

MACOMB COUNTY: MURDER SUSPECT: I FOUND BODIES - HE TESTIFIES HE PANICKED AND RAN

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Murder suspect **Xavier Chase** said he felt bad about dismissing his ex-girlfriend and longtime friend, so he went to her apartment to make peace.

But when he arrived, he said, he came upon a gruesome scene: Rema Reed, 32, was slumped in the driver's seat of her car, dead. Her boyfriend, 36-year-old Terry Buchanan, lay lifeless on the parking lot asphalt a few feet away.

Chase panicked, he said, and ran for blocks until Warren police caught up, pepper-sprayed and cuffed him for the slayings.

"I was just looking like, 'This isn't what you think,' " said **Chase**, 40, as he told a Macomb County jury Wednesday his version of what happened Nov. 4, 2007, when Reed and Buchanan were gunned down.

That's not the version police and prosecutors have presented in the trial. They say **Chase** was a scorned lover who lay in wait for Reed and her new boyfriend across the street from her apartment building, then ambushed and shot them each twice before running away.

The killer wore a Michael Myers-style Halloween mask, Assistant Prosecutor Steve Fox said, and DNA analysts testified that spots of Buchanan's blood were on the outside of the mask, while skin cells matching **Chase** were on the inside.

Chase, who faces two counts of first-degree murder, was arrested just blocks from Reed's apartment. Buchanan's blood also was found on the tennis shoes he was wearing.

Defendants in murder cases rarely testify unless they're claiming self-defense. **Chase** said he found the bodies, panicked and ran, then spotted the killer and tried to **chase** him down before being accosted by police.

Chase, whose quiet voice began to rise as Fox cross-examined him, said he had no reason to kill the couple. Reed and Buchanan began dating around April 2007, and he was supportive, he said.

The trial will resume Tuesday with closing arguments, after which deliberations are set to begin.

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: **Xavier Chase**

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