

Man convicted in 2 slayings

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Families of victims express gratitude, relief for verdict **in** '07 ambush shootings **in** front of Warren apartment.

By Christina StolarzThe Detroit News

MOUNT CLEMENS — Even though James Reed felt confident that the **man** who killed his daughter and her boyfriend would be **convicted**, he still needed to take a moment for himself Tuesday after the guilty verdict was read.

"It's very difficult. It's the end of a long process," said Reed, whose daughter, Rema Reed, was fatally shot outside her apartment along with her boyfriend, Terry Buchanan, on Nov. 4, 2007. "We felt all along that the arc of the universe would bend toward justice. I believe it was a fair and just verdict.

"It's a message to those who seek to murder women, **in** general."

Xavier Chase, 40, was found guilty of two counts of first-degree murder **in** the shootings of Rema Reed, who was his ex-girlfriend, and Buchanan. Chase of Detroit also was found guilty of two counts of felony firearm and one county of possession of a firearm by a felon.

Chase, who was stone-faced as the verdict was read, will be sentenced before Macomb Circuit Judge Peter Maceroni on Jan. 28.

Chase laid **in** wait Nov. 4, 2007, outside Reed's south Warren apartment carrying a gun and wearing a mask like the killer Michael Myers **in** the "Halloween" slasher movies. Police say Chase ambushed Reed, 32, and Buchanan, 36, as the couple left the apartment to leave for work **in** the morning.

"It hurts. I'm still **in** shock," said Buchanan's mother, Lillian Mitchell. "You bury someone and you have to go to court too. It's like going to another funeral."

Macomb Assistant Prosecutor Steve Fox said the jury "did the right thing." "I'm glad that (the jury) took the time to review the evidence," said Fox, noting there were 30 witnesses **in** the case. "There was a lot to consider."

Chase's defense attorney, Timothy Barkovic, told the jury during closing arguments that it's hard to decipher what really happened after listening to snippets of testimony.

"Here is a killing out of context," he said. "The prosecution says he is a scorned lover. There is no testimony or evidence that that was the reason or motive **in** this particular case. The facts of this case, if believed, are that this is more **in** nature with a random killing."

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