

## Support freedom of speech in the physics community

Physicist editor Jeff Schmidt was fired by “Physics Today” magazine for his critical views and political activism. That is the conclusion of a long investigation by a human rights committee of scientists, of a unit of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Since the APS has guiding control of the AIP which publishes “Physics Today”, five APS members have written to APS Council members urging them to call publically for Jeff’s reinstatement.

**STOP PRESS:** At their meeting on April 3-4 2003, APS Council considered Jeff Schmidt’s case and it seems that as of this moment, they have resolved not to make a public response to the IEEE report and the complaints of hundreds of APS members. This is not an adequate response.

### Suggested actions:

- 1) Learn more about the case from

<http://disciplinedminds.tripod.com/>

You can also obtain information and a copy of the IEEE human rights committee report from any of the five co-signers of the attached letter.

- 2) Write to the APS Council, via APS President Myriam P. Sarachik, to say that nothing less than a public response from the Council – following an investigation and report if necessary – will mend the damage that this serious incident of suppression of dissent has caused to the reputation of the US physics community.

Myriam P. Sarachik

Dept. of Physics

CCNY-CUNY

Convent Avenue and 138th Street

New York, NY 10031

Tel: (212) 650-5618

Fax: (212) 650-6940

E-mail:

[sarachik@sci.ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:sarachik@sci.ccny.cuny.edu)

- 3) Add your name to the group letter to Marc Brodsky CEO of AIP

<http://disciplinedminds.tripod.com/protests.htm>

- 4) Write directly to Marc Brodsky urging that Jeff Schmidt be reinstated at Physics Today.

Marc H. Brodsky

Executive Director and CEO

American Institute of Physics

One Physics Ellipse

College Park, Maryland 20740

MD: (301) 209-3131; NY: (516) 576-2394

Fax: (301) 209-3133

E-mail: [brodsky@aip.org](mailto:brodsky@aip.org)