



A rose among thorns

**Rhonda Parker-
Guest Commentary**

The most recent topic in the news which I have been fairly upset by is the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

I was four years old when I watched Lady Diana Spencer become the Princess of Wales; her charm and beauty entranced the world then as it does now.

For a member of the royal family, Diana was very down-to-earth. She mingled with the commoners, gave her assistance to such causes as AIDS, leprosy, and more recently, land mines in Angola. Through it all, Diana was constantly followed and hounded by the press and the paparazzi.

Following a car at 120 mph just to take a few photos of Diana's private life seems ridiculous, but these photographers knew that such images would be worth tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars--one might speculate that the consumers of such magazines have blood on their hands as well. Then there is the drunk driving contingent.

The driver, who had also taken Prozac, had no business operating the Princess's vehicle in his inebri-

ated condition, but the legal system cannot bring charges against a dead man. So now the photographers in pursuit of the car have been arrested and are facing involuntary manslaughter charges.

Something nags at the back of my mind about the entire situation--this accident does not seem like much of an accident. This case is still under investigation, and the police just may discover that Diana was actually murdered for her dabblings in politics--especially her involvement with a worldwide ban on land mines.

Diana had a habit of using the media. That is true--but usually to bring attention to a certain issue or problem. Whereas Mother Teresa did her work in humble surroundings, Diana used the press to focus attention to a cause. She knew that her celebrity status would bring a certain amount of attention to the cause. Who knows what Diana might have accomplished in the next thirty or forty years?

It is shocking to realize that the world lost two of its most beloved humanitarians within five days of each other. However, there should be no debate on canonization---Mother

Teresa deserves it; Diana does not.

Mother Teresa was completely dedicated to working with the poor, but Diana only visited and raised money for charities. The two women, however, respected each other's work, and were good friends. In fact, Diana was buried with the rosary given to her by Mother Teresa.

At Diana's funeral, her brother Earl Spencer gave a moving, and somewhat scathing, eulogy for his sister. He took the opportunity to comment ever so subtly on the Royal Family, and he promised his sister that William and Harry would continue to be raised in the manner which she had begun. His speech was a moving, and fitting, tribute to the young woman.

William, who resembles his mother in every way, is the current heir to the throne. It is believed by some in Britain that the Queen will not resign from her position, leaving Charles too old to claim the throne and thus passing it to Prince William.

I was surprised to find myself weeping quite profusely at her funeral. I mourned from beginning to end.

I cried even harder when her sons, William and Harry, joined the

procession behind her casket; and I wept as Elton John played the rewrite of "Candle in the Wind."

I never knew how much the death of a woman, whom I had never met before and who was a member of the British Royal family, could affect me so profoundly. And I was not the only American that experienced such grief. Worldwide, people mourned the Princess and sympathized with her family.

The outpouring of flowers at Kensington Palace was shocking--the florists in London actually ran out of flowers and had to import more. Perhaps a better tribute would have been to take the money used on flowers and donate it to Diana's charities. I think she would have appreciated that much more.

Whatever happened on that warm August night in Paris, we may hold this thought true--Diana may never have become Queen of England, but she was the Queen of People's Hearts.

The world truly lost one of its most charismatic, most photographed, and most beloved women. Not only did Britain lose a princess, but the world lost "England's Rose."

People need to be responsible

by Jamie Tomasello

Misconceptions. Assumptions. These concepts are the seeds where from hostility sprouts.

Hostility breeds gossip and rumors. Gossip and rumors spread like vines choking friendships. Friendships die.

In today's society, no one wants to face the truth or responsibility. No one wants to hear or see the obvious.

Someone once said, "If you make a person think they are thinking, they love you.

If you make them think, they hate you." Paradoxical as it may sound, the blunt truth is the sharpest of all swords.

A person would rather

listen to and believe second-handed hearsay than the original source. How many times has the following situation happen to you? You are at odds with another person, and one of his/her best friends decides to act as

the go-between crony. However, this friend assumes the details instead of finding out the true facts. Half-truths are told, and you and your antagonist are worse shape than when you started, and you two did not

even speak. Why

do people have to go about problems in a round about manner? If you have something to say to someone, vent and get it off your chest. Do not have your friends, cronies, or messengers do your dirty work for you. Take responsibility for your own actions.

"The blunt truth is the sharpest of all swords."

Just another casualty at the library...

