

could say that when something is stretched to its limits, it may undergo a dramatic change and re-organise itself to form something totally new. The "new" can then be pushed to its limits, when it will spontaneously flip into yet another new pattern of behaviour.

Take chemistry, for example. The Nobel prize-winner Ilya Prigogine has experimented with chemical reaction cycles which, when pushed far from equilibrium, spontaneously flip into pulsations.

"Countless trillions of molecules conspire to produce a highly synchronised chemical heartbeat. In other reactions, the molecules organise themselves to grow elaborate geometrical shapes."

Strange things are also happening inside computers and computer networks. In experiments, scientists feed random pulses of electricity into networks of computers. The results should have been unexciting and predictable, with the occasional "blip" on the recording devices indicating the passage through the network of each pulse.

But what actually happens is truly amazing. Self-organisation of the Pulses emerges. "Coherent patterns of electrical activity spontaneously appear and propagate around the network in a stable manner." One result could be advances in Artificial Intelligence; it appears that man could devise computers capable of thinking. (Unfortunately, they would probably think for themselves, and that would present some problems. We would have invented our very own aliens!)

Davies says that man is beginning to uncover a

whole new layer of general laws or principles applicable to complex systems. These laws operate within the known laws of physics, but in ways which are not yet understood.

He introduces a favourite theme of his — the *holistic* way of looking at the universe and everything it contains. Scientists are wrong if they think they can know the whole of something by studying its parts. Many physical systems cannot be understood in that way, he argues.

The new ideas recognise "that qualitatively new phenomena emerge at higher organisational levels, phenomena that require their own laws and concepts to describe them adequately."

There is a real creative potency in nature. "It drives the universe forwards into ever higher organisational states — be it the formation of galaxies, the generation of life from inorganic molecules, the development of the embryo, or the operation of the human brain."

Dr Paul Davies and the other scientists working in this field have opened the door to new horizons, new understanding, and new possibilities. Here, there may be an explanation for the higher states of consciousness and other life forms spoken of in the literature of cosmology, mythology and religion.

There may also be an indication about ourselves, too — that if we don't push ourselves mentally/spiritually (is there truly a difference?), we will stagnate, and never make the breakthroughs many of us hope for. "*Mankind in Amnesia*" would be our final epitaph.

## ANOTHER SWEDISH LANDING REPORT

ACCORDING to a report under banner headlines, "UFO ALANDS . . . OFFICIAL" in the London newspaper *Sunday Sport* (July 12, 1987), Swedish authorities were investigating the case of a tough truck-driver who had been found in such a state of gibbering terror that the Police thought at first that he was an escapee from a mental institution, and carted him off to hospital in a strait-jacket.

But the driver, Dan Johnson, was judged to be totally sane, and the report goes on to say that the Swedes are now having to face the fact that his story is true, particularly since a second truck-driver has come forward to corroborate it.

Johnson, aged 41, of Tingsryd, Sweden, claims that he saw the huge UFO, about 250 ft. wide and 30 ft. high, hovering just above the road as he drove home-wards in his car at 1.00 a.m. He reached his home and got his camera, and then telephoned from a call-box to alert the Police.

Suddenly the UFO made a second appearance over the road, and this time it landed. His engine stalled and he almost crashed into the craft. He was frozen with terror.

"Suddenly, aliens came out from the machine and approached the car. They were man-sized, with bodies like the bark of trees and heads like onions. One opened the car door, and I screamed as I've never screamed before. They pulled me out, kicking and struggling."

Dan says he was saved by the approach of a lorry carrying a load of timber. Its headlights picked out the UFO, and the aliens took off.

Dan Johnson collapsed, to be discovered later by police who were out looking for him, having received a 'phone call from the driver of the timber-lorry.

The Swedish military authorities gave Dan Johnson lie-detector tests, and he passed them. The psycho-analysts stated that in their view he was telling the truth. And a spokesman for the hospital said: "We set traps, to see whether he was lying, but he was not. It seems that his story is true. A UFO did land".

The British press report (exclusive from Charles Renfrew) concludes with the statement that Dan Johnson had volunteered to come to Britain to take any lie detector or truth-drug tests here.

## CHARLES BOWEN

**We regret that the expected obituary article on Charles Bowen has not arrived in time for inclusion in this issue, and will therefore have to be published later.**