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From: F. J. Duarte, *Laser Physicist* (Optics Journal, New York, 2012) p. 61©

### On PhD factories

John [Clive Ward] openly discouraged his physics students from pursuing a theoretical career. The uncertainty of his younger years probably had a lot to do with this attitude (Ward, 2004). As such, he never took a Ph.D. student despite open efforts by some brilliant mathematicians to study under him. More explicitly, John was highly critical of “Ph.D. factories” in theoretical physics. On various occasions he used the word “rackets” to refer to some of these establishments. This issue would resurface later in the 1990s when he was very critical of citations, and the use of citations for promotional ends, despite the fact that he himself was a highly cited author. The point implied by John was that those who directed “Ph.D. factories” were bound to get a large number of citations from their students and former students.