

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC":**
A POP TART,
A FINGER,
AND A CLOCK!



By Stephen L. Bakke  October 15, 2015

Here's what provoked me:

We are told to be vigilant, and yet we hear about such things as the Texas student who brought a briefcase to school. It looked like a bomb. The teacher took what seemed like appropriate action by calling police, who confirmed it truly looked like a bomb. Of course there was uproar and he was released – no harm done. But what about those pop tarts and fingers?

Here's my response:

A pop tart, a finger, and a clock!

Recent violence in schools, has brought requests that we be vigilant – and that's good. Then, in September we heard about a Texas student, Ahmed Mohamed, who brought a briefcase to school. It had a digital readout with wires protruding. It looked like a bomb. The teacher took what seems like appropriate action by calling police, who confirmed it truly looked like a bomb. The schoolboy was arrested, and mug shots taken. This "invention" was just a homemade clock.

There was an uproar coming initially from CAIR claiming this to be racial prejudice against Muslims. One well-known national commentator called it "Islamophobic idiocy." Even Obama chimed in with an invitation to the White House to show off this "cool clock." There were no charges made and the boy returned to school – no harm done.

There was a seven year-old Maryland student who was suspended for eating a pop tart into the shape of a handgun. And recall the suspension of the six year-old Colorado student who created a "gun" by extending his index finger and pointing it. Reprimands would have been fine. But why should these suspensions remain on the boys' records.

The Texas "inventor" should not have suffered any consequences other than a stern discussion about common sense. But I have read opinions that are critical of the Texas teacher and school for being racist against Muslims, while agreeing that the "pop tart" and "finger pointing" boys should have their records reflect this tendency for violent behavior. Now that's idiocy!

Mallard Fillmore by Bruce Tinsley

