ACTRESS' BOMBSHELL: 'COS' RUBBED ME THE WRONG WAY

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March 2, 2000 Mark Stamey

A stunning actress who asked Bill Cosby for career advice accused the comedy legend of hanky-panky after the two dined alone at his swank East Side townhouse, lawenforcement sources said yesterday.

Lachele Covington, 20, who has appeared on Cosby's CBS TV show, filed a police report saying the beloved comedian put her hand under his T-shirt and guided it south toward his sweatpants, the sources said.

But Covington said she pulled her hand away — and that was the end of that. She told Cosby she was leaving and he said, "That's fine."

Cops consulted the Manhattan district attorney's office and decided no crime had been committed because until the very moment Covington pulled her hand away, all actions had been consensual, the sources said.

So cops never questioned — or charged — the comedian.

But in its upcoming issue, the National Enquirer quotes Covington's relatives saying Cosby went further — grabbing her breasts, trying to put his hand down her pants and exposing himself.

"Bill Cosby scared her half to death," said Covington's grandfather, Charles Keniebrew, the Enquirer reports.

And her father, Joe, told the newspaper: "Lachele ran out of the house. She was traumatized and didn't even tell her mother for two days."

Law-enforcement sources said she never mentioned these details in her report.

When a reporter went to Covington's Trenton, N.J., home yesterday, her twin sister Dechele slammed the door in his face, saying, "We don't want to talk. We don't know anything."

Reached later by phone, Dechele said her sister "was not molested."

In her police report — filed three days after the dinner — Lachele said Cosby invited her to his home on Jan. 25 after she repeatedly asked him for career advice.

Lachele has had only non-speaking parts on his show.

Lachele wore a sweater, jeans and boots. Cosby wore a T-shirt and sweatpants. His wife, Camille, was not home, the sources said.

After drinks and dinner, Lachele asked Cosby for career tips and he told her, "There isn't anything you can't do if you put your mind to it."

The comedian said that when he wants to do deep thinking, he uses relaxation techniques and to demonstrate, he came around behind her and began rubbing her head, her report said.

Then he slid his hands down her arms, stopping at her buttocks, it said.

Covington lay down on a couch — apparently to relax further — and it was then that Cosby guided her hand toward his sweatpants, the report said.

David Brokaw, Cosby's spokesman, said, "The story is not true. It did not happen. Mr. Cosby was not contacted by the police and the first he learned about this was from the National Enquirer."

The Manhattan DA's office had no comment.