**IC CET receives Queen's Anniversary Prize**

The Centre for Environmental pole Education (IC CET) is one of the first recipients of a Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Further and Higher Education.

It was awarded for 'a comprehensive educational, research and consultancy programme covering the environmental sciences, it is addressing international need. On Thursday 9 February, the Rector received the Prize from HRH The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on behalf of the College. A small group of IC CET representatives also attended the ceremony, amongst them Professor John Beddington, Director of the Centre, and former Rector, Lord Flowers. The Royal Anniversary Trust was set up to commemorate the 40th anniversary of The Queen’s accession to the throne and the Prizes aim to recognise and reward significant contributions and benefit made by UK educational institutions to the socio-economic, cultural and intellectual life of the nation.

The scheme is designed to make the best use of charitable funds donated by private and public companies and organisations, and the prizes will be given biennially, until 2002. The 1994 Prizes were presented to 18 of the major universities throughout the UK.

**New CVCP admissions system?**

The CVCP is investigating the possible introduction of a 'post results' admissions system. Offers of places would not be made until the results of A-level examinations were known. There are problems that would need to be solved before such a scheme could be put in place. Admissions tutors would want to retain the option of interviewing applicants. How this would be achieved within the framework of a post result system is unclear. If the proposals were to go ahead a new admission system could be in place for the academic year 1997/98.

At the moment the number of undergraduate applications to the College continues to rise. The College has received 7,461 applications, an increase of 4.7 per cent over the same time last year. This compares very favourably with the 2.3% increase recorded nationally by UCAS, so the competition for places on our undergraduate courses remains healthy.

**In Brief**

**Campus Masterplan**

The drilling taking place around the Library is not a search for oil but ground investigation as part of the Masterplan development. The investigation is primarily concerned with the Basic Medical Sciences and Biology Building and a proposed extension to the Library.

The Masterplan includes a project for the Queen’s Lawn which aims to create an environment of some quality at the heart of the South Kensington campus.

**Fellowships**

Honorary fellowships of the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy have been awarded to Emeritus Professors Jim Jeffes (Patterfolds) and Richard Burkin (MRE).

**Alumni Honoured**

Last summer Dr Don Williams was awarded the Order of Australia. Dr Williams obtained his PhD in the Department of Civil Engineering in 1969 and went on to become Chairman of Australian National Railways. As Chief Executive of the Australian Submarine Corporation he was responsible for the construction of the first submarines to be built in Australia.

**Linseath Hall Warden Wanted**

A new warden is needed for Linseath Hall from Easter. The closing date for applications is 1 March. Contact the Personnel Services Manager, Room 375 Sheffield Building, extension 45517 for further information.

**Open University**

The Library will record Open University programmes at the request of members of the teaching staff. Further information, including the 1995 Broadcast Calendar, is available from Dr Janet Smith, extension 48812 (email j.smith).
The view from the tower by Don

Talking of irritations, does anyone at IC actually measure the length of time it takes for internal mail to go from sender to recipient? Sometimes even mail from Brazil seems to take less time. It is not beyond the reach of modern measurement to carry out a check. I suggest that the total chain is not entirely Estates' responsibility; parts of it are held up by departmental ways of doing things. But it's the total delay that counts - a nice challenge for Ian Caldwell. Of course, sometimes things end up in the wrong place or go via strange routes, are such errors logged?

By comparison, isn't email wonderful? I wonder how many in the college actually do it. About 80 per cent I would guess, which creates a problem for the other 20 per cent. I imagine the Register finds it 'inelegant'. Email brings out other interesting questions. Some Prof's take eloquence so seriously that they leave it entirely to their secretaries. This is the 'about' style, which seems to me preferable immediately. Somehow, I suppose that a difficulty arises for those who can't type. Perhaps among the courses given to new lecurers, typing ought to be included.

Then again, the 'I never read my email and am proud of it' personality. That is closely related to the 'I never answer letters' trait.

Still, the sheer joy of switching on in the morning, getting a cheerful 'there are 36 new messages in your mailbox' and looking forward to typing an answer to them all, is enough to send you straight to the coffee room for some real human contact.

Propos of human contact, it might be interesting to see how much practices vary between departments and individual contact, contact with PhD students and related activities.

Following the Rector's suggestions in the Report (14 February) that Board of Student papers should be purged, I noticed in paper F of the BBS (8 February) that the Graduate Studies Committee, stimulated by the Professor (Educational Quality), suggests tightening up the timing of the MPhil and PhD transfer examinations. It should be held as soon as possible, perhaps after the end of the first year of research.

Many departments prefer to do the transfer at the end of the first year when the PhD thesis is in sight. This may not be 'reasonable', but it may, indeed, be beneficial to the student who can make a proper plan for finishing the thesis on time and in style. The many issues surrounding good practice in PhD supervision should receive an airing. This, perhaps, is denied within the four walls of the Graduate Studies Committee room.

The other major project is the IC's sports and leisure manager. Frank Mapstone, the City of Kensington Road describes it as the 'key facility for campus sport, in addition to the more traditional provision for a whole range of sports at different levels. It would also cater for most of the ICU clubs in one way, or another.'

Frank, pinned below, has yet to use the College's sports facilities himself. "I'm hoping one day I'll find five minutes to get down and have a grove of squash, but so far being up the office has taken up all my time!"

Governors’ Lecturer for Department of Materials

Dr Robin Grimes has been teaching in the Department of Materials at the University of York last year, although he did not officially take up his Governors' Lecturership until January. Robin graduated from the University of Nortington in 1982 with a degree in Mathematical Physics, and went on to study materials science at the Case Western Reserve University in USA, where he gained an M.S. His PhD was obtained at the University of Leeds, where he was a research fellow, on attachment to AERE Harwell Laboratory, from 1985-1989.

For the past four years Robin held the position of Assistant Director of the Dary Parady Laboratory, at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, where he is now a visiting research fellow.

His principal area of research concerns the use of computers to predict the behaviour of ceramic materials at the atomic level. Robin is one of three Governors' Lecturers now working in the Department of Materials.

Cricket, Italian style

Dr Gareth Jones describes the unexpected fruits of ERASMUS

Last summer Robert Jones, an IC physics student, became a minor celebrity in Trento, Italy by founding a cricket team. Robert, a PhD student on a research project in how temperature physics at the University of Trento, reached Trento as a demonstration by trying to describe the strange English game of cricket to his Italian student friends.

Robert was involved with the football and tennis clubs at Trento and found himself being quizzed about other sports played by the English. He mentioned cricket, but words were not enough - a demonstration was called for.

Soon the Italian students were trying their hand at last nets and cover drives - well not quite. "Their natural inclination was to swing at everything," said Robert.

Equipment

With the help of an Italian friend Robert approached the local council office in charge of sports facilities to gain the financial backing he needed to provide kit. The University of Trento is proud of its students' sporting achievements in rowing, football, skiing etc... as is the local community. They are used to supporting sporting proposals and Robert found that not only did they buy the bats, balls and stumps but also

pads and "whites" as well. They clearly believe in doing things properly.

The training and coaching sessions were a little strange - only one other member of the squad had held a bat before. The idea of defending a wicket and bowling without throwing did not come naturally. Once these basic skills were imparted they were put to the test.

Competition

A search revealed the existence of a cricket team in Milan. A match was arranged. Robert's team were beaten by Milan who turned out to be mainly Indian and Pakistani cricket enthusiasts for whom the game was second nature. The other team that Robert found was in Rome and had a similar make-up. The local community paid for the train fare for Rome to the team and put them up at a four star hotel near the beach. The trip was predictable, but even though they lost the game, they had a great time and returned to Trento happy.

All this brought Robert quite a bit of publicity in the local Trento newspapers and television. They called him 'il Mannino Inglesi'. Although the cricket team did not do so well Robert also played

Continued on back page


**College goes green?**

Imperial College is excellent at waste management on a national and international level, in the capacity of teaching and consultancy, but not very good on the domestic front," said Bob Birrell, Waste Management Officer. "In fact, we are some very behind places like University of Northumbria. The former polytechnic is legends ahead of us when it comes to applying the theories to their own infrastructure."

Bob has been involved in the management of the College's waste since the post was created eighteen months ago. He spent the first three months learning about the subject and finding out what needed to be done.

The Toyne Re-port, sponsored by the Department for Education to assess the impact of higher education on the environment, recommends the development of an environmental policy statement and an action plan, which Bob hopes to see in place by the end of this session.

**Recycling scheme**

A recycling scheme is to be introduced in about two weeks which will include all types of paper. This will replace the existing scheme which only collects white paper for recycling. It will begin on level 3 in the Sherfield Building. Bob has spoken to the staff working on that floor and says, "they are very keen to see this scheme in place."

"We will put two or three bins in each office for the different types of waste to be collected," Bob continued. "The system will be checked for bugs; once it is working smoothly in Sherfield we will gradually introduce it around College. We have spoken to the cleaners in Sherfield and they have been very helpful!"

Mrs. Steen-Tucker, Assistant Cleaning Supervisor, is enthusiastic about the scheme. "Men (Cleaning Supervisors) and myself are all for it and it is very popular to help!"

Recycling waste should also save money as it will help to avoid the landfill tax to be introduced by the Government. "There is speculation about the amount but the figure I have heard from one or two sources is £5 per tonne," explained Bob. "This would add Continued on back page..."
March

COLLEGE EVENTS
Friday 10 March
St Mary's Gatehouse
Deadline for copy: Please send your contributions to Patricia Dymond at the Medical School.

Friday 17 March
The launch of National Science Week 1995 will be held in Prince's Gardens. Further information from Melanie Thooy, Schools Liaison Office, extension 5804/3.

17 - 18 March
BAYSIDE
Further information from Melanie Thooy, Schools Liaison Office, extension 5804/3.

28 - 29 March
GETSET
This two-day event is aimed at encouraging 13-year-old girls to study science and engineering. Further information from Melanie Thooy, Schools Liaison Office, extension 5804/3.

COURSES
7 - 9 March
Continuing professional development
"Low-rough BCMOS Analog Integrated Circuit Design" Professor Samson, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium. Further information from Mike Verhulst, Continuing Education Centre, extension 4688/2.

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS
Thursday 2 March
Department of Chemistry seminar 'Some Chemistry of Fulminates'

Friday 10 March
Imperial College Symphony Orchestra

Friday 17 March
Imperial College Choir
Bach Mass in B Minor. Conducted by Eric Brown. To be held in the Great Hall at 20.00. Tickets price: £2.50 for students; £5 for non-students. Available from members of the Choir or at the door.

April

CONFERENCES
20 - 21 April
"The History of Science and Culture" To be held in the History of Science and Technology Conference Centre, extension 4935.

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS
Wednesday 5 April
South Kensington Institute for the History of Technology seminar "X-Rays in and on Physics" John Hisbett. To be held in the Colection Division Seminar Room, The Science Museum at 16.00. Tea served at 15.45

Letters to the Editor

Hard to hear Don

Dear Don,

I enjoyed your article (14 February 1995) and refer to your comments about your daily listening choice. Are you aware that statistics show that 17 per cent of people in this country have some form of hearing loss? Maybe in future letters these six students who found you infectious should sit at the front!

With best wishes

Lorenzo O'C Callaghan
Disabilities Officer (from, dare I say, Sheffield Building!)

Hazards of the BMS building

Dear Editor

I was very impressed with the artist's impression of the new BMS building in your first issue (14 February 1995). Bearing in mind the height of the proposed, open-access roof, the equivalent height of the Department of Chemistry's fume-extraction tower and the prevailing westerlies, it was inspired not only to show a small number of people on the roof, but a significantly larger number of corpses on the ground.

Long may you continue to bring to the notice of your readers such hazards.

Yours sincerely

Ken Young
Department of Chemistry

The picture did not show a replica of a roof with a passerby, but it must have been an appropriate sight for all the accompanying captions mentioned. Of course, IC Reporters will endeavour to ensure compliance with such readers' wishes, should they occur.

Board of Studies

Dear Editor

As secretary of the Board of Studies, I was asked to see Dr Chris Phillips' request to see a summary of decisions taken by the Board. For as long as I can remember we have been at pains to include a brief digest in your