

TWO FACED CHARGES BEFORE TURKEY TOSS

Newsday - Long Island, N.Y.

Author: JENNIFER SMITH AND DIONNE SEARCEY. STAFF WRITERS

Date: Dec 6, 2004

Copyright Newsday Inc., 2004

Two of the teens charged in tossing the turkey that critically injured Victoria Ruvolo had been involved in a scuffle with a girl less than two weeks before the stunt that smashed Ruvolo's face.

Rachel MacDonald, 17, and Jack Cutrone, 18, were both charged with harassing 18-year-old Ashley Fesq, of Setauket, after MacDonald allegedly punched her and then called her cell phone the next day to taunt her, Suffolk County police said.

Fesq could not be reached for comment, but a woman who identified herself as the girl's mother said her daughter met Cutrone at a party a couple of years ago and they chatted on the Internet and exchanged cell phone numbers. She said her daughter wanted to put the incident behind her.

"I don't want to make this a whole big thing for her," Fesq's mother said.

Cutrone allegedly lured Fesq to a Waldbaum's supermarket in Stony Brook on Oct. 24 after telling her he'd broken up with MacDonald and wanted to meet her for pizza, according to the New York Post. When Fesq arrived, MacDonald surprised her and punched her, police said.

The next day MacDonald called Fesq's cell phone and taunted her, Suffolk County police said.

MacDonald's attorney, Michael Brown, said that while his client may have been involved in a spat, she has never been convicted of anything. "She is a quiet, respectful, passive individual," he said.

Both Cutrone, of Selden, and MacDonald were charged with misdemeanor aggravated harassment for the phone call, police said. But the punching incident is still under investigation and no arrests have been made, said Officer Sonny Di Stefano.

Cutrone, MacDonald and Ryan Cushing, 18, of Huntington, were riding with friends in two cars Nov. 13 when Cushing allegedly tossed a 20-pound turkey out the window. The bird sailed through the windshield of an oncoming car, driven by Ruvolo, and smashed into her face.