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VARIABILITY IN THE WOLF-RAYET STAR HD 164270

The WC9 star HD 164270 (= WR 103*; $\alpha_{1950} = 17^{\text{h}}58^{\text{m}}26.4^{\text{s}}$, $\delta_{1950} = -32^{\circ}42'55''$) was found to decrease its brightness by almost $1^{\text{m}}.2$ from June 4 to June 21 1980 (Lundström and Stenholm, 1981). Our observations were interrupted June 23, when the star had become $\approx 0^{\text{m}}.2$ brighter than its minimum value. During this period only very minor colour changes appeared. In April 1981 the star had returned to its normal brightness, $v = 9.01$, (Smith, 1968).

There is no obvious explanation for the behaviour of HD 164270 in June 1980, although an occultation by an object with low luminosity and large radius seems to be the most promising alternative. The interpretation is however seriously hampered by the limited observational material available to us.

We are therefore very interested in all observations of this star that might have been made in 1980, especially during the time period May to August 1980. Spectrographic observations are extremely important and even low dispersion objective-prism spectra might be very valuable.

*The designation WR refers to the Wolf-Rayet star catalogue by van der Hucht *et al.* (1981).

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