

FBI seeks help with TV cheerleader threats

by UPI

PORTLAND, Ore. - The FBI wants to know who sent dozens of threatening letters about TV coverage of collegiate cheerleaders from Portland, Ore., and elsewhere.

Some of the letters contained an insecticide, KGW-TV reported.

FBI spokeswoman Beth Anne Steele released excerpts of some letters, which have been sent since 2004.

"We are fed up with networks exploiting women in sports coverage. ABC/ESPN exploits collegiate and professional cheer squads in their coverage of football and basketball ..." one excerpt said.

"For the past 6-7 years, ESPN and its nationwide networks have exploited cheer/dance teams all across the country. They do this by parking their TV cameras on these women for their own personal entertainment, but only give TV time to squads that wear long sleeved shirts, jackets, sweaters, etc. The squads that don't wear these types of outfits? They get EXPLOITED. For a long time we have warned ESPN the networks and several schools what would happen if this did not change ... So, we are fed up with this constant exploitation," another excerpt read.

Steele told KGW the excerpts "illustrate the unique nature of the author's grievance, the level of energy the author has devoted to this issue and specific language used by the author."

A \$5,000 reward has been offered for information in the case.

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