Bomber targeting ABC linked to Baton Rouge

Advocate staff report

Federal authorities investigating bombs sent to ABC network President Robert Iger said they believe the bomber was in Baton Rouge shortly before the bombs were mailed.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agent Jim Ruffin said the suspected bomber — a white man 25 to 35 years old with a protruding jaw, bulging eyes and light brown or dark blond hair — probably was in the Sherwood Forest area in April or May of 1994.

“We have specific information that tells us he is from Baton Rouge or has been through Baton Rouge,” Ruffin said. He would not elaborate.

The suspect also apparently has ties to northern California and has spent time there, Ruffin said.

The bomber sent one explosive package from Mobile, Ala., to New York City on May 13, 1994 and another from McComb, Miss., to Los Angeles on July 15, 1994, according to a newspaper advertisement placed in The Advocate by ATF.

The first bomb went to the network’s corporate office in New York, forcing the evacuation of three floors at ABC headquarters. Iger was not in the building at the time.

The second was addressed to ABC’s office in Los Angeles, but smoke began to pour from it while it was at a United Parcel Service sorting office in Jackson, Miss. A bomb squad disarmed it.

The homemade device featured a plastic tube and some explosive material, buckshot and black powder attached to a battery. It would have blown up if someone had opened it, Jackson police said.

Iger was in Los Angeles when the bomb was found in Jackson.

The second bomb has similarities to the first, ATF has said.

“The motive is clear cut,” Ruffin said. “He’s got a problem with ABC.”

Ruffin said he could not discuss the bomber’s motive in detail, but that it might have something to do with the network’s programming.

The suspected bomber is between 5 feet 8 inches and 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighs 165 to 175 pounds. He has hazel, green or blue eyes and light brown or dark blond hair, cut short on the top and sides but with a ponytail in the back. He dresses neatly and is soft-spoken, ATF has said.

He was seen in Mississippi in a small red four-door car with a Louisiana license plate. ATF has said.

Anyone with information can call ATF at (800) 366-9503.

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