

Anchor:

Speaking of left out in the cold, consider the remarkable Hubble Space Telescope. As CBS' Richard Schlesinger reports tonight, it has given us insight into the dawn of the universe billions of years ago, yet Hubble's own future now looks dim.

Take VC/PKG
Sound full
T.R.T. = 1:45
Outcue: standard

Even with their brilliant pictures from distant galaxies, the most brilliant from the most distant of which were recently released, these are dark days for the people who run the Hubble Space Telescope.

Steve Beckwith and the other astrophysicists are facing a very earthly concern: money. **NASA** has decided it can't afford to safely maintain the telescope anymore, which means Hubble will die within a few years.

Beckwith bite :05

This is the eye in the sky. This is the thing that people can use to kind of look out in the universe.

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And Beckwith says when word got out that **NASA** was leaving the Hubble high and dry, a lot of people were angry.

Beckwith bite :09

Right after the announcement, I got all sorts of e-mails saying, 'Can we help?' So I got offers of money, first of all. People said, 'Can we send money? I'm ready to write a check.'

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And the support for Hubble doesn't just come from space geeks. Over the years, the telescope has sent back so many pictures of stars and galaxies never before seen that it's inspired, among other people, artists who worry they're

about to lose a whole universe of ideas--
artists like Dorothea Rockburne.

Rockburne bite :05

This is two stars, binary stars, Castor and Pollux.

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She's spent years concentrating on astronomy, reaching to distant galaxies and ancient stars which appear to her with Hubble's help.

Rockburne bite :06

I looked at Hubble constantly, all the time. That's how I began my day, by looking at everything.

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And that's how they'll spend their days here at the Hubble Control Center, looking at everything they can before the telescope dies and falls back to Earth.

Beckwith bite :05

I'm sure it will be like losing a friend or at least, in my case, maybe a family member.

Standup Schlesinger :07
Outcue: standard

It's a death that will be mourned in two worlds: of arts...and science.
Richard Schlesinger, CBS News,
Baltimore.