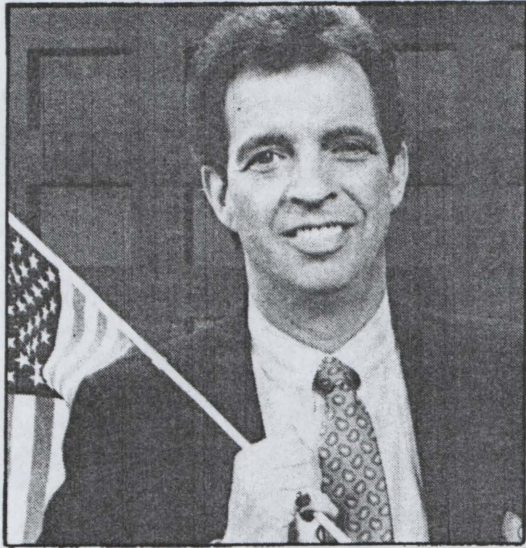


Gossip

Compiled by the CAPITOL staff



Morton Downey Jr.

Q Was Morton Downey Jr. really abducted by a UFO?

A Sure. But the aliens gave him right back, proving that they do, indeed, possess a higher intelligence. Seriously, we don't know what happened to Downey. Downey himself doesn't seem too sure. Last June the loudmouth talk-show host announced on television that he thought he had been beamed up into a UFO as a young man. Michael Luckman, director of the New York Center for UFO Research, heard about Downey's claim and persuaded him to undergo hypnosis to try to recall more details about the experience. Luckman arranged for a psychologist to hypnotize Downey on his show; following is an edited partial transcript of that session, with Downey supposedly under hypnosis in front of a studio audience: "In 1954 I was driving on the Boston Post Road in Connecticut. Suddenly, I notice my car radio is dead. There is a strange-looking star off to my right. It's been following along with the car. The star is now in front of me. Now a fog is coming down. My lights are dimming. The car is stopping, by itself. I'm in the dark, except for this gray fog all around me. I reach for the door handle — it won't turn. I try to open the window, but it won't open. A voice in my head keeps saying, 'You have nothing to fear.' Sudden-

ly, I have this wonderful feeling — the car is being *lifted up*, right off the road! The next thing I realize is that there is a tremendous pain over my solar plexus. Another over my heart. Gently now, the car is being replaced back down onto the road. My watch reads 10 minutes to 2 a.m. I drive to a nearby motel and go into one of the cabins there. The clock in the cabin says 2:33 a.m. Somehow I've lost 43 minutes!" Although Downey seemed serious during the show, he claimed later that it was a put-on. When the program was broadcast nationally, Downey told viewers in a separately taped segment that while he'd had a "strange experience," he didn't really believe he'd been taken aboard a UFO. Ufologist Luckman doesn't buy the disclaimer. He says Downey told him that he honestly believed he was a UFO abductee, that he had a scar on his chest that may be a souvenir of his abduction and that his story had passed two lie detector tests. "Anyone who watched the show could tell that Downey was sincere and that something had happened to him that was very unusual," Luckman insisted.

Q Is it true that Yoko Ono has a daughter whom she refuses to see?

A You've got it backward. It's the daughter who won't see Ono. Ono was married to her second husband, Tony Cox, when she had her first child in 1963. When the child, a girl named Kyoko, was still young and Ono was still married to Cox, Ono ran off with John Lennon. Cox spirited Kyoko away, and Ono hasn't seen her since. Ono has no idea where her daughter is now. "There was a time when I wanted very much to know," she said. "John and I pursued her. We put private detectives on her trail to find her. She was living with Tony. The detectives would come back and tell us, 'Well, we found them, but they noticed us and packed up and moved to another state.' And I just thought, why should I keep messing up their lives like that? So I stopped." Although Kyoko is now an adult and presumably able to see her mother if she wants to, Ono believes that she fears giving up her privacy: "If she comes out, then she'll be in the public eye." ■

Gossip is compiled from wire reports.

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