

By Paul Crocetti
DAILY NEWS STAFF

MILFORD - A man accused of making threatening phone calls to a judge and a police officer was ordered held on \$200,000 bail during his arraignment yesterday in Milford District Court.

Edward A. Sabatinelli, of 183 North St., was arrested last Friday in North Carolina and charged with three counts of threatening to commit a crime. State troopers went to North Carolina this week to bring him to Massachusetts, said Tim Connolly, a spokesman for Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early Jr.

Sabatinelli, 52, laughed yesterday when assistant District Attorney Robert Shea requested bail be set at \$200,000.

Sabatinelli's court-appointed lawyer, James Hentz, requested bail be set at \$5,000.

"He denies all the allegations," Hentz told Judge David B. Locke. Hentz added that he hasn't seen the phone records in which the comments were allegedly made.

Locke set a pretrial conference for May 31.

Sabatinelli faces 18 months if convicted, Connolly said.

According to court documents, Milford Police dispatcher Margaret Care reported she received a call from Sabatinelli on April 26. Sabatinelli said, "he wanted to kill the Bellingham police officer that beat him up and got away with it," documents said. The officer is believed to be Sgt. Paul Peterson, the documents said.

On April 30, Sabatinelli left a phone message for Milford Detective Richard Belanger, saying he wanted a handgun held by the department returned to him, documents said.

"The threat is related to the fact that we have custody of his firearm," said Milford Police Chief Thomas O'Loughlin. "He wants his property. He can't have it. It's prohibited by the statutes.

"Secondarily, the threat is related to an arrest made by the Bellingham Police," he said.

Sabatinelli was arrested in Bellingham last November and charged with possession of a Class D substance, driving with a suspended or revoked license, and a number plate violation. O'Loughlin would not say if that specific arrest was a cause of the threats.

Also on April 30, Milford District Court Office Manager Debra Bonvino received a call from Sabatinelli, court documents said. Sabatinelli said he was "going to throw (something) at the judge so that he would know what it was like to be assaulted," according to the documents. The judge is believed to be Robert Calagione, the documents said.

Sabatinelli also referred to the recent shootings at Virginia Tech and said, "I'm coming back to Milford and nobody will know when it will be, and when I come back, I am either going to get killed or kill that Bellingham cop," according to the documents.

Sabatinelli faces two counts of threatening to commit a crime against Peterson and one count of threatening to commit a crime against Calagione, according to the application for criminal complaint.

The bail is a fair amount, O'Loughlin said.

"You can't threaten judges," he said. "You can't threaten police officers. It goes right to the core of our justice system. It's unacceptable. We'll come and get you in North Carolina, or wherever you are."