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By Audrey Wods THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON Princess Diana's friends call her ex-butler a vulture. He accuses royal courtiers of poisoning the minds of princes William and Harry. The butler's wife aims brickbats at Buckingham Palace.

And that's only so far: Paul Burrell's memoirs don't hit British bookstores until Monday.

Burrell is a "runaway train' with much distance yet to travel, former Buckingham Palace press spokesman Dickie Arbiter said in a weekend exchange of unpleasantries by all sides in the latest Diana dustup.

The Daily Mirror's serialization of Burrell's "A Royal Duty" has treated millions of readers to his intimate view of Princess Diana's life, including private correspondence from her former father-in-law, Prince Philip, and her brother, Earl Spencer. Prince William and Prince

Harry, who have known Burrell since early childhood, issued a strong statement Friday, accusing him of a "cold and overt betrayal" of their mother that would have mortified Diana were

My only intention in writing this book was to defend the princess and stand in her corner,"

In an interview published in The Sunday Times, the ex-butler

was quoted as saying, "The princes' little minds were poisoned. I don't know what courtiers have said to them."

The Sunday Times quoted an unidentified spokeswoman for Clarence House, the London home of Prince Charles and his sons, as saying their statement was "a heartfelt reaction by two

young men who cannot 66

take any more.' My only intention In the months after in writing this book Diana's fatal was to defend the August 1997 princess and stand in car crash in Paris, Burrell her corner. vowed repeatedly never to divulge her - Paul Burrell secrets. One of Princess Diana's butler the first to

friends trash tell-all book

last week was a letter he said Diana had written to him, saying she feared someone wanted to harm her and was going to tamper with the brakes of her car.

appear in the

Daily Mirror

serialization

Although a French judge ruled that the car crashed due to its high speed and the effect of alcohol and drugs on fatally injured driver Henri Paul, some insist the crash was not an accident. Publication of the letter prompted Mohammed Al Fayed, father of Diana's companion Dodi Fayed, who died in the crash with her, to renew his allegations that they

Rosa Monckton, one of Diana's closest friends, who rarely comments publicly about the princess, wrote in The Sunday Telegraph about that letter.

"This was by no means the only time that ludicrous ideas were put into her head by the sort of people who always prey upon vulnerable

> women in high places astrologers, socalled mystics and other pagan riffraff, Monckton said.

She said Burrell, better than most, knew how hounded the princess was during her life, "and yet now he joins the rest of

the vultures who had the task of looking after her, in picking over the bones of her existence in his book.'

The letters said to be from Prince Philip held Diana partly responsible for the breakdown of her marriage. He also purportedly wrote to tell her he "never dreamed" Prince Charles would leave her for his longtime companion, Camilla Parker Bowles.

Vivienne Parry, another friend and a former trustee of Princess Diana's memorial fund, described Burrell's book as "cynical."

"I think there has been wrestling with his conscient The only thing he has b wrestling with is which let to draw from the capaci file marked 'P' for pen plan," Parry told BBC tele

WORL

THE BATTALIO

sion Sunday. Burrell spent nearly years fighting accusations he stole more than 300 ite from the princess and other to

als, and went on trial last year He was exonerated November when Qu Elizabeth II announced the vant had told her five years a lier that he'd taken some Diana's papers for safekeeping

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Now, Burrell's wife, Man is getting into the fray.

In the Sunday Mirror, was quoted as saying, Royal Household wants even one to focus on the plight William and Harry, but wh about my boys? No one ga them any consideration w their dad was dragged to or and threatened with prison wh all he did was protect Princes Diana's world.'

Arbiter, the former pala spokesman, predicted Burd was not finished with his revels tions - even with the publis ing of his book.

"We have got a runawa train here and it is not going to stop until it hits the buffers, and the buffers are a long way off, Arbiter said Saturday.



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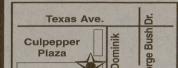
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10 Monday, October 27, 2003

The butler's done it: Diana's