

## MAN DENIES 'BUMP-AND-RUN' KILLING ROLE

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Rex Love, half of an alleged "bump-and-run" robbery and murder team, testified his mind was on other things when he and David Hudson left a 52-year-old woman to die in a garbage-strewn alley.

"I didn't bother to do nothing to her . . . except get away from there," Love told a Recorder's Court jury last week. "I wasn't thinking about nothing. My mind was elsewhere."

The jury will have the opportunity to decide today if Love was, as he testified, an unwitting witness to murder -- or, as assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Lee Janice contends, an urban predator who enjoyed a snack, a little television and a workout after a night of hunting.

Love, 22, is on trial before Judge Michael Sapala on charges of first-degree murder and armed robbery for the Jan. 28 slaying of Ruth Wilson. The wife of a retired autoworker, Wilson was shot dead in her car near Grand River and Virginia Park, then dumped beside an overflowing dumpster in an alley in the 4300 block of Allendale.

Hudson, 26, Love's alleged partner, will be tried later on the same charges.

THE TWO MEN also are awaiting trial in Oakland County, charged with the abduction, robbery and murder of **Evette Jones** the same night, in a case Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson said merits the death penalty.

According to police and prosecutors, the men used their first victim's car to pull a "bump-and-run" accident on Jones, 19.

After purposely ramming Jones' car at Pacific and Grand River, they forced Jones -- who had gotten out to inspect the damage -- into the trunk of Wilson's car, investigators said. Love and Hudson, taking both cars, drove to Southfield, where the trunk was opened and Jones was shot six times, they said.

Hudson and Love were arrested by police who followed footprints in the snow from Jones' car to Hudson's house on Pacific. Love said he and Hudson had been eating pizza, watching television and lifting weights when the police tracked the footprints to the door.

THE KILLINGS were prompted, Love testified, because Hudson -- complaining of high bus fares -- wanted a car to get to classes at Wayne County Community College.

"These are particularly cold-blooded crimes," said Patterson. "It was an execution, pure and simple. I would have no hesitation in asking for the death penalty. And what's really frightening, these aren't the only two like this floating around out there."

Conviction for first-degree murder in Michigan requires life in prison without parole. Patterson, veteran of an earlier effort, is mounting another drive to amend the state Constitution to permit capital punishment.

TESTIFYING in his defense Wednesday, Love said Hudson, after getting a .25-caliber automatic pistol earlier that day on the southwest side, griped about the cost of going back and forth to school and announced he was "going to get a car -- stick a few people up."

As they walked along Virginia Park, Love -- a 6-foot-1 weight lifter who testified he "always" carried a .22-caliber revolver to protect his jewelry -- said Hudson suddenly sprinted up to a green Chrysler that had just parked.

"I saw him, like, push in the person who was getting out -- like pushing them in. I heard something, a yell, then I heard a pop," Love testified. "It was a woman's voice. She said: 'I ain't got nothing.' It was while she was talking that I heard the pop."

Love testified that he ran from the scene but that Hudson picked him up.

"He said 'Get in.' I did. I was scared at the time," Love testified. "I didn't know he was going to shoot somebody and take no car. . . . I didn't know he was going to shoot no one -- period."

Despite his fear, Love said he got in and watched as Wilson was pushed out into the alley.

Although Love testified he was several car lengths away and took no part in Wilson's shooting, an off-duty city bus driver testified that Love shot into the driver's side of the car as the men converged on it, "like they was in harmony."

Love refused to answer any questions about Jones' abduction despite a warning from Judge Sapala that his action would represent contempt of court.

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