

# Boyhood Friend Refuses to Comment

Associated Press

April 5, 1996

A Dartmouth professor who said as a child he helped the man accused of being the Unabomber explode small bombs in a field refused to say anything further about his boyhood friend Thursday as a security guard kept watch over his lectures.

Dale Eickelman on Thursday rebuffed a multitude of requests from reporters for details on Theodore John Kaczynski, who is being held as a suspect in the deadly Unabomber attacks that have baffled authorities for 18 years. "Professor Eickelman does not at this time plan to make any statement," Roland Adams, director of the Dartmouth College News Service, said Thursday afternoon.

"We've had calls from news organizations across the country nonstop since the start of the day and they're still coming in," he said.

Telephone calls to Eickelman's office were immediately transferred to Adams, and a uniformed security guard at the building where Eickelman was teaching anthropology classes directed reporters to the news service.

Shortly after Kaczynski's arrest in Montana Wednesday, Eickelman, 53, told the Daily Southtown in Chicago that he remembered Kaczynski as being good at chemistry and said the two of them used to experiment with small explosives.

"We would go out to an open field, and I remember Ted had the know-how of putting together things like batteries, wire leads, potassium nitrate and whatever, and creating explosions," said Eickelman, who went to junior high school with Kaczynski.

"We would just blow up weeds, nothing more," he said. "Once we created an explosion in a metal garbage can. Nothing much happened."

Eickelman said he saw his friend only once after Kaczynski left high school for Harvard. Kaczynski graduated from Harvard when he was barely 20.

"I remember Ted was very good at chemistry. And we would do the things that kids do when they're learning about chemicals and what they can do," said Eickelman, an anthropology and human relations professor.

"We would go to the hardware store, use household products and make things you might call bombs," he said.

Eickelman said he and Kaczynski were closest in the mid-1950s, when the pair were in their early teens. Though Kaczynski was quiet and somewhat of a loner, Eickelman did not consider him anti-social.

"He wasn't exactly gregarious, but he was extremely articulate," Eickelman said. "He impressed me as being a fragile person."

Eickelman said there was nothing in his friend's actions that were indicative of a future Unabomber.

"We were just bright kids who read a lot of science books and experimented as bright kids did during that era," he said.

The Ted K Archive

Associated Press  
Boyhood Friend Refuses to Comment  
April 5, 1996

The Deseret News, 5 (& 6?) Apr 1996. <[deseret.com/1996/4/5/19234999/professor-refuses-further-comment-on-youthful-outings-with-suspect/](http://deseret.com/1996/4/5/19234999/professor-refuses-further-comment-on-youthful-outings-with-suspect/)>, <[deseret.com/1996/4/6/19235388/boyhood-friend-refuses-to-comment/](http://deseret.com/1996/4/6/19235388/boyhood-friend-refuses-to-comment/)> & <[books.google.co.uk/books?id=kbsRAAAAIBAJ&pg=PA47](http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=kbsRAAAAIBAJ&pg=PA47)>

**[www.thetedkarchive.com](http://www.thetedkarchive.com)**