

Wednesday April 24, 2002

## Man Who Lost A Lot of Weight Pretty Sure He Just Misplaced It

SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI- Bernard Killabrough has never been a large man. But in recent years the paunch of middle age has more or less overtaken him. Yet unlike the other health-obsessed employees at Hillsdale Marine, the idea of shedding those pounds didn't seem to concern him much. However, late last week Killabrough's coworkers began noticing that he had lost quite a bit of weight.

"I wouldn't call it lost just yet," responded Killabrough. "I'm pretty sure it's around somewhere, though. It's probably in a box in my basement storage room. We're still unpacking from the move if you can believe it."

Never a master of idle office chitchat, Killabrough admitted that he didn't quite know how to respond when people asked him about the lost weight. Did they really want an answer or were they making conversation, he wondered. The whole scenario became burdensome after a while.

"How did you do it, Bernie?" asked one coworker. "I haven't noticed you jogging over lunch with the rest of them. What did you do to lose that weight?"

"It's around here somewhere," Killabrough replied. "I just have to look for it."

"I plan to get on that weight thing as soon as I get through this busy period. I just haven't taken the time."

"If I really took the time, I could probably move those boxes out from behind the old bed frame in my storage room."

Later a group of Hillsdale employees came to the consensus that Killabrough was gravely ill. It was the only theory that made sense. The sudden weight loss with no noticeable behavior change pointed directly to something tragic and, better yet, beyond his control or ability to brag about. The only thing yet to be decided upon was whether Killabrough had a melon-sized tumor in his medulla oblongata or Hepatitis C.

But then someone mentioned that Killabrough was the sort of person to complain loudly about having so much as a mild cold, blowing the fatal illness theory all to hell.

Janice Culpepper has been trying to lose weight off and on for the past few years. She has tried (in no particular order) the no carbohydrate diet, the Italian diet, the no sugar diet, the all brown food diet, and one diet which required her to eat a family-size bag of Skittles every six hours. Culpepper says that she sees Killabrough's seemingly effortless reduction as an insult.

"It's a documented medical fact that it is a hell of a lot easier for guys to lose weight," she fumed. "Yet another reason why men suck."

For his part, Killabrough remains confident that his weight will be found in the next few weeks. Undaunted, he continues to search.

"I'm not giving up on it," he says. "I've got a pretty good idea that the weight I lost is at the bottom of this bag of Combos."

