A BEAUTIFUL MIND?

Sir,

Your article on “Beauty and success” (22 December)--suggesting that beauty predicts actual intelligence--had serious omissions. Before your not-so-beautiful readers rush to have their faces surgically fixed, they should know that three different large-scale meta-analytic studies (i.e., statistical integration of the results of independent studies) failed to find support that attractive people are actually more intelligent (see Feingold, 1992, in Psychological Bulletin; Langlois et al., 2000, in Psychological Bulletin; and Jackson et al., 1995 in Social Psychology Quarterly). The Jackson study, by the way, did find a very weak positive relation; however, this relation disappeared when two outlier studies were removed.

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