

AAS, says that the society considers the new teacher program to be an important undertaking that it expects to be very popular. Boyce says that AAS has been proceeding from the premise that a strong local commitment is essential to the program's success. Thus AAS has enlisted Austin astronomer Mary Kay Hemenway to drum up support for the program in the local schools. Hemenway is responsible for the laboratories, telescopes and other instruments used in undergraduate astronomy education at the University of Texas and also serves as the university's unofficial astronomy liaison to the Texas Education Agency.

The program at Austin is supposed to be a kind of pilot event that could be duplicated at subsequent meetings, Hemenway explains, and Austin was selected partly because of the university's strong astronomy education programs—this year over 6000 undergraduate students at UT are taking astronomy courses, Hemenway says.

Hemenway and Boyce anticipate that it may be necessary to compensate school boards for the costs of hiring substitute teachers—OSA's practice—and AAS is raising money to that end. AAS also is working through local school systems to see if teachers could get some kind of credit for participating in conference programs.

Established AAS activities in education include the Harlow Shapley Visiting Lectureship Program, which brought 65 lecturers to 135 schools in 1985–86 according to Charles Tolbert of the University of Virginia, the chairman of the AAS education committee. Each school requesting a lecturer pays a fee of \$175 to cover part of the expenses of the visit, and the remainder is covered by money from the Shapley Endowment Fund, which was established in the 1950s as a memorial to Shapley.

AAS and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific also publish a newsletter for teachers, *The Universe in the Class-*

room, which comes out three times a year and is distributed free of charge. It started in 1984–85 with 6000 subscriptions and is expected to reach 13 000 subscriptions in 1986–87. The Canadian Astronomical Society recently joined as a cosponsor of the project, and this year for the first time costs will be shared equitably among the three sponsoring organizations. The newsletter originally was primarily a project of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

Taylor is first recipient of Royal Society's Faraday Award

The Royal Society has established a new prize, the Michael Faraday Award, for individuals who make outstanding contributions to the public understanding of science. The award will be made annually to the scientist or scientists who have done the most to promote understanding of science in the United Kingdom. The award consists of a silver gilt medal and a gift of £1000.

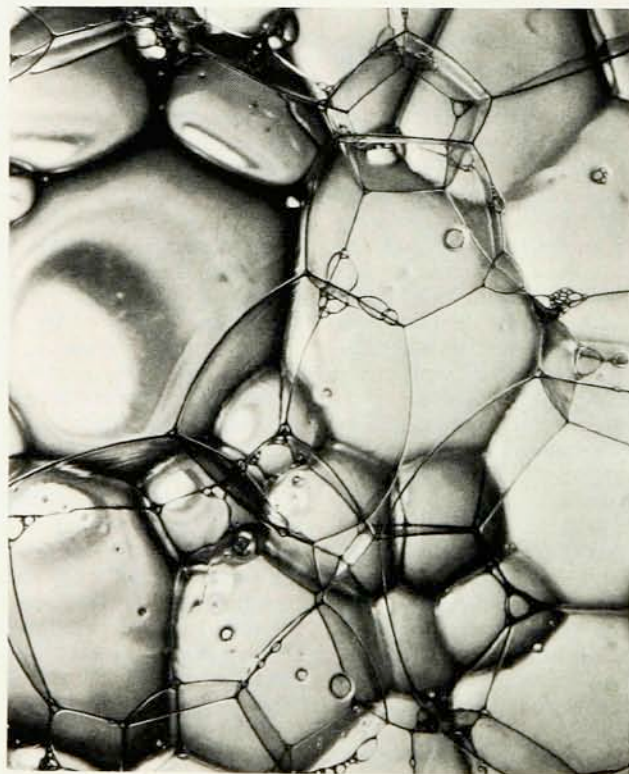
Charles Taylor, a professor of experimental physics at the Royal Institution, has been honored with the first Michael Faraday Award. He was recognized for demonstration lectures that he has delivered locally in South Wales, nationally at the Royal Institution, and in other parts of the world.

Scoville becomes director of Owens Valley Radio Observatory

Caltech astronomer Nicholas Z. Scoville has been appointed director of Caltech's Owens Valley Radio Observatory in Big Pine, California. Scoville succeeds Anthony C. S. Readhead, who has completed a five-year term as director.

The instruments at Owens Valley include two 27-m dishes used to study the Sun, a 40-m radiotelescope used primarily for extragalactic research and three 10-m dishes used as an interferometric array to study millimeter waves. Scoville played a key role in developing millimeter-wave astronomy for the study of interstellar molecular clouds, and in 1985–86 he was manager of the observatory's program for studies of cosmic millimeter waves.

Scoville received a BA in 1967 and a PhD in 1972 from Columbia University. He was a research fellow at Caltech in 1974, and from 1975 to 1984 he was at the University of Massachusetts, serving as associate director of the Five College Radio Astronomy Observatory from 1977 to 1983. He joined the Caltech faculty as a professor of astronomy in 1984. □



'Bubbles,' a photograph Berenice Abbott took around 1946, is currently on display in an exhibit at the New York Academy of Sciences. Sponsored by Novo Industri A/S of Denmark, "The beauty of physics: Berenice Abbott," will be at the academy until 27 March. Abbott, famous primarily for her portraits of artists and writers in Paris in the 1920s and her photographs of the New York cityscape in the 1930s, began systematic photographic studies of physics principles and phenomena in 1939. In the following years Abbott produced many physics photos of impressive precision and clarity, using a number of innovative techniques. In 1958 she was recruited into the PSSC project in Boston, where she produced photos for the first PSSC textbook. Her photo of a bouncing ball—a series of descending arcs—is still on the textbook cover.