WHAT HAPPENED TO REGIS?

REGIS PHILBIN has traded in his easy-going growing-old-gracefully features to look like a mad professor.

As this shocking photo (far right) reveals, the former Live co-host appears nothing like his ruggedly handsome self, causing double takes on New York's streets.

"Regis was almost unrecognizable," says one. "He was grinning like a Cheshire cat and looked bizarre."

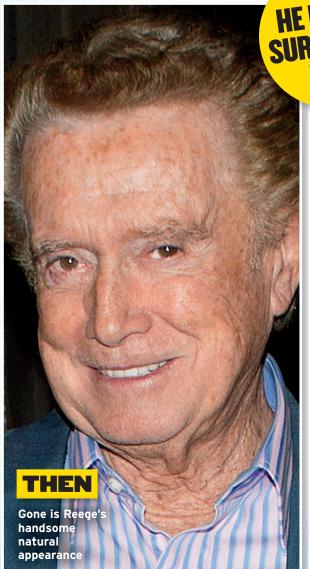
Experts believe the TV star, 84, has had surgery to turn back time - and it backfired big time!

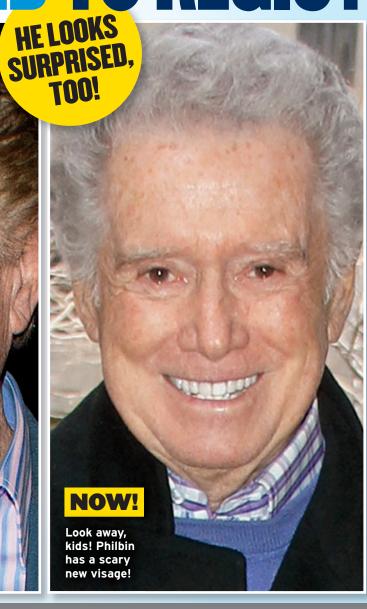
Philadelphia cosmetic surgeon Dr. Lyle Back was struck by Reege's frozen grin.

"A grimace-like smile fixed on the faces of poison victims in the autopsy rooms is referred to as 'Rictus Grin,'" he tells GLOBE. "The plastic surgery counterpart may become known as 'Regis Grin.'"

To top it all off, adds Back, "The wild hair style is an exclamation point on an over-pulled, creepy smile-making face-lift, with eyelids hoisted to the 'I've seen a ghost' level, and a new set of Chiclet choppers. Regis has abandoned his identity."

But Celebrity plastic surgeon Dr. Anthony Youn of Troy, Mich., says Reege's smooth pale skin is an improvement. It may be due to chemical peels and "wellperformed Botox injections."







MONTY PYTHON's Michael Palin is branding co-stars John Cleese and Eric Idle as "difficult" - and his accusations make a reunion nearly impossible!

During a TV appearance,
Palin revealed Cleese and Idle
were raging egomaniacs, which

John Cleese (left) and Eric Idle are 'difficult,' says Michael Palin (right)

Terry Jones were laid back.
"The trouble with stars is
they can be a bit difficult,"
says a very bitter Palin,
71. He insists Cleese and
Idle "wanted to go on
holidays in Barbados and
all that," while he and

opened a rift because he and

Jones "were just happy going to have a pint at the pub."

And things got so bad, Cleese demanded the right to approve every joke that got into a "Python" script, says Palin.

Now insiders say the poisonous outburst will make for an awkward face-to-face meeting during the Monty Python 40th Anniversary Tribute at New York's Tribeca Film Festival on April 24.

While the stars will likely show up for the event, a "Python" movie or TV reunion will probably never happen, says Palin. In another vicious dig, he claims Cleese, 75, made it perfectly clear in his "overpriced autobiography" that "he wasn't really keen to do a lot more" Monty Python.