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$1m inspires flood of art-theft tips

■ THEFT

Continued from Page 31

not being released because they received death threats from the thieves, made "a human error" and will not be disciplined.

She said "a few" of the approximately 50 other guards had decided to resign in the wake of the robbery.

Hawley also defended the museum's security system, which she and other administrators have characterized as "state of the art," but which some outside specialists have faulted.

"There was great attention to detail and we had just put in a number of cameras," she said. "You couldn't walk into any room without being recorded."

But she confirmed earlier reports that the thieves also had made off with the videotapes that recorded entries and exits from the rooms.

She said she had received one tip – from an acquaintance who had received an anonymous call promising information in exchange for money – about the missing art on Tuesday, before the reward was announced,

POLICE SKETCHES VIA AP

Suspect No. 1 with mustache

Suspect No. 1 without mustache

Suspect No. 2 with mustache

Suspect No. 2 without mustache

and several more yesterday.

FBI officials said that many other tips were received yesterday, both at their offices in Boston and throughout the country. They have barely begun investigating them, Cavanagh said.

"We have them coming from a lot of different directions, from local police, the museum, from our other offices," Cavanagh said. "They'll be kept confidential. We'll determine our response to them by how credible they are."

He said the dozen agents assigned to the case, along with Boston police, have begun interviewing current and past museum employees.

He said that while the agency is probing the possibility that the thieves had an inside connection, the interviews with workers are routine.

"We feel it's part of being thor-

good lead we'd continue this pattern. We go back to the nuts and bolts, go back through everybody at the museum, present and prior."

Hawley said fear of the burgeoning number of art thefts worldwide had almost led her to pass up the director's job when it was offered six months ago. "You cannot get a night's sleep," she said.

Hawley said she was persuaded to take the job after being shown the museum's elaborate security devices.

She said she was returning from a party at about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, a half-hour before the thieves entered the museum, when she felt an urge to drop by and do some work. Her husband discouraged her.

She got the bad news at 7 a.m.

"You can imagine walking into that room and seeing the frames on the floor, the works gone," she said. "It was a nightmare."

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