

Bomb suspect's mom says he's 'scapegoat'

By SHELLEY MURPHY

The mother of a suspect in a Roslindale bomb blast that killed a Boston Police officer insisted yesterday that her son is innocent and is being made a "scapegoat."

Thomas A. Shay, 20, of Quincy, hasn't been charged with the Oct. 28 explosion that was allegedly intended for his father, but killed Boston Police Bomb Squad Officer Jeremiah Hurley Jr. and seriously injured his partner, Francis X. Foley.

"They're saying Tommy didn't like his father, he had a motive to do this and he knows sickos because he's gay," said Nancy Shay, 47, of Quincy. "They're trying to make a case."

"They have to come up with someone ... who better to use for a scapegoat than a poor boy who has emotional problems?"

The younger Shay was ordered held on \$100,000 cash bail yesterday by Boston Municipal Court Judge Timothy Gailey for leaving the state to avoid prosecution on an unrelated charge.

Attorney William McPhee, who represents Shay, called the bail "egregious and outrageous" and said he'll appeal for reduction.

Shay is awaiting trial on

charges of calling a bomb threat to the Back Bay MBTA station in November 1990 and common streetwalking.

Boston Police homicide detectives and federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents who are investigating the Roslindale bombing tracked Shay

to San Francisco and brought him back to Boston.

Shay's father, Thomas L. Shay, called police to his home at Eastbourne Street in Roslindale to inspect a

suspicious box that had fallen from his car.

The bomb exploded while being examined by Hurley and Foley.

Nancy Shay, who testified for two hours before a federal grand jury investigating the bombing, admitted her husband brutally beat her in front of their children during their 16 years together,

but insisted he never abused his kids.

"I stayed with him because of the kids, but I shouldn't have because the kids suffered," said Nancy Shay. "That's why Tommy



SHAY

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than \$500,000 from the Ashburnham-Westminister Regional School District while serving as director of business affairs the past six years.

Members of the district board were scheduled to meet in emergency session last night to deal with critical budget cuts.

Between April 1991 and last month, Katter allegedly endorsed and deposited into his personal bank account checks from school district cities and towns.

Katter pleaded innocent in Worcester District Court Wednesday where \$30,000 bail was imposed.

Marc Cronin, 42, of Somerville, former executive director of the Methuen Housing Authority, is charged with stealing approximately

public funds by eroding taxpayer confidence in government," Harshbarger said.

"The message must be clear that trusted public servants who disregard their responsibilities and violate the law will face criminal prosecution."

Katter is scheduled for a pretrial conference April 10.

Harshbarger called the charges against Katter "particularly serious because many municipalities are already critically short of funds."

Cronin faces a maximum of 10 years in prison if convicted. Katter is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Mark Smith. Assistant Attorney General Howard Brick is prosecuting Cronin.

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has emotional problems."

Nancy Shay said her only son spent 15 years in state schools in the custody of the Department of Social Services, despite her efforts to get him back.

"Tommy was very safe with my husband," she said, denying her son had any motive to kill his father. "Tommy's always loved his father. He'd never want to hurt him."

She also described her husband as "a different person now. He's mellowed out."

During an interview with the Herald last week, the younger Shay claimed investigators suspected his friend, Al Trenkler, 36, of Quincy, built the bomb.

Trenkler was charged in 1986 with possessing an explosive device for allegedly building a bomb that was planted under a Quincy fish company truck. The charge was later dropped.



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