

Goofy mystery enjoyable read

Heatherle Himes
Oregon Daily Emerald

On the day of a huge "killer prices" grocery sale, the dead body of the Galaxy Foods' spokes model Ginger slid off the shelf that displayed \$1.98 boxes of cornflakes.

Stressed-out manager Ted Constantino ordered box boys to put up a visual barrier of paper towel rolls and groaned at the inconvenience of the owner Karl's tacky tart fiance's strangulation.

It's obvious to a careful reader which one of the crazy people populating this comedic mystery throttled the Peg Bundy look-alike fiancee; But *The Body in the Cornflakes*, by K.K. Beck is well worth reading.

The cast of suspects, Karl's family, reads like a therapist's case log. They are twisted, greedy and sex-crazed enough to like Karl's fiancee better as a corpse than as a bride.

Karl's son is a drunk whose wife accuses him and Ginger of doing the horizontal mambo. He scrambles to hide his lust while his wife seethes with jealousy.

Their son Lance is Karl's pet, despite his general slimy disposition and shiny Italian suits. This grandson wants to take over the store.

The other grandson has a violent temper and a consuming passion for the grocery store business, but Karl doesn't trust him.

Karl's son-in-law has deluded himself into thinking that healthy Karl has one foot in the grave and he plans to leave the cash-cow store to his daughter and least favorite son-in-law.

While the detectives who collect the nude corpse argue about its breast implants and dyed red hair before beginning the investigation, manager Ted



THE BODY IN THE CORNFLAKES ★★★
AUTHOR: Elizabeth Kennedy and Madeline Davis
PUBLISHER: Penguin Books

tries to side-step the relatives and keep the store running.

"Tired produce, crabby clerks, a dirty floor — all of these could drive a customer away," the narrative says. "But dead bodies made these problems into minor irritants. Ted couldn't imagine anything worse. People wanted convenience and familiarity where they shopped. Murder was the ultimate retail letdown."

The customers and the staff of the grocery store are as deranged as the suspects. A vegetarian waif declares the produce creepy and accuses Ted of poisoning the customers; a 17-year-old box boy flirts with lonely housewives and exists in a hormonal haze; a cookie salesman smashes other companies' cookies with a can of chili.

Ted's working days are a whirl, but he somehow finds time for a little romance with Karl's granddaughter and some amateur sleuthing. His attempts at both are hilarious and straight out of a bad 1940s gumshoe movie.

But the real humor in this book is the idea of murder, a very messy thing, amidst the sterile atmosphere of a grocery store. The author has created a world where the customers can say things like "This is it. I'm never shopping here again. They've got dead bodies here all the time."

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Company seeks new audience with program

By Kaly Soto
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Briggs Contemporary Dance Company (BCDC), formerly the Eugene Jazz Company, opens its season at the Hult Center Thursday night with a new program of "stunning original dances."

Donna Briggs founded BCDC in 1988, she is the artistic director and chief choreographer company as well as the owner of Eugene Jazz Studio. Briggs began dancing in 1973 at the age of 17. Since 1988 Briggs has choreographed more than 30 original dances for BCDC, her works include *Freedom Art of Madness*,

Man in the Mirror and *Nightmare*. In addition to her work with BCDC Briggs also works with local schools teaching dance, choreography and performance.

The Company is composed of dancers from around the country as well as many talented locals.

Cheryl Lemmer is Assistant Director of BCDC, she began her tenure with Briggs in 1985 after moving to Oregon from New Jersey. Lemmer is also a member of the Lance Community College Performing Arts faculty for the last six years in this capacity her works have been performed at LCC faculty dance concerts.

Two choreographers work with BCDC to expand the scope of dance attempted by the dancers, Marianne Gardner also began her dancing career in New Jersey. Gardner studied as a scholarship student at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center in New York City, she also studied composition and choreography with Pearl Lang. In addition to her impressive educational background Gardner has had a distinguished 16 year career as a professional dancer with performances in Alvin Ailey Special Group, Galaxy Dance Troupe,

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