



PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Think your work space is stuffy? Try punching the clock inside a six-by-seven-foot plastic box, as Richard Wiese did for three weeks this fall. Wiese, president of the Explorers Club in New York City, installed an altitude chamber in his third-floor suite (elevation: 142 feet) to prepare himself for the oxygen-thin air on the 17,000-foot summit of Mexico's Iztaccihuatl volcano. Breathing 12.6 percent oxygen initially left him feeling woozy and "kind of stupid," he admits. But the chamber worked. "I went with six people," he says. "All of them got sick and turned back." Not Wiese, who made the final push from high camp in half the usual time. PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW HETHERINGTON