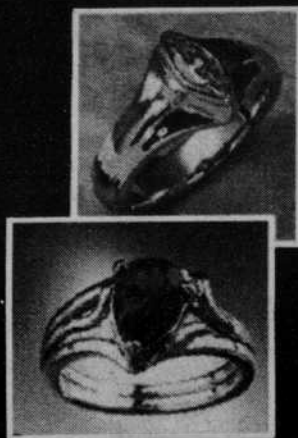


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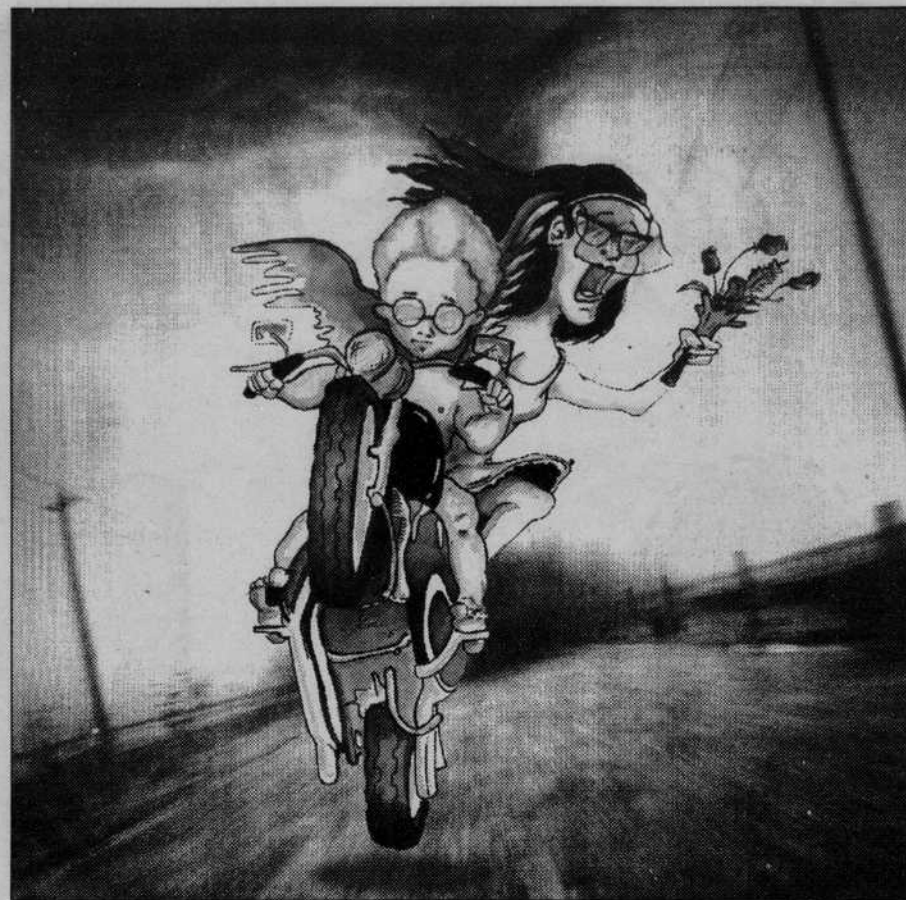
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Bryan Dixon Emerald

Traditional ceremonies don't satisfy all couples

■ A Las Vegas woman, formerly from Eugene, offers drive-thru weddings for those who seek something fast and unique

By Sara Jarrett
Oregon Daily Emerald

As children, most of us were led to believe that weddings are magical, a union of soul mates, a life's goal if you will.

The vision often included a bride sewn into a gown of jeweled, white satin and a groom with perfect posture thanks to his freshly starched tuxedo.

The fantasy also had the happy couple standing at the altar for longer than it would normally take two people to say the words "I do," exchange rings and lock lips.

This dream is not for all, however. In fact, many who did envision a classic, fairy-tale wedding, such as the one described, balk at the idea as adults.

To satisfy those with different ideas, the world has never been more equipped to ac-

commodate alternative ceremonies in exciting places such as mountain tops, hot air balloons or even passing by a drive-thru window in Las Vegas.

The day when couples can legally be married in the very place an ever-increasing number of them met — over the Internet — probably isn't too far away. Or is it? Purist Charlotte Richards, who has seen just about everything else during her 40-year stint in the Las Vegas wedding chapel circuit, says that opportunity will never come — at least not under her watchful eye.

Richards is a former Eugene resident who owns the Little White Wedding Chapel. She lived here from 1950 to 1954 and still has most of her family in the area, and the entrepreneur says people have asked her to marry them over the Internet in the past.

She'll serve her customers in any other way, Richards says, but she draws the line at a cyber wedding. Even if it weren't illegal because of the impossibility of gathering witnesses, the process is too imperson-

Turn to **Drive-thru**, page 7B

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