

Cosmic Connection: A Timeline of the Universe Composed of Celestial Jewelry

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LOS ANGELES—Love of observatories and interest in the connection between humans and cosmic bodies led Kara Knack to notice all of the many places where those cosmic bodies appeared: in the name of a cleaning product, Comet cleanser; in candy bars, Mars and Milky Way; and in phrases we use without thinking like “follow your star.”

After noticing suns, stars, and moons everywhere, she began collecting jewelry pieces she saw with celestial themes. “When I went to a meeting wearing a sun- or star-designed piece of jewelry people started to remember me,” Ms. Knack said.

After collecting 1,600 pieces of cosmic-themed jewelry, Ms. Knack proposed her idea of displaying them at the Griffith Observatory to the observatory’s director, Dr. E. C. Krupp. He came back and suggested the idea of using the sparkling rhinestone shooting stars and shining metal suns and moons to decorate a timeline showing the life of the universe. With this incentive Ms. Knack became serious about collecting, and in the next few years she and her friends, one of which worked in swap meets, gathered another 500 or 600 pieces to add to the collection.

Ms. Knack always stipulated that the jewelry should be costume jewelry, not expensive, and should be acquired with the idea that she would not be keeping it. Once the physical structure for the exhibit was prepared, a deadline loomed and the pieces had to be placed and secured in one day. Ms. Knack and 15 museum volunteers and employees rose to the task. “I wouldn’t say we had fun,” she said. “It was a challenge. But we did it.” Successful they were, installing 1,800 pieces in that day, and in March the exhibit was ready to have the final star added in the opening ceremony.

The first day of spring, March 20, offered visitors to the Griffith Observatory a garland of sparkling suns, stars, moons, comets, and planets in the form of almost 2,200 pieces of jewelry. An undulating line of pieces of costume jewelry, all having a theme of heavenly bodies, waved down 165 feet of hallway in an exhibit named the Cosmic Connection.

Ms. Knack, who is also a board member and former president of the Friends of the Observatory group, donated her collection of stary jewelry, which she had collected over a 25-year period, to the museum for use in decorating the exhibit’s timeline. She officially opened the exhibit in a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and Lt. Greg Hammond of the California



CELESTIAL HANDIWORK: The Cosmic Connection exhibit features jewelry pieces depicting celestial bodies such as suns, moons, stars, and comets. D. MATHIAS/THE EPOCH TIMES

Highway Patrol (CHP) placed the last item in the display, the specially commissioned CHP badge.

Showing the universe of over 13.7 billion years, from its beginning to today, a timeline marks each billion year interval, and in panels written by Carolyn Collins Petersen, tells what scientists think happened during specific time periods. Clustering many small pieces at the beginning symbolizes the Big Bang, the beginning of our universe, and placing numerous pieces with suns and moons that have human faces toward the end of the line to mark the beginning of human life.

Pieces With Memorable Stories

The collection also includes badges in the shape of stars, the sign of authority in the Old West. Most toy sheriff badges have simple five- or six-point stars made from plain metal. Special in the group of badges is a California Highway Patrol’s badge, specially commissioned for the Cosmic Connection collection, that has a seven-point star design. Ms. Knack tells viewers that each point of the star stands for a principle of the Highway Patrol.

One of the most sentimental of the pieces is from Ms. Knack’s mentor at the observatory, Betty Howlett, a found-

ing member of the Friends of the Observatory group. Ms. Howlett gave Ms. Knack a star necklace to be used in a display in the renovated observatory. Ms. Howlett passed away in 2001, before the renovation was finished, but Ms. Knack says, “She was delighted to know that the necklace that her mother wore in the late part of the 19th century when she sang ‘Carmen’ in Denver would be here.”

The Long View

Looking down the length of the corridor, visitors get a feel for the running of time and the long string of stars that connects our reality to the eons of time throughout the ages. The observatory’s director, Dr. E. C. Krupp said about the exhibit, “We believe there is nothing like it anywhere on the planet.”

Griffith Observatory is owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. The observatory is located on the south slope of Mount Hollywood in Griffith Park. The building is open to the public six days a week, with free parking and free admission. Free public telescope viewing is available each evening that the observatory is open and skies are clear.

For more detailed comments by Ms. Knack on notable pieces in the collection see TheEpochTimes.com.

Sarkozy’s Wife Hailed as France’s Princess Diana

LONDON (Reuters)—The day after splashing pictures of her naked, Britain’s tabloids hailed Carla Bruni as a fashion queen who could be the new Princess Diana.

“What a difference a day makes ... and this time she remembered to put some clothes on,” trumpeted The Daily Mail, which devoted a six-page spread to France’s First Lady.

“Britain is enchanted by Madame Sarkozy,” said the Daily Express opposite a picture of the former catwalk star turned singer arriving for a state banquet at Windsor Castle.

Tabloids had welcomed Carla at the start of a state visit with her husband, President Nicolas Sarkozy, on March 26 by reproducing a nude fashion shot of her taken in the ‘90s. Bookmakers William Hill quoted odds of 10-1 that Sarkozy would buy the print when it was auctioned next month in New York.

Any moralistic tut-tutting by the popular press was replaced on March 27 by praise for a woman hailed as a demure model of elegance.

“A Good Night for France. The Gaul Scorers,” declared The Sun in a front-page spread linking Carla’s triumph with France’s soccer defeat of England in Paris.

When she arrived in London,

heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles had planted a kiss on her gloved hand.

“Is Carla the new Diana?” asked The Daily Telegraph. “Presidential aides hope France’s First Lady will become their very own Queen of Hearts.”

At home, French newspapers enthused over the sensation created by the new first lady, whose apparent ease with rigid court protocol they put down to her long experience as a model.

“The English conquered by Carla,” said Le Parisien daily.

Even the left-wing Liberation daily paid tribute, remarking that Carla had delivered a near faultless performance but adding: “her husband had more difficulties with protocol.”

One British paper said that in her Christian Dior outfit, Carla recalled Jackie Kennedy in her heyday, and the press adulation should help to boost her husband, nicknamed “President Bling-Bling” for his lavish lifestyle.

Their relationship had sent Sarkozy’s popularity ratings plunging. Voters complained the president was focusing too much on his private life and not enough on France’s economic issues.

Headlines like “Enchante” and “Ooh La La, Madame Sarkozy”



FRANCE’S NEW QUEEN: Former model Carla Bruni is France’s latest First Lady, after marrying French President Nicolas Sarkozy. The British press wrote about her favorably; one newspaper compared her to Jackie Kennedy, another to Princess Diana. DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

showed she is very much a presidential asset as far as the British press is concerned.

Sarkozy, 53, separated from his second wife Cecilia last October following an 11-year marriage and just five months after winning power. By February he had married the 40-year-old Bruni.

Bruni had previously been linked with rock stars Mick Jagger and Eric Clapton, as well as U.S. businessman Donald Trump.

Russian and Ukrainian Designers Play With Traditional Themes and Colors



GIRLS AND DOLLS: Russian designer Shapovalova showed modern designs decorated with the Russian matryoshka doll at the Moscow Fashion Week on March 27. This traditional Russian wooden doll’s round figure represents the wholesome, robust rustic Russian woman.

DMITRY KOSTYUKOV/AFI/GETTY IMAGES

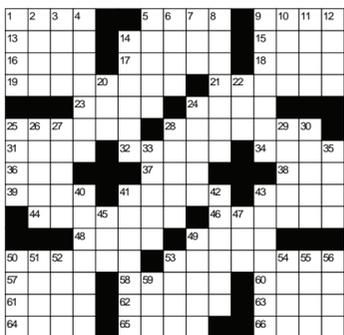


FEMINE YET FUN: Ukrainian designers mixed playful colors onto sophisticated feminine designs with a cutting edge. Olena Ivanova for Ivanova Fashion House, and Xenia Marchenko for X’U Fashion showed their creations at the Ukrainian Fashion Week held March 11-19 in Kiev.

VOLODYMYR BORODIN/THE EPOCH TIMES



Crossword



Across

- 1 Chest bones
- 5 Region
- 9 Attired
- 13 Eve’s husband
- 14 Large water body
- 15 Risqu
- 16 Brand of coffee alternative
- 17 Tough
- 18 ___ upon a time
- 19 Smacks (2 wds.)
- 21 Defeats unexpectedly
- 23 Inheritor
- 24 Beers
- 25 Me
- 28 In theory
- 31 Not mine
- 32 Fancy boat
- 34 Time period
- 36 Holy woman
- 37 River (Spanish)
- 38 Before (prefix)
- 39 Green Gables dweller
- 41 Spar
- 43 Cincinnati baseball team

Down

- 1 Absorbed
- 2 Thought
- 3 Taverns
- 4 Stifle
- 5 Mummer
- 6 Shallow area
- 7 Serving of corn
- 8 A small ring
- 9 Rudely
- 10 Alley
- 11 Account (abbr.)
- 12 Colors
- 14 Change into bone
- 20 Conger
- 22 Pod vegetable
- 24 Special case only (2 wds.)
- 25 Asian stalling
- 26 Baby, for example
- 27 Bright
- 28 Cake topping
- 29 Biblical outcast
- 30 Several feet
- 33 Athletic field
- 35 Sleep
- 40 5th Greek letter
- 41 Parties
- 42 Gaseous
- 43 He was ‘ionhearted’
- 45 Doctoral degree
- 47 Biff
- 49 Jams
- 50 Jabber
- 51 Bedroom furniture (2 wds.)
- 52 Peter, for short
- 53 Blank coin
- 54 Fencing sword
- 55 At sea
- 56 Glen
- 59 Hubbub



Today’s Solution