Woman accused of false rape report

Police believe she staged a robbery and assault at a Hobby Lobby store. She was arrested Tuesday.

Lori Koehler sent an offensive package to herself, police say.

By HOWARD PANKRATZ | The Denver Post

A woman who claimed she was sexually assaulted while employed at two different Denver metro businesses and may have authored almost 100 derogatory letters about herself and sent them to those employers has been arrested on charges of false reporting.
Lori Anne Koehler, 37, was taken into custody Tuesday morning after an investigation by authorities in Broomfield and Aurora and by Hobby Lobby and Family Dollar stores.

Koehler claimed that on Feb. 20 a man entered the Hobby Lobby store at 5105 W. 120th Ave., bound her to store shelving and sexually assaulted her.

But in a four-page arrest warrant, investigators said they believe Koehler staged the robbery and assault.

Further, they suspect that over a three-year period, Koehler wrote 60 to 70 anonymous letters to employees of Family Dollar — where she was employed between March 2006 and July 2007 — and 30 anonymous letters to Hobby Lobby employees after she became store manager of Hobby Lobby’s Broomfield store.

Attempts to reach Koehler on Tuesday were unsuccessful.

Before she was terminated by Family Dollar in July, she claimed that she had been raped by another Family Dollar employee. She said the alleged rapist warned her he had “connections” and “could get rid of people” and would have her and her kids killed if she told anyone.

During an investigation of the allegations by Family Dollar and the Aurora Police Department, Koehler received a package that she told Family Dollar was offensive.

In the package were condoms, rope and lubricants, according to the arrest warrant affidavit by Broomfield Detective Kurt Wederquist. But Wederquist said a post office videotape showed Koehler mailing the package to herself.

Koehler told police that she mailed the package to herself because “nothing was being done” about the letters that had been sent to Family Dollar employees.

The letters accused Koehler of “loose morals” and accused her of having sexual relationships with Family Dollar employees.

Before Broomfield officers found Koehler on the floor of the Hobby Lobby store tied by her left hand to a stock shelf, Hobby Lobby had been investigating more than of 30 letters sent since January to Hobby Lobby corporate headquarters and Hobby Lobby stores across Colorado. Wederquist said the theme of the letters focused “on the author’s anger and concern” with Koehler being manager at the Broomfield store.