

# Giant 'outmoded' telescope still finding star secrets

United Press International  
WILLIAMS BAY, Wis. — If scientific technology is impatient and restless, an 80-year telescope would be outmoded.  
But the great refractor telescope at the University of Chicago's Yerkes Observatory is not some relic, unable to read the fine print of the night sky.  
Instead, like some crazed college student cramming for exams, the iron titan still attracts all-nighters at the drop of a sun.  
Next to Yerkes' two modern reflecting telescopes, the 63-foot long, iron veteran seems an anach-

ronism. Yet, its two 40-inch lenses make it the largest refracting — light-bending — telescope in the world.  
Reflecting telescopes of comparable power are smaller and cheaper and can receive images not broken into colors as they are by going through glass lenses. The refractor, however, played a part in the major discovery in 1952 that our galaxy has a spiral structure.  
Now it is used to monitor star movements and to determine fundamental distances to all nearby stars and others that are physically interesting.

Another advantage of the refractor is stability. Its lenses need not be removed for cleaning. Reflecting telescopes, which use mirrors, must be realigned periodically. This increases the risk of slight changes in the optical alignment when they are reassembled.  
Aberrations also are caused by air currents — a phenomenon astronomers call "bad seeing" — which can occur even on clear nights.  
Thus, to limit distortion, the dome housing the telescope is never heated.



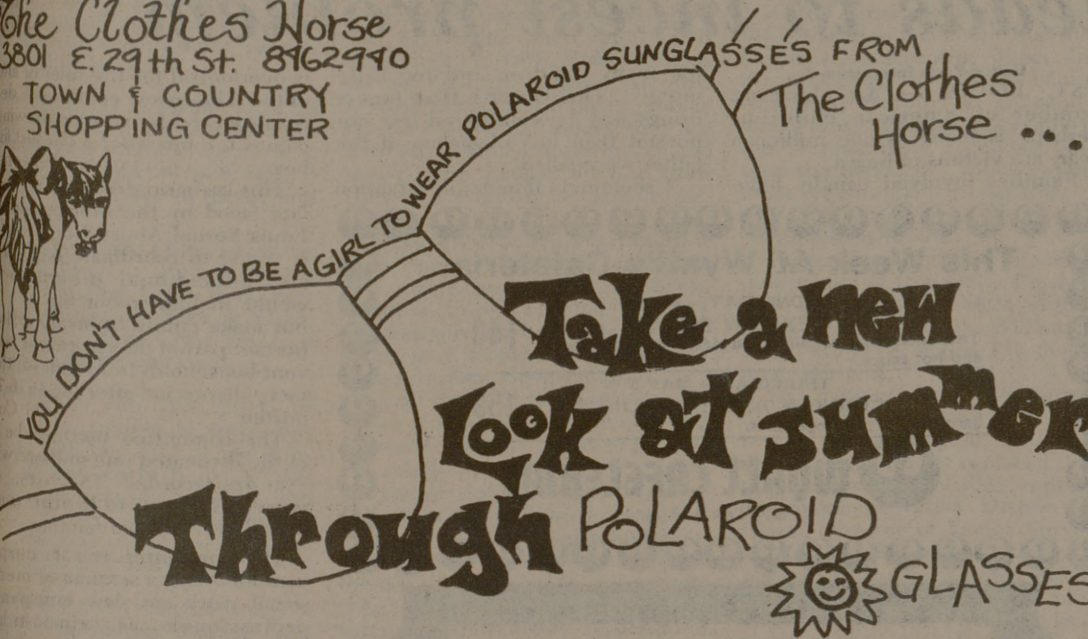
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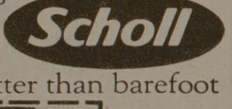


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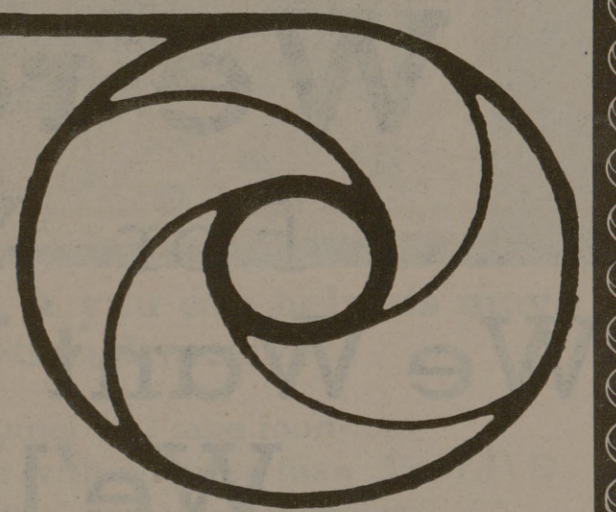
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