

A daily e-mail bulletin of Czech wit & wisdom. For your free subscription, write to subscribe@fsfinalword.com

In the name of Václav Havel



The most damning comment in last night's [Reportéři ČT](#) about the budding Václav Havel Library came from Director Naděžda Goryczková of the National Heritage Institute. She said she truly believes that the good name of Václav Havel is being abused. The crux of the matter is that Zdeněk Bakala wants to put the library in a building he owns in the Hradčany area of Prague and, in the view of Goryczková and others, is steamrolling through excessive heritage-related changes to the residential part of the building by piggybacking on the Havel name. The planned private swimming pool has become a symbol of this dispute. Inevitably, ČT hinted that some methods of persuasion not in line with the Havel legacy might have been used to hurry along the permit process. From a PR standpoint, if that matters to him anymore, Bakala really only has one choice: Take his swimming pool elsewhere.

