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Tall Tales: The Great Talisman of Height

Bill Walker

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“Anatomy is destiny,” Freud famously wrote. Is that really true? Since caveman times, humans have had practically sacred attitudes towards height.
Bill Walker, a 6'11 1/2 globetrotter, has produced a highly entertaining book—Tall Tales—on this much underrated subject. Walker ruthlessly submerges his ego to tell a ream of strange, but true, real-life stories. These include flunking the physical to enter the U.S. Army, suffering rejection by horrified members of the opposite sex, and being treated like a wild animal escaped from the zoo in foreign countries.
Walker expands the discussion beyond himself to include some intriguing issues:
--the infamous Napoleonic short man's complex. And how about its inverse for tall people--the ostrich complex?
--What is one to make of the avalanche of studies that show tall people consistently make more money than their shorter counterparts, and win almost every presidential election?
--Most of history’s mass-murderers have been well to the short side. Is this merely a coincidence?
--A closer, more revealing, look at the lives of 7’1 ½” Wilt Chamberlain, 7’2 ½” Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 8’11” Robert Wadlow, and 6’5” Abraham Lincoln.
--Why short and small may well be the wave of the future.

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Daniel Trimble:

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Henry Taylor:

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