

From: ronald edge <redge@sc.rr.com>
To: <letters@aps.org>
Date: Friday, February 20, 2004 11:03 AM
Subject: Deporting Physicists

APS News

Letters

Dear Sir,

I read the article on the deportation of a physicist, by Ernie Tretkoff with great interest. You may perhaps like to learn of a case I got involved in a couple of years ago. It arose from a phone call to the Physics department at the University of South Carolina which I picked up more or less by accident and led to a situation which would be unbelievable even in a Kafka novel. The lady calling is of Indian extraction, but graduated in physics both in India and the Manchester University and Institute of Technology. She has worked in Saskatchewan and the University of Arizona. Somehow, she entered the United States illegally from Canada and was caught. The details of this are not clear to me, since she was here legally previously. Anyway she has now been incarcerated for upwards of four years, and is presently awaiting deportation to India. I intend this to be brief, so I won't go into details—such as how she got a black eye after being hit by an inmate at an institution where she was held here, which is a combination jail, hospital and lunatic asylum (I kid you not). I visited her weekly, and they kept her sedated on drugs—I am no psychiatrist, but she appeared normal and rational to me, especially when not on drugs. Anyway, she had an English boyfriend in Canada, who is presently teaching English as a foreign language in Taiwan (I believe he may have a science degree). Last week he came over here and married her, so when she gets back to India, she hopes to leave for Taiwan where they will get together. I found her a most intelligent and interesting person. Since she has no computer in jail, in communicating with her husband, she phones me and I email him. This should soon stop, since he now has a telephone. I would be happy to supply any more information should you desire. Ron Edge (Past president MAPT)