**Silly Hat Brigade – Office of Journalism**

 Our organization comes from the undercover wing of the Times Herald. Individually our reporters represent 20 years of experience infiltrating organizations to collect the news of the day. After a photo-op for several agents in partial costume made it around the office, we were christened as ‘the silly hat brigade.’ Rather than fight it, the team has sought after newer and more interesting roles to allow the purchase of a larger variety of headgear. We’re now proud to say, in addition to revealing corporate scandals, fraudulent scientists and politicians doing what they do best, we now have the largest collection of unfashionable hats west of the Mississippi (hot on the foreheads of the Chicago bowler league as well).

 Most recently the Brigade has specialized in scientific circles. First because scientists pay no attention to headgear, and also because interesting developments can be passed along to competing companies if the stories are too cut and dry for a strong headline. So if you have a new technology to show the world or if you just want to know if someone else does – look no further. While we post no official rates for our services, any leads which lead to stories or other profitable conclusions will be given our full attention.



“Did that asshole say he was the captain again? And not a mention of my three Pulitzers, or the fact that I brought the group together while he was off feeling sorry for himself that he was scooped on the mapping of the fruit fly genome. Look, if there were any justice in this world, I’d be sitting on a beach, writing memoirs on the finer point of cocktail appreciation. Right, right – I’m just the businessman, my job is to appear professional and get other snooty types talking. Among professionals anyone could do this, but in present company, I’m indispensible.”

*- Arthur Tomlin, dapper fedora*

“Aaaahhhhhh Motherland!
*[Editor: Sergey isn’t much for conversation, but he does good work when we need some muscle.]*
“???
*[Editor: He’s just tilting his head to the side now, so let’s going on talking about him. Some folks need looming physical violence to feel comfortable giving up company paperwork.]*
“Raawww, kitty kitty kitty!”
*[Editor: great, now he’s chasing a cat he thought he saw. I’m not going to defend the articles he’s written, especially “Point-counterpoint, Shiny Objects”, but he’s a valuable member of the crew]*

* *Sergey Grankin, cat on his head*

“Quick questions? Yes ok, but I have a few statements I have to make you aware of first. All of you are always asking where I am from, and to that I just have to laugh - and then not to answer, because this information is for me privately. Second, yes, I was responsible for the embarrassing finale of the “Imaginary Accelerator incident.” This has been spoken about thoroughly, and I ask not to drag through it again. Other than that, and that I am now busy and so leaving, I will tell you all you want to know.”

* *Federico Gomez Suarez, wearing what appears to be a waterfowl*

 “There are two schools of thought on information sharing. Either keeping secrets protects valuable company self-interest, or the bigger-the-secret the bigger-the-story. You can decide which camp our brigade falls into. And the whole hat thing? Well there was another study, online-surveys or something like that - the bottom line was that people feel more comfortable letting information slip when something looks informal, or unconventional. We think this extends directly to asking questions with a plush shark on your head.”

* *Jett Jones, captain and top hat*