

POLITICAL

Washington takes its toll

NEW West Wing star John Goodman is tipping the scales at a mammoth 400 lbs. - and friends fear he's digging his own grave with a knife and fork.

These shocking pictures show that the usually rotund Goodman is now simply enormous.

An eyewitness who saw Goodman strolling through a Malibu, Calif., farmer's market, where he bought a big jar of homemade honey, tells GLOBE, "John looks like he's just waiting to drop dead of a heart attack."

"You could see the perspiration dripping on his forehead. He was drinking an iced mocha, with whipped cream on top. I cringed when I thought of how that heavy cream was really the last thing he should be eating."

"It was even painful to watch John struggle just to get into his Cadillac."

Those who have seen the former Roseanne star on the set of NBC's political drama say his weight is creating problems for the affable actor.

"We were all aghast at how fat John has gotten," a West Wing set insider tells GLOBE. "He was always big, but now he's huge. It's unbelievable. He is easily 400 pounds."

Goodman's girth is giving him physical problems at work, where he plays the fictional Speaker of the House, who was sworn in as acting president in last season's dramatic cliffhanger ending, say sources.

"John was just standing behind the podium giving a speech and he was sweating as if it were 200 degrees on the set," reveals

JOHN GOODMAN'S HEALTH CRISIS



'He was always big - now he's HUGE'

the insider. "He looked like he was having a difficult time breathing."

The 6-foot-2 Goodman, 51, has been a constant yo-yo dieter in his long-running battle of the bulge.

And doctors have warned him that he must slim down. One even told him, "If you don't lose this weight, you're going to die!"

But the heavyweight star has no chance of slimming down while working, sources say. "A set is really the worst place for a fat person because there's always food around," says The West Wing insider. "As soon as the

director yells 'cut,' John heads for the food table and loads a plate with meatballs, chicken, beef, pasta, potatoes - all the really heavy foods.

"One time, there was a female extra who had been in the food line just ahead of him and she must have sensed his urgency to eat because she actually moved aside so he could get to the food first."

Dr. John L. Thomas, head of family practice at Long Beach Hospital in Southern California, who has not treated Goodman, tells GLOBE, "Morbid obesity is bad for every single organ of the body."

"It puts you at risk for diabetes, high blood pressure, heart and kidney disease and strokes."

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New West Wing prez tips scales at 400 lbs. - pals fear for his life