

back to the FBI that the suspect insisted he wasn't involved in Sarah's kidnapping and Bulger concluded he was probably telling the truth, sources said.

Bulger's instincts proved true. The South Boston man was eliminated as a

BULGER, Page A20



EDWARD "ROCCO" ELLIS
Longtime friend of Connor

Earlier tipster makes his pitch on stolen art

By Daniel Golden
GLOBE STAFF

NORTHAMPTON — Before there was William P. Youngworth III, there was Edward "Rocco" Ellis.

As Youngworth haggles with federal prosecutors over the masterpieces stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the original tipster who may have helped break the case waits impatiently in a county jail.

■ Youngworth offers photo of painting if demands are met. A24.

This past June, the 48-year-old Ellis, who has been convicted of child sex abuse, was the first to supply federal authorities with the names of two thieves he says were involved in the \$200 million heist, according to sources. And his bargaining chip worked: he was subsequently transferred from a federal prison to the Hampshire County House of Correction here, near his western Massachusetts roots.

Since then, Youngworth has gone public with much the same tale. That's no co-

ELLIS, Page A25

Nation A

The Weld dispute
The White House

Metro/Region

Political heat
Likely gubernatorial