Gambling pro accused of cheating in Windsor

BY PAT MURPHY Staty Writer

BY PAY MURPHY BYAY WATTA The West Bloomfield woman accured of cheating at blackjack in Windser was part of a syndi-catch the same as people in an office who pool their moments office who pool their moments of the same as people in an other ways arrested Saturday — and stip-searched — they ware la-cally playing mant blackjack, not could all-searched — they ware la-gally playing mant blackjack, not could be a start of the saturday — and stip-searched — they ware la-gally playing mant blackjack, not could be arrested Saturday — the charges are propor-teroux." Dancey said Tuesday, af-ter which abe decilled to islabo-rate about the arrests or the two days for Which abe and her com-panions were held until released Monday.

Dancey did, however, provide the name of her storaway, who said Ontario police were behaving more like the Keystone Cope than the highly trained professionals they are touted to be. "If alse were guilty, I wouldn't way anything" said largyer Don-ald Tait, whose office is in Wind-ter side." Ontario police screeted Dancey, 6, Christopher Zalis, 20, of Mari-tion, NJ, and Karen Conrey, 28, 6, Christopher Zalis, 20, of Mari-tion, NJ, and Karen Conrey, 26, 6, Christopher Zalis, 20, of Mari-tion, NJ, and Karen Conrey, 28, 6, Christopher Zalis, 20, of Mari-tion, NJ, and Karen Conrey, 28, 6, Christopher Zalis, 20, of Mari-tion, NJ, and Karen Conrey, 28, 6, Christopher Zalis, 20, of Mari-ton, nJ, and Karen Conrey, 28, 6, Christopher Zalis, 20, of Mari-ton, and the trib had been play-ing for three day. Their attorney said they had been losing heavily for two days, but were arrested when their luck spreared to be changing. "My cli-onts had won about \$5000, but were still way behind," said Tait.

■ 'if she were guilty, I wouldn't say anything. But she's not. So it's in the best interests of my client to tell her side.'

lawyer Donald Tait

ring. "We're not talking about penny-anis cheating." he said. "They were playing at a table where the minimum is \$100 and the maximum \$3,000." They were using a set of beads, White said, to keep track of aces, tens and face cards so they could vary their bet and - by counting - improve their chances of win-ning. Each is charged with conspiring to cheat at play and cheating at play, charges that each carry a maximum penalty of two years in

maximum penalty of two years in prison. Police asid the incident markas, the first time anyone has been ar-reated on cheating charges at the galized and the same of the same last month. Ontario has had le-galized roulette and blackjack gambling on a limited basis for several years. According to Detective Sgt. John M. White, Dancey and her companions are part of an inter-national high-stakes gambling

— improve their chances or warming. Furthermore, White said, two of the three defendants — he declin-ed to asy who — "are known to authorities in Atlantic City." The New Jersey Casino Control Commission, however, had never

heard of the defendants, accord-ing to spokesman Michael Pol-lock. Their names were not on the commission a "exclusion list," the rester of people barred from gam-bilng. That list usually has about 150 names, and is periodically updat-ed. "Most of the people on the list are associated with organized crime. We have very few chest-ers."

crime, we have very iew cleas-ers." Counting is legal in New Jer-sey, Pollock said, as long as the players do not use an electronic or mechanical calculator. Pollock said he had never heard of some-body using beads — except maybe to prev.

body using beads — except maybe to pray. Tait, who also represents Zalls and Corney, said he didn't know if New Jersey authorities knew of his clients or not. "But what they do is not illegal. They try to play mant... and when they started winning, they were arrested." Tait asid his clients were in the high-rollers section of the caaino,

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ARCARDUA where high-stakes players are al-lowed to have companions who don't bet. Zalis was betting — with money provided by investors confident in his blackset skills — while Dancey and Conroy were watching. The stakes are shared by the star-ting about upcoming cards. The conversation is legard, he said, and aimed at trying to equalize tor data the start of the start of the the odds. No computer calculas-tor was involved. The beads, Tali said, are used to keep track of the commission the bettor associates are paid for being right when they puese about acces or other premium cards. "The beads have nothing to do with counting," he said. Nevertheless, police confiscated \$12,000 worth of chips and about \$12,000 in cash.

The next scheduled court date for Dancey, Zalis and Conroy is July 18.



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