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SCIENCE NEWS

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**Fetal Cells
Enter the Fray**

The Emergence of Life

Darwinian Evolution from the Inside

By Sidney Fox

How did life on earth begin? This ultimate biological riddle has fascinated the human mind for ages, but it is only in recent decades that it has begun to yield to scientific inquiry. A pioneer in this burgeoning field, biochemist Fox has developed a laboratory model of the fateful transition from inanimate matter to cellular systems. He has found that tiny spheres of thermal protein, arising from self-ordering units, have a number of the properties of life: growth, enzymatic activity, electrical responses, and even primitive forms of reproduction and social interaction. In *The Emergence of Life*, Fox explains how he and his team of researchers approached the problem and describes their experiments in clear, nontechnical terms. He argues that life at the beginning was neither a miracle nor a chance occurrence but was highly determined by physical processes. His controversial conclusions challenge some traditional religious beliefs and offer new perspectives for a modernized Darwinian theory and philosophy.

—from the publisher

Basic Books, 1988, 208 pages, 5½" x 8½",
hardcover, \$17.95 ISBN 0-465-01925-0

Science News Books

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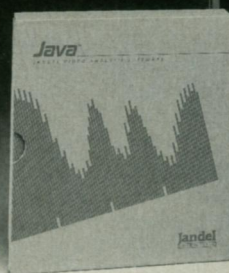
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