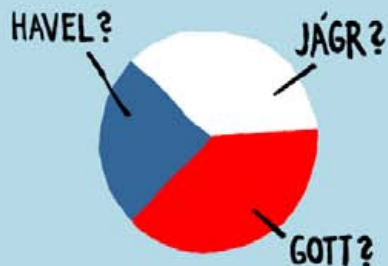


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Flipping off the world



A joke making the rounds goes like this: A Czech, an Austrian, a Japanese, a Jew and an Avatar meet ... and the Czech presidential elections begin. The Avatar, for those not in the know, is drama Prof. Vladimír Franz, who has blue tattoos over 90% of his body. His bodywork won him his 15 minutes of fame in the [Daily Mail](#) and [Wall Street Journal](#). They certainly didn't print his picture because of his ideas on democracy, debt or opera, although many Czechs claim it's his intellect that attracts them. A Blesk [presidential poll](#) puts Franz in third place, with 14%, behind Miloš Zeman and Jan Fischer (21% each). Vladimír Dlouhý, another candidate, says that only Franz and Karel Janeček (who isn't running) can fill a meeting hall. If Czechs elected Franz, it would be a protest against the political establishment. It would also be a clear way to tell the world that Czechs don't give a damn what anyone thinks about them.



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