

WHAT'S WRONG WITH RICHARD SIMMONS?

Diet guru TURNS RECLUSIVE

RICHARD SIMMONS hasn't been seen in public for almost a year – and friends fear the 66-year-old fitness guru may have returned to his old overeating habits amid reports he's plunged into a deep depression.

"Richard has gone silent...he doesn't accept or return phone calls and he has his housekeeper turn people away when they come to visit him," says a source, adding the curly-haired Sweatin' to the Oldies sensation hasn't even shown up at his Beverly Hills exercise studio, Slimmons, for months.

Petrified of the pain

Sources say the eccentric celebrity needs a left knee replacement but is terrified of the surgery. "He never fully recovered when his right knee was replaced four years ago," notes a pal. "It was a surgery he'd put off too long. He was petrified of the pain and being inactive."

"Now we hear his left knee needs to be replaced and he's just too scared to have it done. But we

fear there is something more serious going on with him.

"Hardly anyone's heard from him all year. He's become a recluse."

Simmons began his weight-loss crusade more than 40 years ago, shedding 123 pounds through healthy eating, proper proportions and exercise. He later opened an exercise studio and rode his zany personality to fame and fortune.

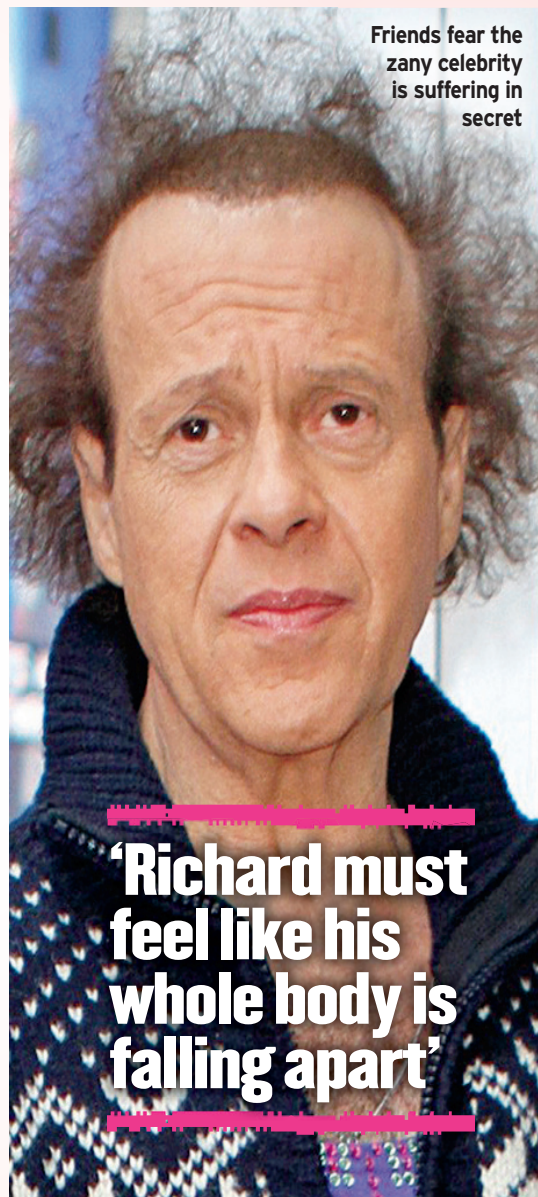
"Richard used to be such a visible fixture in L.A., wearing outlandish outfits and making grand entrances just doing errands," says the source. "Now, no one sees him."

Friends fear his physical problems have sent him into a deep depression.

"Richard must feel like his whole body is falling apart," says the source. "You have to worry that inactivity and depression have sent him plummeting back into his old ways, overeating for comfort."

"Friends miss him dearly and the general consensus is he needs serious help."

"The trouble is, no one can get to him."



Friends fear the zany celebrity is suffering in secret

'Richard must feel like his whole body is falling apart'



MARY-KATE'S TWIN-CREDIBLE NEW FACE!

Mary-Kate (left) now appears quite different from twin Ashley



Mary-Kate (left) and Ashley are nearly identical in a 1996 video

BEING an Olsen twin may have been too much of a good thing. Now, Mary-Kate is sporting a new face and looks quite a bit different than sister Ashley – leading to speculation she's had a little work done!

Once so much alike you couldn't tell them apart, the change was evident when the 28-year-old twosome posed together at the World of

Children Awards in New York.

Now, Mary-Kate's "eyebrows look much higher than before, possibly from a brow lift," says Troy Mich., plastic surgeon Dr. Tony Youn. "Her cheeks also look lifted or she may have had injections of a cheek plumper."

New Jersey cosmetic surgeon Dr. Steven Fallek agrees Mary-Kate may have had fillers, "Otherwise, she may have had cheek and extended chin implants surgically inserted."

But Philadelphia plastic surgeon Dr. Lyle Back insists Mary-Kate's skin "looks particularly good and she may have had a chemical peel or two or laser treatment to keep it looking so youthful and smooth." None of the docs have treated either twin, who became famous on TV's Full House.