

Cosby case witness misses suspect in lineup

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - The key witness to the slaying of Bill Cosby's son fingered every person in a police lineup as possibly the killer - except the suspect now in custody, a television station reported last Thursday.



COSBY

Sources told KCAL-TV the witness said five of the six people in the lineup looked like the man she saw moments before Ennis Cosby was slain. The only one she failed to rec-

ognize was Michael Markhasev, 18, who is charged in the shooting death.

"It wasn't that this person said, 'Gee, you know, I can't pick out anyone.' It was, 'It could be this guy, it could be this guy.' But we never mention the suspect," said Dale Rubin, one of Markhasev's attorneys.

Police Chief Willie Williams confirmed Thursday the witness couldn't pick Markhasev out of a police lineup, but declined to give details. He insisted it "should not in any way impede the investigation and the prosecution."

"The only thing that I will confirm is that the information that was reported regarding a lineup is nothing new, it's nothing startling, it's nothing

that has not been known from the time that we made the arrest," Williams said.

Markhasev's attorneys criticized police for releasing Markhasev's photo at the time of his March 12 arrest when they still might need to put him in future lineups. The judge at Markhasev's arraignment refused to allow photographers to take the suspect's picture.

Sandi Gibbons, spokeswoman for the district attorney's office, refused to discuss the results of the lineup.

Charles Lindner, another one of Markhasev's attorneys, wouldn't identify the witness brought in for the lineup, but KCAL-TV said it was the woman Cosby was en route to visit on the night of the slaying.

The woman was reportedly seated in her car on Jan. 16 while Cosby, 27, changed a flat tire. The gunman knocked on her window and told her to get out of her car.

She fled, then returned to find the doctoral student fatally shot beside his Mercedes-Benz.

Sketch artists constructed a drawing of the suspect based on the woman's description, and Markhasev's mug shot appeared similar to the drawing. Police arrested him based on several tips.

Markhasev pleaded innocent March 29 to murder, attempted robbery and use of a firearm during a crime. A preliminary hearing was set for April 18.

Hanging with the homeboys

Comedians Chris Rock (right) and Mario Joyner take a break at Oven's auditorium after a recent sold out concert. Rock's on and a roll. His HBO talk show may be picked up permanently in the fall and his first comedy CD just hit the stores. His tour continues for the next few months.



PHOTO BY MARK PENDERGRASS

Afro-American Cultural Center hosts Artsplash Summer Camp in June

The Afro-American Cultural Center is taking applications for its summer arts camp - Artsplash 1997. Artsplash is a multidisciplinary cultural arts camp for children ages 5 through 16. Artsplash offers students an opportunity to dive into a variety of arts experiences including dance, drama, visual arts and music. The classes, taught by professional artists and instructors, are also designed to teach kids about African American culture and personal heritage.

Each session meets Monday through Friday at the Afro-American Cultural Center from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Supervised aftercare will be provided from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. for an additional fee. Registration for Artsplash is \$25. Tuition for Artsplash is \$100 per session. The registration deadline is June 9th for Session I; July 1st for Session II; and July 14th for Session III. Some scholarships are available based on financial need and request. There is limited enrollment, so early registra-

tion is encouraged.

This year's classes include: Nngoma! African dance and Jazzy Raz-Ma-Taz, taught by dancer and choreographer Chris Thompson; cultural arts, taught by artist - Micaela Milburn-Caudil; creative dramatics, taught by local performing artist - Roger Davis; Little Griots storytelling and rites of passage, taught by performing artist - Ayaba Bey.

Artsplash is divided into three sessions during the summer: Session I, June 16-27 (ages 5-9); Session II, July 7-18 (ages 10-12); Session III, July 21-August 1 (ages 13-16).

For registration information, call the Afro-American Cultural Center at (704) 374-1565. The Afro-American Cultural Center is located near the corner of Seventh and McDowell Streets. The hours are 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Saturday, and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Sundays.

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