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Arts and Entertainment

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Eugene Opera! drifts to high seas in Pinafore

That Eugene ranks the title "small city" as opposed to "large town," culturally speaking, is not a stray boast. Witness the number of resident repertory theater companies, the imminent plans for a civic center, the presence of a full-fledged art museum and the magnetic appeal for touring top-name performers. Witness, also, the fact that Eugene has a resident opera company — a struggling fledgling of a company, granted, but an actively producing opera company all the same.

Since its conception one year ago Eugene Opera! (with an emphasis on the !) has produced two operas — "Carmen" and "La Serva Padrona" — and one choral work — Haydn's "Lord Nelson Mass" — as well as established itself as a culturally enriching program in the local school district. But this opera company is not of normal ilk. A product of the seventies, Eugene Opera! was formed on a cooperative basis due to financial limitations. It is not housed in a garishly baroque opera center nor is it run by a staunch-fisted manager. Eugene Opera! is both a defier of tradition and a restorer of tradition. Please turn to page 4B for the story.

