

Grief-stricken over royal wedding, fans turn to Twitter

By Benjamin Timmins
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Can you tweet a tear or post a pout?

You can, if the online reaction to Prince William's engagement is any guide. Hours after the thoroughly modern prince announced his engagement to Kate Middleton, some of his female admirers expressed their grief in a thoroughly modern way: They took to Facebook and Twitter to mourn.

Social networking sites have been alight over the news that William, the object of female fascination for years, is now spoken for. Young women worldwide are tweeting and posting to express their sorrow at having missed the chance to catch a prince.

"my prince william is getting married," Eunice Jan Destura mourned on Facebook. "as if adding to injury, (he) gave (Kate) his mother's engagement ring!!! the one i coveted the most"

Destura, a 23-year-old nurse from Pasay City, Philippines.

was not alone. Lauren Indvik, assistant editor of social media blog Mashable.com, said that while most people were either happy or neutral in their posts or tweets, 16 percent reacted badly — and that group included many depressed women.

Heartbreak was one several emotions that flooded the web, according to Mark Ghuneim, whose New York-based software company Trendrr tracks tweets in real time.

Among those heartbroken and logged on was Kristin Kellner, 27, a marketing assistant from Princeton, New Jersey, who tweeted: "Even though Prince William is taken and my childhood dream of being a princess is crushed — i still LOVE his accent!"

Kellner later told The Associated Press that she realized the feeling was superficial.

"I never stood a chance in reality," she acknowledged. "But it was fun to dream about being a princess."

Sociologists say the outpouring of affection, congratulations and heartbreak online sheds

light on something larger: Social media now provides the well-wishers and the crestfallen alike a platform to share how they feel about royal events.

That's relatively new, University of York Lecturer in Sociology David Beer said, because in the past the queen's subjects might have viewed her and her family with more awe — and distance.

"It's a technological development and a cultural shift," Beer said.

Beer said social media, beyond allowing people to react to the news, fosters a closer relationship between celebrity and commoner. "It gives the sense that the distance between the royal family and their people is eroded," he said.

Ghuneim said that, with William gone, many followers have already settled on another option.

"Many did realize Harry is still out there and find some small solace in that," he said.

"Sure," said Kellner, as hopeful as ever. "Harry is just as cute as William!"



Prince William revealed that he proposed to his fiancée Kate Middleton with his mother Diana's engagement ring — a hot topic online this week.

Judge approves costumed performers on Hollywood streets

By Robert Jablon
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Batman, Superman and other superheroes have a federal judge's approval to perform on the streets of Hollywood.

Judge Dean Pregerson issued a ruling Wednesday that blocks what he calls selective police enforcement targeting Hollywood Boulevard's costumed characters, who solicit tips in exchange for pictures with tourists.

Pregerson wrote that although a costumed performance may not be a traditional form of speech, it is a constitutionally protected one.

"I think if cops want to do their job correctly, go find a real criminal," Michael Jackson impersonator Sean Vezina said Thursday.

Reports of aggressive panhandling and even fights involving unlicensed street performers led to a crackdown in May and June that resulted in about two dozen arrests for crimes that included blocking the sidewalk.

Since then, some performers said police have repeatedly ordered them away on threat of arrest — although on any given day a Superman, Spider-Man and Capt. Jack Sparrow can still be seen preening and flexing.

"This is a cultural activity," said

Fikret Sahin, 40, a Turkish immigrant who studies music at Los Angeles City College and occasionally poses as Yoda from "Star Wars."

The injunction was issued in a lawsuit brought by some characters. Police had not decided whether to appeal the injunction. Officers stepped up their presence after numerous complaints from business owners and the public that costumed performers had made violent threats against tourists who refused to hand over cash after snapping photos, said LAPD Hollywood area Sgt. Robert McDonald.

"It is all fun and games as long

as they are just standing there," McDonald said. "But in the past they have assaulted them when they have refused to give money."

Vezina, who has been a Jackson impersonator for six years, said he takes pains not to be aggressive when asking for tips.

Yet on Wednesday, an officer still told him to "beat it," he said.

Vezina said there have been times when police have made legitimate arrests.

Another Batman was celebrating his birthday and got drunk, and a Shrek performer got into a fight with a homeless man, Vezina said.

But Vezina said he mainly views

street performers as offering a valuable service. Outside of stars' cement footprints in front of Grauman's Chinese Theatre, Hollywood Boulevard offers day visitors little more than stores, souvenirs and cheap eateries.

"It's like a souvenir for the people," said Jordi Bellon, a 26-year-old from Spain, peering through his black Zorro mask as he wielded a rose and a plastic sword out side Grauman's.

Visitors seemed to agree.

"It's kind of neat, having Zorro standing next to you," said Yvonne Haug, 53, of Ontario, Canada. "It's part of the experience... This is what we came to see."

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By Jacqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Nov. 19, 2010

This year, you become more mellow and easy-going. Others often seek you out with many ideas, wanting your support. Learn to carefully weigh the pros and cons, not eliminating any choice until you are ready. Often, others seem to be challenging. They simply have different points of view. If you are single, you have a kaleidoscope of suitors. The real issue is who, what and when? From late spring on could be quite promising. If you are attached, your partner could become more buy-in and demanding at the same time. Let him or her assume a larger role in your relationship. This person is simply expressing him- or herself.

AURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** You cannot believe the difference a few days or a few hours make. Reach out for someone at a distance who means a lot to you. You note an easy flow, which is new. Be ready to update your opinions about a situation. Tonight, All smiles.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** You don't need to let others know how you feel. Your general demeanor expresses your feelings. Nevertheless,

you could be surprised at how quickly just a few days. Don't let it go by. To push, so hard, so fast, so soon.

CANCER (June 21-July 21) ***** A meeting could be your passport to a new day. You discover many different ideas and ways to get to this point. Note a change in partner or dear friend. Tonight, One where people are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Complete, is made by one, and freeing yourself up to help for the next few days. Consider rearranging plans or moving a meeting forward. Be willing to accept a completely different approach to a project. It just might work better. Tonight, A voice to be dealt with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Explore options with confidence that up till now you had not dared to look at. Investigate different ideas. Understand those around you better by walking in their shoes. Your newfound empathy increases your ease in relation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** Let a partner play the stronger role he or she has always wanted to play. Realize what is happening between you and another person. You might need to revise your opinions about this person and what you want. Tonight, Go along with a pal's suggestion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** Others appear to be more confident than they have been for a substantial period. Listen to suggestions. The more you incorporate others' ideas, the more you gain their support. A change in communication styles might be strangely more effective. Tonight, Just don't be

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** You are a natural leader. You are a natural leader. You are a natural leader.

PISCES (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** You are a natural leader. You are a natural leader. You are a natural leader.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** You are a natural leader. You are a natural leader. You are a natural leader.

BORN TODAY Media mogul Ted Turner (1938), TV host, interviewer Larry King (1933), actress Julie Foster (1962)

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Fri, Nov. 19th

7PM vs. Northwestern

