

# WIREIMAGE

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DECEMBER 1989

**AIDS:  
REDEFINING  
MEDICINE**

**STAR WAR:  
AN ASTRONOMER  
DEFENDS  
ASTROLOGY**

**THE GHOSTS  
OF SOUTH  
CAROLINA**

**RETURN OF  
TRON:  
21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY  
ANIMATION**

\$3.50



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to the tissue is due to natural  
decomposition,  
not to some laserlike device.”

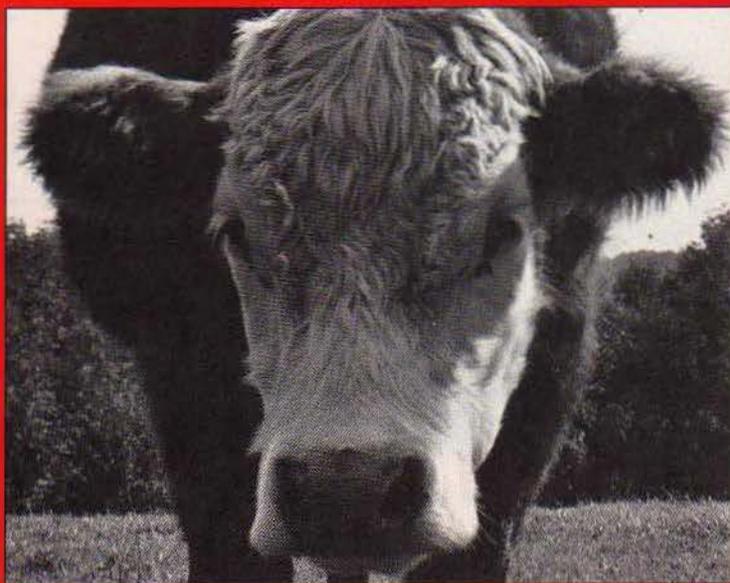
## ANTI MATTER

You've heard it all before: Herds of cattle have been systematically mutilated by aliens, who swoop down on deserted pastures in flying saucers, do their dirty deeds, and disappear. Ever since these claims emerged in the Sixties, debunkers have swiftly replied. The straight, deep cuts found on cattle are inflicted by vicious wild animals and cults, the critics said. As time went on, even most professional UFOlogists—and the public—agreed.

But now the debate has been revived. According to award-winning filmmaker Linda Moulton Howe, author of the new book *An Alien Harvest*, the strange surgeries could not have been performed by natural predators or by humans, as the debunkers claim. To make her argument, Howe presents new case studies with photos of mutilated cattle. She includes interviews with farmers, ranchers, and law enforcement officials, as well as transcripts of hypnosis sessions with UFO abductees, two of whom claim to have witnessed the aliens in the act. Howe even cites what she says is government knowledge of these events.

Her strongest evidence, however, is a medical report on tissue samples taken from five mutilated animals last March. Conducted by pathologist/hematologist John H. Altshuler of the University of Colorado in Denver, the report found that cuts were made "at a temperature of at least three hundred degrees Fahrenheit in less than two minutes."

"The report," Howe says, "confirms high heat, as well as rapid, pinpoint incisions that exclude natural predators." What's more, she adds, "the laser equipment needed for



pinpoint high-heat excisions of tissue can weigh more than five hundred pounds, take a team of experts to set up, and require tremendous power. The idea that a satanic cult could be operating such equipment stretches my credibility much more than does the existence of alien life forms."

The skeptics do not agree. Cornell veterinarian John M. King says that "every mutilation case I've seen so far has been questionable." Besides, he says, after studying Altshuler's slides, he believes that heat damage in the tissue is due to autolysis—

## UFO UPDATE

natural decomposition—not to a laserlike device. Daniel Kagan, author of *Mute Evidence* (Bantam, 1984), a book about cattle mutilation, concurs. Howe's theory, he says, "is impossible to prove."

Kenneth Rommel, a former FBI agent and author of a 297-page federally funded report on the subject, is skeptical as well. Cattle mutilation claims, says Rommel, are "a bunch of garbage, a bunch of very creative writing on the part of the media, and a lot of statements made by law enforcement officials and others that are totally unsupported by fact." Indeed, Rommel's report, written in 1980 for the state of New Mexico, found only natural causes, including predator/scavenger action, at the root of mutilation claims.

But Howe is sticking to her guns. "Alienness is the very hallmark of the animal mutilations," she says. "Over twenty-two years very little makes sense. This material should be treated credibly, like any other medical or science story."

—PEGGY NOONAN