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By **JOE KITA**

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One of those surgeons is S. Robert Rozbruch, M.D., director of the Institute for Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction at the Hospital for Special Surgery, in New York City. He counters: "Seeing the profound impact this surgery can have on someone has convinced me that, for a very select group of people, it should be brought out of the closet and done more freely."

Paul Steven Miller, for one, thinks limb lengthening is unnecessary. Miller is an attorney and the commissioner of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He also happens to be a 4'5" dwarf, who has experienced height discrimination firsthand. "One law firm told me they feared their clients would think they were running a circus freak show if they hired me," he recounts. Nonetheless, Miller says cosmetic limb lengthening is "silly." "I have a hard time believing it really makes a difference in these people's lives."

"Before I had this surgery, I was depressed and very self-conscious," says Mark Pace, D.O., an osteopath in South Florida who was 4'11". "I was afraid to walk into a roomful of children because they would make fun of me, and I could barely talk to women. I had zero confidence. Now, I'm just under 5'3", and the difference is unbelievable. I'm seeing eye-to-eye with people, and I'm actually dating."

"I've gained about 2½ inches," says Conran, "and it feels great. In fact, I'm reluctant to let the thrill wear off. I'm almost 5'9". Now, I sure don't consider that tall, but it's not short. It's average, and that's all I ever wanted to be. I wanted to be accepted on my own merits without having my height held against me."

"I can't wait to walk down the streets of New York City, visit my old neighborhood, and see things from a slightly different perspective," adds Jose Rodriguez, who recently got his frames removed and is 2¾ inches taller. "Those extra inches make you a little more confident, a little more happy, and the day a little brighter."

If you're still skeptical, Rodriguez suggests an experiment. "Take a few books, set them on the floor, and stand on top of them," he says. "You don't think a couple of inches can make a difference, but it's amazing."