest. Royal Anns begin the cherry season, followed by Bings a week later and then Lamberts the next week. Look for pie cherries the third week of July.

Fresh vegetables are increasing in quality and variety now that the harsh spring days are behind



us. Shoppers can expect broccoli, bok choy and Chinese cabbage, also snow and sugar snap peas. If you have never tried a sugar snap pea, you are in for a treat. These edible pod peas are swollen when mature unlike the snow pea which is relatively flat, and is sweeter and more succulent. Red and white icicle radishes are now available to help spice up your salads. Lettuce is coming into its own; prices are coming down and should continue to do so with the quality remaining high. Lettuce varieties to look for are: red leaf, green leaf, butter, Marvelle (a red butter), romaine, salad bowl and a new European variety called Little Gem. Spinach remains readily available; supply and quality will be at a peak for the next few weeks. Take advantage of the best that the season has to offer.

Retail outlets for local produce are limited. The larger chain stores such as Safeway, Albertson's and IGA affiliated stores have buying guidelines that eliminate the direct purchasing of local fruits and vegetables. Because of this, independent grocery stores have become the mainstays for marketing area farmers' produce. The following stores offer the greatest selection of area produce and are recommended because of their continued support of local farms: Red Barn Grocery, New Frontier Market, The Kiva, Rainbow Produce (Sundance) and Mark's Produce Plus. Growers also sell to Emerald and Pacific Fruit, two area produce distributors. This produce is sold in many stores and served in restaurants but is a "well kept secret." Ask the produce person where you shop about the produce and its origins. You deserve the best. Let the produce people know you want local fruits and vegetables. The Eugene/Springfield farmers need your support.

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BOOKS

Review

Luna

By Delacorta; published by Samuel Books, 1985.

Remember Alba (the 13-year-old nymph) and her wealthy middle-aged benefactor Gorodish, that not-very-ordinary couple first encountered in *Diva*? They're back, in *Luna*. Delacorta's third novel in celebration of the outrageous Parisian lifestyle of this very hip pair. In *Luna*, a crazed psychiatrist abducts Alba as part of an elaborate scheme to give a wealthy client a new life. The ab-

duction provides the opportunity for some very clever sleuthing by Gorodish, and culminates in a thrilling rescue, complete with appropriate revenge.

Delacorta is the name under which Swiss-born writer Daniel Odier publishes the Alba/Gorodish fantasies. *Luna* follows *Diva* and *Nana* in the series, and is followed by *Lola*, which was filmed for French television. Under his own name, Daniel Odier has written seven other novels, a couple of which have been made into pictures.

Chances are good you can read *Luna* in a couple of hours, and

that's probably the right way to do it. The experience should be no more painful than sitting through a popular well crafted movie. For example, *Luna* is as action-packed and superficial as *Romancing the Stone*, and enjoyable for many of the same reasons (mainly, that it isn't anything like your life). The book moves fast; it is plot-driven, with little character development beyond what's needed to tell the good guys from the bad guys. It reads like a tight well-scripted action adventure fantasy, practically ready for the filmmaker's translation into celluloid.

—Lois Wadsworth

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