

British pair arrested in U.S. on terror charges over Twitter joke

Leigh Van Bryan was handcuffed and kept under armed guard in a cell with Mexican drug dealers for 12 hours after landing in Los Angeles with friend Emily Bunting.

The US Department of Homeland Security flagged him as a potential threat when he posted an excited tweet to his pals about his forthcoming trip to Hollywood which read: 'Free this week, for quick gossip/prep before I go and destroy America?'

Leigh had also tweeted a quote from the popular US comedy programme Family Guy, which read: "3 weeks today, we're totally in LA p***** people off on Hollywood Blvd and diggin' Marilyn Monroe up!"

Leigh and Emily were stopped and detained by armed guards when they arrived in the U.S. over the tweets. Mr Bryan told security officials that 'destroy' is slang for party in the UK, but that was not enough to convince them.

The British pair were held on suspicion of planning to 'commit crimes'. They had their passports confiscated. They also had their bags confiscated and searched for weapons including spades and shovels. Both Leigh and Emily had their photos and fingerprints taken. Finally, the pair had their entry visa denied and were put on a plane back to the UK the following day.

'We just wanted to have a good time on holiday. That was all Leigh meant in his tweet. He would not hurt anyone,' Emily said.

Leigh and Emily have now been told they must apply for visas from the US Embassy in London before flying to the US again.

Adapted from the Daily Mail.

Why were Leigh and Emily arrested at Los Angeles airport?

1. How long were they detained by the US guards?
2. What did the US officials suspect them of planning to do?
3. Why were the airport officials looking for spades or shovels?
4. What did the US officials do to the British pair?
5. Have you or someone you know ever had an unpleasant experience at an airport?

7. Match the sentences on the left with a sentence with the same meaning on the right

1. They had their bags confiscated and searched.
2. They had their photos taken.
3. They had their fingerprints taken.
4. They had their entry visa denied.

- a. They took our pictures.
- b. They took away our bags and searched them.
- c. They said we were not allowed to enter the country.
- d. They took our fingerprints.



I parked my car here, so.....

1.



4. My washing machine broke down, so.....



I forgot to chain my bike, so.....

2.



5. My hair was too long, so.....



I forgot to lock my window, so.....

3.



6. I was invited to a party, so.....

Think of two things you can have/get done at each of the following places:

1. hairdresser's
2. dressmaker's
3. drycleaner's
4. optician's
5. garage
6. spa

My City Survival guide :

Where can I have/get ?

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Passport photos | (take) |
| 2. Motor bike | (repair) |
| 3. Pedicure | (do) |
| 4. Hair | (colour) |