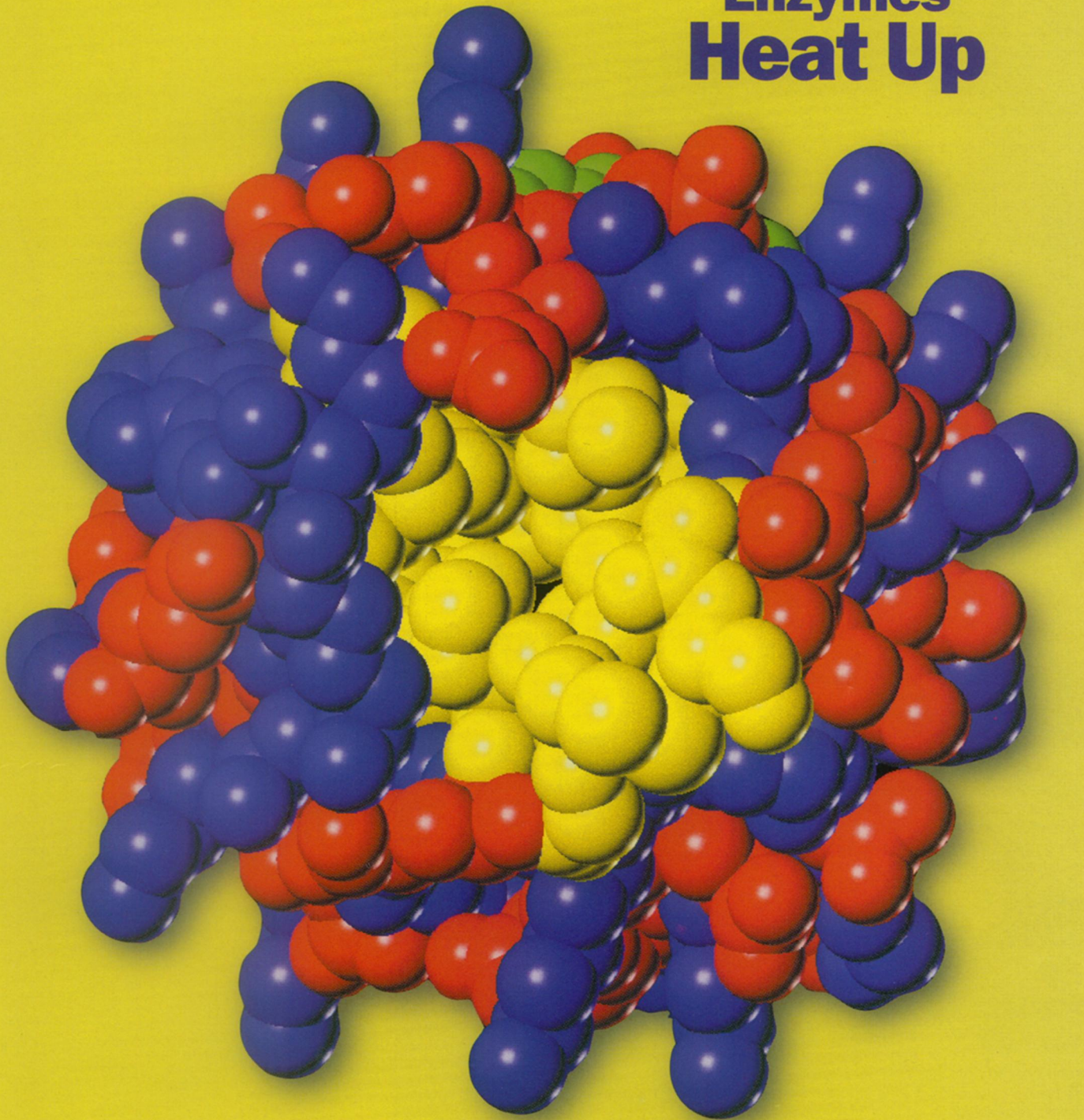


The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

May 9, 1998
Vol. 153, No. 19
Pages 289-304

Enzymes Heat Up



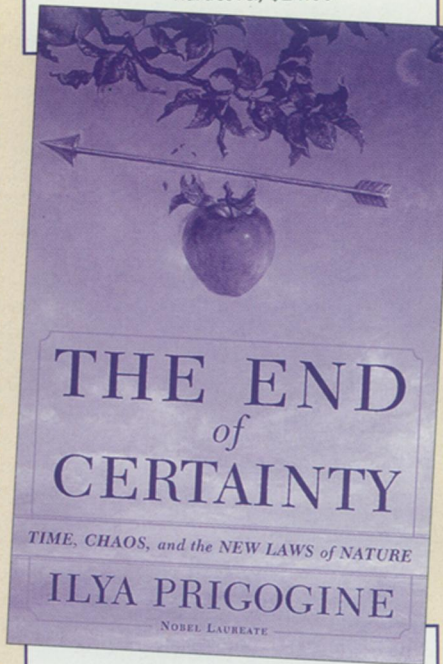
Common sense says time moves forward, never backward, from cradle to grave. Nevertheless, Einstein said that time is an illusion. Nature's laws, as he and Newton defined them, describe a timeless, deterministic universe within which we can make predictions with certainty. In effect, these great physicists contended that time is reversible and thus meaningless.

Nobel laureate Ilya Prigogine here presents his profound break with the classical description of nature, examining the Western approach to time and showing that, as we follow the probabilistic processes of the real world, we travel far beyond the dead mechanics of determinism. In expounding his argument, he leads us on a marvelous intellectual adventure, beginning with the Greeks, continuing through Newtonian trajectory and deterministic chaos, and traveling onward to the heights of a unified formulation of quantum theory and "free lunch" cosmology. He finds that quantum mechanics can be extended to demonstrate time's natural irreversibility, and he argues that time actually preceded the Big Bang.

Prigogine argues that we live in a world of definable probabilities, where life and matter evolve continuously in the direction of time and certainty itself is the illusion. Notions such as "self-organization," which Prigogine introduced in previous work, now take their place within a rigorous and consistent scientific worldview. As this watershed book shows, the end of certainty is the birth of a whole new formulation of the natural laws of both science and culture.

—from Free Press

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"For much of the past century, physicists have suggested that the arrow of time is due to the Second Law of Thermodynamics, with its unidirectional increase in entropy. Ilya Prigogine, in this bold book, takes a different stance. One does not have to agree with his solution to find the problems profound and the argument entrancing." —Stuart Kauffman, Santa Fe Institute

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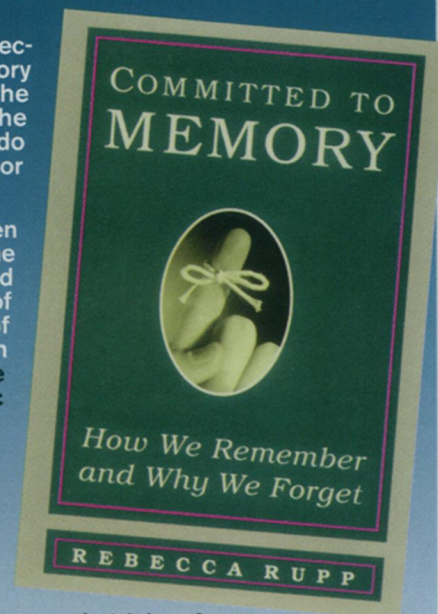
Fascinating science blends with engaging prose in this highly entertaining exploration of how memory works—and how to make it work better.

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