

Swarthmore Informers Warned of Dismissals

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The President of Swarthmore College said yesterday that some members of the college community may have gone "beyond the limits of reasonable cooperation" with the FBI and warned that those who divulge confidential information risk dismissal.

The warning came in a letter from Dr. Robert D. Cross, who said that faculty, students and staff members must exercise "intelligent restraint in divulging information except that required by law or by college policy and practice, to any individ-

ual, public or private, outside the community."

Cross's letter also announced the appointment of a committee charged with "alleviating in every way possible harm unjustly done to the reputation of those given notoriety" in documents stolen March 8 from the Media, Pa., office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The committee is to draw up explicit recommendations regarding the safeguarding of confidential information.

According to the Justice Department, over 1,000 documents were stolen from the Media, Pa., FBI office. Copies of 25 of them have since been mailed anonymously to newspapers and have been the subject of news stories.

One of the copies of stolen documents details FBI suspicions about and surveillance of a Swarthmore philosophy professor last fall. According to the document, a Swarthmore switchboard operator and a campus security officer, as well as others outside the college community, supplied information to agents.

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"For the past week I have been investigating every allegation that has been published, phoned in, or shown to me or my associates that implied that persons in this community—students, faculty, members of the staff—have given out information that was confidential," Cross said.

"I have not yet found any conclusive evidence that any member of the college community has been guilty of wrongdoing in this respect."

No action has been taken by the college against the switchboard operator and security officer referred to in the copy of the FBI document and both remain on the job, a college spokesman said. A hearing for those employees presumably will be a part of the job of the

newly formed committee, the spokesman said.

Named to the six-man committee were two college administrators, two faculty members and two student officers.

Cross stressed that the committee "will not constitute a court" but will be instead "a kind of collective ombudsman for the college community." He indicated that its recommendations would be only advisory, with the president responsible for any action.

Yesterday's letter was Cross's second statement since news stories based on copies of the stolen FBI documents appeared March 24.

On March 29, Cross issued a statement reminding the college community of Swarthmore's policy of releasing information "only as authorized by the individual

about whom the inquiry is made or in compliance with routine, factual inquiry or as required by law or as conducive to the safety and security of individuals in the college community."

Dr. John R. Coleman, president of nearby Haverford College, also issued a memo on March 29. He reminded students, faculties and employees that "we will not be involved in any undercover searching into the thoughts or teachings of a professor, student, or staff member."

"Anyone on campus who is asked, in his role as a member of the college community, for information to be provided on a covert basis on another member of the community should immediately report that request to the president," Coleman said. "Any failure

to do so will be considered a violation of college policy."

A Haverford spokesman said yesterday that to his knowledge no one had come forward since the memorandum went out.