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## Science Notes - NSTA's Research Committee Seeks Guidelines for Science Textbooks

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## SCIENCE NOTES

### **NSTA's Research Committee Seeks Guidelines for Science Textbooks**

Concern over the quality of science textbooks in the U.S. has been expressed repeatedly in the last few years. The Criteria for Analysis and Selection of Science Textbooks Project has worked since April 1985 to improve science textbooks and related materials used by teachers and students. Science teachers, administrators, publishers, researchers, and others have joined to focus attention on issues that must be considered to successfully bring about the changes we need.

The CASST Project wants ideas about improving science textbooks from a wide range of concerned, informed people — science teachers in particular. Send your ideas to:

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James Shymansky  
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Science Education Center  
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Iowa City, IA 52242

— *NSTA Report, May 1986*

### **Free-loan Videocassettes and Films**

Catalogs for free-loan films and videocassettes are available to educators through the Modern Talking Picture Service. Topics include science, energy, the environment, and career guidance, and are sponsored by such organizations as the American Red Cross, IBM, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Educators can order any of the catalogs, which include titles and descriptions. To receive a catalog, write on school stationery to:

Book Promotion  
Modern Talking Picture Service  
5000 Park Street N  
St. Petersburg, FL 33709

— *NSTA Report, May 1986*

### **A Guided Tour of the Heavens**

"The Heavens on Tape," two cassette tapes providing guided tours of the heavens for each of the four seasons have been developed by the nonprofit Astronomical Society of the Pacific. These tapes were designed to serve the needs of the comet buff and others who would like to become better acquainted with the night sky. The tapes, narrated by astronomy instructor and radio commentator Tom Gates, are accompanied by a full script, four specially designed seasonal star maps and a finding chart for Halley's Comet. The entire kit is available for \$14.95 plus \$2 postage and handling. To order, write: the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, Tapes Dept., 1290 24th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122.

— *K.L.C.*