

## Geology students win awards

By Randy Christy

The Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies has awarded both of its 1984 scholarships to UNL geology graduate students. A UNL professor was given an honorary award.

Linda Rankis and Stacia Spaulding each received a \$1,500 cash award from the organization. Rankis and Spaulding competed against earth sciences graduate students within 14 states that make up the Midwest Federation branch of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Associate Professor Roger Pabian of the UNL Conservation and Survey Division, was recognized as the federation's 1984 distinguished scholar and selected the scholarship recipients.

Pabian's selection marked the third time in 11 years that a Nebraskan has been given the honor.

"Having three winners in such a short time says a lot about the quality of service the university is offering," Pabian said. "This award not only recognizes me but also the Conservation and Survey Division for its national leadership in developing educational publications in the earth sciences."

Pabian said he appreciates the opportunity of helping two graduate students with their education.

Good scholarship, originality in research and having a well-defined research problem were the criteria used in making the graduate student selections, he said.

Rankis' research topic is "Color Alteration in Conodonts and Microfossils of the Oread Formation of the Mid Continent." Spaulding researched the topic of "Micropaleontology of the Big Spring's Limestones."

## Water to be tested for pollution

A \$150,000 UNL study of the potential pollution of ground water from recharge reservoirs will begin this summer.

The study will determine if pesticides, herbicides and insecticides from irrigation run-off enter ground water through recharge reservoirs. A similar project was completed near Clay Center in July 1982.

Researchers from UNL's Conservation and Survey Division will conduct tests at the Little Blue Natural Resources District's Big Sandy No. 2 project near Bruning.

Dave Mazour, general manager of the Little Blue District, said earlier tests have shown "no danger whatsoever" in the surface water. But he said it is impossible to confirm that the water is completely safe.

The Natural Resources Commission has approved \$37,000 to help pay for the study. The Little Blue NRD will contribute another \$37,500. The Conservation and Survey Division will provide the remaining \$75,000.

Mazour said bromides, a harmless chemical easily detected in researching tests, will be traced in the reservoir and aquifer through shallow wells running east and south of the moving ground water. He said the bromide test will be used in the wells and the reservoir to trace any signs of chemicals from the irrigation run-off.

The wells will be installed this summer, Mazour said, and the tests should start in the fall. The study is expected to be completed in two years, he said.

## Off The Wire

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### British helicopter ditches in North Sea; all safe

LONDON — A British helicopter was forced to ditch in the North Sea Wednesday and all 47 on board were rescued unhurt, the Defense Ministry said. The British Airways Chinook was ferrying workers home from an oil rig when the pilot signaled he was in trouble and put his craft down on the water, a spokesman said.

Rescue services alerted nearby shipping and five helicopters and six ships were quickly at the scene, about 100 miles east of the Shetland Islands. All the passengers and crew were picked up, some from the stricken helicopter, which remained afloat, and some from life rafts. They were taken to the Shetlands town of Sunburgh.

A British Airways spokesman in London said flying conditions in the area were calm at the time of the incident. There was no immediate explanation of what had gone wrong with the helicopter.

### Air Force general dies in crash

WASHINGTON — An Air Force general who died in a mysterious plane crash last week was most likely flying a secretly-acquired Soviet MiG-23 fighter, informed sources said Wednesday. The Pentagon had no comment on broadcast and press reports that the general was killed in the crash of an experimental "stealth" plane being developed by the Air Force, or that the plane was a MiG-23.

But sources familiar with Air Force test programs said he was probably flying a MiG-23 and that the Pentagon did not want to make public the fact that it had acquired one of the Soviet Union's most sophisticated aircraft. Lt. Gen. Robert Bond, 54, was killed April 26 at Nellis Air Force Base, near Las Vegas, where the Air Force tests many of its experimental planes.

### Pope, Reagan plan talks

FAIRBANKS, Alaska — President Reagan and Pope John Paul II agreed here Wednesday that the United States and the Vatican should discuss the possibility of joint action to alleviate worldwide hunger and disease and to promote peace. The White House announced the plan after Reagan held a 30-minute meeting with the Pope, who made a two-hour stop-over in Fairbanks on his journey to South Korea on a pastoral visit.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Reagan, who arrived in Fairbanks Tuesday after visiting China, offered to send a presidential mission to the Vatican to discuss economic development and humanitarian assistance.

### Soviets reject U.S. demands

MOSCOW — A Soviet Union official Wednesday said the Soviets would not accept U.S. demands for more stringent verification procedures in future East-West disarmament accords. Military commentator Yuri Lebedev said Moscow rejected U.S. calls for ground inspections as a means of testing compliance with such agreements. Spy satellites should remain the chief means of control, he said.

U.S. officials have accused Moscow of violating past arms control treaties and President Reagan has said any future accords must include much more reliable means of verification. They suggested periodic ground inspections as a means of verifying such agreements as chemical weapons ban and an accord on reducing troop levels in Europe.

### Israeli extremists confess, disclose

JERUSALEM, Israel — Israeli extremists being held for a series of attacks on Arabs have disclosed a previously unknown attempt to blow up a mosque and have confessed to murdering four Arabs in Hebron, judicial sources said Wednesday. Israeli television said Wednesday night some suspects had also confessed to the June, 1980, car bombing that maimed two Palestinian mayors on the occupied West Bank.

The sources said some of the 19 Israeli settlers in police detention led army bomb experts to the two bombs planted in a mosque in the West Bank town of Hebron. The bombs were planted in the mosque three months ago but failed to explode and remained undiscovered. Tuesday, bomb experts dismantled them, the sources said.

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