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New Year's Opera Gala Hansel and Gretel

This year, the Eugene Opera has selected Engelbert Humperdinck's classic fantasy opera, *Hansel and Gretel*, for their traditional Merrill Lynch New Year's Gala Performance. There will be two performances, a family matinee at 2:30 pm on Sunday, December 29, and the New Year's Gala Performance on Tuesday, December 31.

The New Year's festivities begin with a pre-curtain dinner served in the John Phillip Sousa Room at the Eugene Conference Center, at 6:30 pm. A cocktail hour begins at 5:30.

Then the opera begins at 8 pm, featuring guest artists from throughout the United States.

Following the performance is the Gala New Year's Party, held in Studio One of the Hult Center. A buffet supper will be provided by the Excelsior Charcuterie, with music by the Chuck Ruff Band. Champagne is also provided.

The Eugene Hilton is once again offering special prices to opera goers - \$21 per person - for those who wish to spend the night downtown.

Tickets may be purchased separately for the dinner, opera and Gala Party: Diner is \$17.50; party is \$25; and opera tickets range from \$7 to \$16 (box seats \$50). Call the Hult Center Box Office at 687-5000 for reservations.

For ticket information on the other Gala festivities, call the Eugene Opera at 485-3985.

Senior citizens and students may take advantage of day-of-performance discounts. If tickets are available, seniors may purchase tickets at half price at any time that day. For students, there is a "rush" 30 minutes before curtain time, when all remaining tickets are half price.

Polar Bear is Comin' to Town

by Laura Mappin

*They do it in the cold.
They do it in the rain.
They did it last year.
They'll do it again!*

It's the eighth Annual Polar Bear Bicycle Ride held New Year's Day, snow or shine.

The hearty and foolhardy alike will don their warm apparel, corn-cob pipes and button noses to pedal 38 flat miles over the river and through the fields to Harrisburg and back. Even though Grandmother won't be there, most riders will take full advantage of the comfy, cozy stop at The Hungry Farmer restaurant in Harrisburg which will provide breakfast and lunch type fare along with a place to mingle and get warm.

Registration begins bright and early at 9:30 am in the Pedal Power parking lot at 6th and High

Streets. All interested souls are encouraged to participate. About 75 riders are expected this year. Warm clothing, food, money, and water are essentials. Silver bells, turtle doves, and pouting are better left at home. A sag wagon will be available for mechanical assistance and for those who "poop out," except for you, Santa, we know you've got the stamina!

There is no registration fee; however, donations will be solicited during registration to help cover advertising and sag wagon costs. You might be able to get away with donating hot chocolate but forget the carrot sticks. The event is sponsored this year by all area cycling clubs, The Oregon Council of American Youth Hostels, and Pedal Power. Questions? Call the ride coordinator elf Susan Baxter at 345-7159. Don your warmest woolies! See you at the Polar Bear!

◆ HOMEMADE SOUP AND BREAD ◆



• Weekend Dinner Specials •
• Dec. 20-22 •

Tofu Madness
Salad & Bread
\$3.50

• Dec. 27-30 •
Baked Halibut
Salad & Rice
\$4.50

• Jan. 3-5 •
Enchiladas with cheese,
olives and green onions
Beans & Salad
\$3.50

Breakfast and Lunch 7 am-2 pm daily
Dinner 5:30-9:30 pm Friday, Saturday & Sunday
395 West 5th ◆ 342-2075.