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These space age students at Churchill Area High School take turns using the nine-inch tracking refractor telescope recently installed in new school. Magellans Otf Space David Glcason Preti Special Writer half the cost for Observadome and' telescope with National Defense Education Act funds. ,Many consider astronomy a course which trains students in such pastimes as finding Taurus the Bull and the Big Dipper, but what we're doing is highly technical," explains Mr. Mousseau. "It embraces physics, chemistry, higher mathematics and knowledge of the Roman and Greek alphabets for star and planet identification." Eight students are enrolled in advanced astronomy for the coming school year, while 64 will take the beginning course to be taught by David Batchelor. In the elementary course, students will learn the history of astronomy, study the earth and then move out to the moon, planets, comets, meteorites, stars and galaxies. And the instrumentation and types of telescopes and lenses. They will learn to test a lens for its quality. Space photography was emphasized last year. Students took pictures of the moon, Venus, Jupiter and the stars with their own 35-millimeter cameras. The nine-inch, worm-gear-driven telescope with two finding lenses was used as the lens for the cameras. "The pictures this year should be much better because an astro-camera providing greater magnification has been purchased," explains Mr. Mousseau. "Much of the picture-taking last year was experimental since we didn't know the film exposure time needed for the best results." Mr. Mousseau, who majored in mathematics and minored in physics in college, seemed the logical one to take on the astronomy course. The Board of Education-led by Ralph McIntosh, formerly with Westinghouse Research, but now at Bendix Research Labs in Southfield, Mich. decided that space needed important emphasis when the new high school was built adding the Observadome and telescope. The space Magellans at Churchill High the course elective for 10th, 11th and 12th graders are tackling their subject in a style few colleges are attempting. Teachers in Pennsylvania certified in earth science usually don't study the subjects needed to prepare them for an astronomy course of this depth. Students at Churchill High take the course five days a week with a laboratory program two nights weekly. "One of the most difficult things to teach in astronomy is sidereal (star) time, which differs from solar time, but we are attempting it points out Mr. Mousseau. "A sid- SPACE



age experts of the future are in basic training in high schools across the U. S. Educators in Western Pennsylvania, realizing the need for speedy action, have joined the procession and are gearing science courses to the pathways of the stars. But the progress of one Pittsburgh district high school in teaching astronomy tops any others in the country, according to the U. S. Office of Education. To pass its advanced, second-year course each student just as a pilot flies blind must pinpoint an object in the heavens without looking through a telescope. "His tools will be nautical maps of the star-swept space ocean and a shortwave radio to give him a time signal for the object's appearance in a certain location," explains Robert Mousseau, who began teaching the course last year at Churchill Area High School. Thirty-one students were enrolled in the first year aided considerably in their work by the \$14,000 Observadome and nine-inch tracking refractor telescope built into the new school.

Page 4 of The Pittsburgh Press, Sunday, September 20, 1964