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## Science Notes - Book News : "*The Comet Handbook*"

Darrel Hoff

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## SCIENCE NOTES

standards in working with institutions applying for accreditation approval of their teacher education programs. Basically, the NSTA guidelines specify a 32 semester hour requirement in **each** teaching discipline and include 16 semester hours in other support sciences.

The science educators agree with NSTA that depth of preparation in each scientific discipline to be taught and a broad view of science required through support sciences is crucial to good science instruction. They recognize, however, that these guidelines may not realistically be applied to all science teachers in Iowa, particularly those in small schools. Nevertheless, the levels of preparation outlined by NSTA appear to them to be desirable goals for teachers striving to be certified at the master teacher level.

The educators are recommending to the Dept. of Public Instruction Director of Certification the following guidelines for endorsement of entry level teachers of science:

- a minimum of a college major in science (e.g., biology, chemistry, physics, physical science, all-science) that consists of at least 30 semester hours of science of which at least 24 hours must be in laboratory courses.
- endorsement to teach in any area of science (i.e., biology, chemistry, physics, earth science, physical science) be contingent on having at least 16 semester hours within that area.

These recommendations are consistent with those that are proposed in social studies, in which both breadth of preparation in social studies and areas of distribution are specified.

— C.W.B.

### Book News

*"The Comet Handbook", G. Stasiuk and D. Gruber Stasiuk Enterprises, PO Box 12484, Portland, OR 97212. (32 pp.) \$5.00*

The return of Halley's Comet is already generating public interest, and writers and producers of Halley memorabilia are gearing up. Written material is basically divided into articles in popular journals, handbooks for viewing the comet, and more definitive works such as Calder's *The Comet is Coming*.

If one wants only to be an armchair astronomer, then a book like the latter would be appropriate. On the other hand if one wants to know something about this comet, the story of comets in general, and do some serious observing as well, then a small handbook is recommended. This little volume would serve admirably for that purpose. It covers the history of comets, the nature of comets, the history of Halley's Comet, and the orbits of comets. It then includes a section on comet observing and photography including horizon oriented charts for viewing Halley's Comet. Of particular interest is the information for the different phases of the viewing period. One section (Oct. '85) is titled "Telescope and Large Binocular Viewing," another (Nov. '85) "Binocular Viewing," a format that should be very useful. The quality of the reproduction of the illustrations is not sharp, but the information contained appears accurate. For the classroom teacher who may wish to include a unit on comets, for the person interested as layman, or for recommendation to junior high school age students and older, the book is first-rate.

— D.H.