

Tomb of the unknown perpetrator

A statue went up yesterday in Jihlava to hometown heartthrob Gustav Mahler, and a group of internet enthusiasts want a statute to another 20th-century musical genius, Michael Jackson, to be erected on Letná in Prague. To win street cred with the Facebook generation, Prague Mayor Pavel Bém agreed to support the Jackson project, but [Petr Honzejek](#) of HN said that Letná should instead be graced with a monument to Bém himself. The centerpiece could be a 6m Opencard terminal, Honzejek said, with ice-axes on each side. As an allegory, it's nice, but doesn't it exaggerate the importance of Bém? One man alone cannot move the mountain to Holland or cave in the tunnel. It takes an entire team, and each member deserves his share of the credit for all the misdeeds. Just as other countries have thousands of unknown soldiers who merit a monument to their bravery and sacrifice, the Czech Republic has hundreds of unknown perpetrators who have little hope of ever being identified. It's heartbreaking, if you think about it.

Hard-hitting analysis

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