

Week in Ideas

January 05, 2012

The Wall Street Journal:

Psychology

Big Shots

The figurative big man on campus may think he's a literal big man, too.

To study the effects of power on perception, researchers measured the height of 100 male and female college students, gave them a bogus test purportedly measuring leadership ability, and then assigned them to serve as either a manager or an employee in a role-playing task.

The assignment was random, but the participants were told that it was based on leadership potential (the role-playing task never actually happened). After this set-up, the students gave personal information, including their height.

There was no difference in the actual height of the two groups, but the “high-power” participants rated themselves as taller than they were, and taller than the “low-power” participants did.

Read the whole story: [The Wall Street Journal](#)