

EXHIBIT J

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BREAKING NEWS:

Cops Ignore Neo-Nazi Ties to St-Jean Baptiste Day Murder Charges Anti-Racist Group

ARA Montreal (press release)

8 Aug 00

On June 24, 2000 Montrealer Christian Thomas was beaten into a coma in front of Bar Chez Helene. Six days later, he died in hospital from his injuries. Montreal police have arrested 3 men in relation with the murder; Sacha Montreuil, 26, Adam Guerbuez, 25 and Frederic Morin, 22. Although witnesses reported that up to 10 neo-nazis had been involved in the attack, police were quick to state that they would most likely only apprehend a handful of the culprits. True to their word, only Montreuil has been charged in connection with the murder itself, while Guerbuez and Morin have been charged with assault. No others have been charged in the case.

On July 28, 2000, after the three men were arrested, police hotly denied any connection of the accused to neo-nazis whatsoever. Anti-Racist Action Montreal (ARA) begs to differ.

For over a year, ARA has been receiving tips that neo-Nazis were using Bar Chez Helene as a meeting place. In the spring of 1999, ARA alerted the neighbourhood around the bar to the presence of neo-Nazis like gang member and violent offender Mathieu Dubois, who lives a few blocks away.

Of the dozen or so people MUC police spoke to in their investigation of the murder, at least five of those present that night were known Montreal neo-Nazis with extensive criminal records - Mathieu Carriere, Jonathan Cote, Isabel Forget, Steve Lavallee, and Stephen LePage. The three accused are not permitted to have contact with these five.

Jonathan Cote and Steve Lavallee, members of Montreal racist gang Berzerker Boot Boys, recently completed sentences they received for their involvement in a series of armed assaults on patrons of Plateau-area bars in 1998. Isabel Forget regularly appeared during their trial to support her racist friends and intimidate witnesses. Stephen LePage, member of the racist Vinland Hammer Skins, has numerous convictions for violent offenses. ARA photographed Mathieu Carriere accompanying Berzerker Boot Boy Mathieu Dubois to a racist rock concert in February 1998.

Why were the police so quick to admit to reporters that only a handful of the murderers would ever be held accountable? And given the evidence, how

can major crimes division Commander Andre Bouchard state "that a group of skinheads inside the bar at the time were not involved," or that the accused "absolument pas...il s'agit de gars qui ne sont pas relies y ce genre d'organisation," especially when the gang unit claims to be keeping close tabs on Montreal neo-Nazi gangs? Like the 1998 Plateau-area bar attacks, local police seem quick stick their heads in the sand when faced with organized racist violence.

Why was Thomas, a Chez Helene regular, murdered? Because Bar Chez Helene patrons, staff and owners conceded public space to violent neo-Nazis. Because the MUC police have consistently demonstrated their incompetence in dealing with racist violence, once again botching their investigation by ignoring and downplaying connections between serious crimes and organized fascists.

If someone had told the neo-Nazis they were not welcome at Bar Chez Helene the first night, or the fifth night, or the fiftieth night they walked in, it is almost certain that Christian Thomas would be alive today. If the police cannot protect Montrealers from racist violence, or prevent the murder of people like Christian Thomas by violent, organized fascists known to them, or even bring such murderers to justice, who will do their job for them? And why are Montreal police superiors like Andre Bouchard lying about the extent of neo-Nazi violence in connection with this latest murder?

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