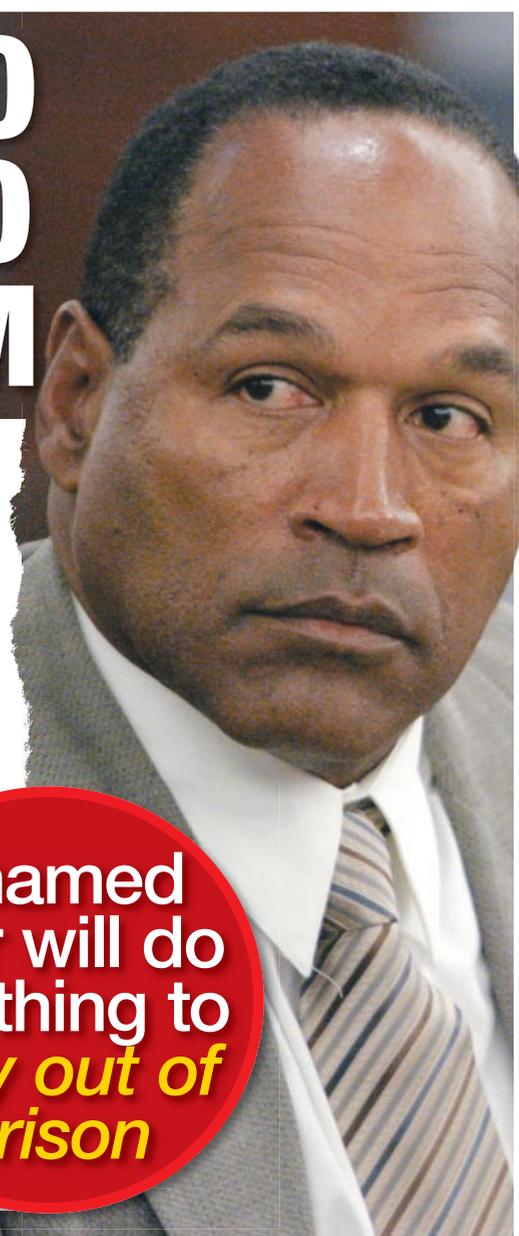


O.J. TURNS TO FIDEL CASTRO FOR FREEDOM



OJ. SIMPSON is making a bizarre attempt to move out of the country – to Cuba!

The 60-year-old disgraced football star has written a detailed, emotional plea to Fidel Castro – seeking the communist leader's permission to make the island nation his new home, sources told The ENQUIRER.

Simpson is charged with armed robbery and other offenses involving his Sept. 16 raid on two sports memorabilia dealers in a Las Vegas hotel room.

He could get 20 years in prison if he is found guilty.

"O.J. has had many sleepless nights planning his escape," an insider revealed.

"He vows he will never let them put him in prison."

"Weeks ago, he started asking friends about countries that do not have extradition treaties with the United States. Cuba was mentioned – and O.J.'s eyes lit up."

Castro would treat me like a king!

"There's no way they can get me outta there," he declared. "In fact, Castro would treat me like a king!"

Disclosed the insider: "Simpson wrote to the communist leader that it would be a great opportunity for Castro to laugh in the face of U.S. leaders, something O.J. is certain Castro would enjoy."

Tickled pink by his scheme, The Juice sent the letter to the brutal dictator, say sources.

"It shows how afraid Simpson is that this time he will go to prison," said a close source.

Incredibly, even if O.J. beats the Las Vegas charges, he still wants to move to Cuba.

He says he is sick of being hounded by the press since his 1995 murder trial.

"He is also convinced the Feds have been tapping his phones and that he is being followed when he goes out," revealed the insider.

Concluded another source: "O.J. finally realizes he's not Teflon anymore."

by PATRICIA SHIPP

Shamed star will do anything to stay out of prison



'Price' isn't right!

Host Drew Carey says *wholesale changes needed*

COMEDIAN Drew Carey finds nothing funny about his "Price is Right" game show. He believes the show is outdated – and fears for its survival, say sources.

Drew feels the show – which has been on since 1972 – must be modernized to keep old viewers and attract new ones.

"We need to update the show – or the whole franchise will fall apart," Drew told producers, according to a show insider.

"He knows he has to force big changes on the producers, such as redoing the outdated sets, and giving it a more modern look."

WHEN THE 49-YEAR-OLD comedian took over hosting duties from Bob Barker in mid-October, ratings jumped among a key demographic – viewers 18 to 49. During Barker's reign, the median age of viewers was 63 – but Drew is determined to keep younger fans tuning in.

His concerns are well-founded, according to the insider, who said the show is scrambling to find 300 people to fill the studio for each

taping and that they are hiring \$75-a-day extras to help fill the audience.

Said the insider: "Drew truly believes the show could end up bombing if producers aren't open to making some major changes."

by ROBIN MIZRAHI

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