Friday, January 21, 1994

Fossil

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time period, from 250 to 300 million years ago.

To organize the catalog, the fossils needed to be sorted. They range in size from microscopic, single-celled organisms to the cephalopods, which look like snail shells, some nearly 2 feet in diameter.

"When I started here 25 years ago," Pabian said, "I started some basic unwrapping of specimens when I did the 'Record in Rock' book. So many of these are so small that several hundred can be stored in a box."

We are trying to resurrect a database that's been lost for 30 years or so.

> - Pabian paleontologist

"Record in Rock" is a handbook on Nebraska's invertebrate fossils.

Pabian is being assisted by Huaibao Liu, who is working on his doctorate in micropaleontology.

of them are very good, particularly the crinoids."

sea urchins and are recognized by their five-sided structure.

are of no use to this collection," Liu said. "Some aren't good enough, and

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Liu said. "Was it sea; was it land? And what kind of sea; was it shallow or deeper ocean? Rocks such as limestone indicate there was sea.

"Some collectors were only interested in the fossils, so we don't have data on the rocks," he said.

Primary sorting determines what will remain in the collection. Unlabeled fossils in good condition could go to Morrill Hall, Pabian said.

"They may go to the Encounter Center at the museum for little kids to dig out of the sand so they can get their junior paleontologist badge," he said.

After deciding what to keep, Pabian and Liu will sort the fossils by location and type. "My intent is to get it on a database.

Then we will be able to draw up any information we want," he said.

The data could be called up by location, rock layer or fossil type. Some of the information could be put on maps. Geologists worldwide will be able to use the data to analyze rock layers by their fossil content.

Paleoecologists, who study ancient ecology, could use the data to determine what ancient environments were like, to understand changes in the environment and to predict the stability of animal species, Pabian said.



-POLICE REPORT.

Beginning midnight Monday

4:40 p.m. — Composite stolen, 626 N. 16th St., \$450 loss. 9:42 p.m. — Phone calls, Sandoz Res-idence Hall.

Daily Nebraskan

Beginning midnight Tuesday

- 11:52 a.m. Trash can fire, Oldfather
- 2:02 p.m. City of Lincoln, accident, no injuries, \$200 damage. 3:26 p.m. Injury/sickness, Nebraska

8:24 p.m. — Injury/sickness, Neuraska 8:24 p.m. — Injury/sickness, Natural Resources, person transported to St. Elizabeth Hospital. 8:56 p.m. — Injury/sickness, Sheldon

Art Gallery.

6:18 a.m. — Stolen cash, Schramm Residence Hall, \$100 loss.

Victim Services Center moves

10:16 a.m. - Clock stolen, Brace Lab, 1:58 p.m. — Fire alarm/sprinkler head broken off, 401 N. Ninth St., damage unknown. 4:20 p.m. - Fire alarm, pipe break, Coliseum. 4:45 p.m. — Injury/sickness, Business Services, person transported to Lincoln General Hospital. 5:20 p.m. — Security alarm, accidental trip, East Union. 9:30 p.m. — Vandalism/criminal mis-chief, damage to interior window, Me-model Chadium & 510 damage eum. enter, damage to interformation morial stadium, \$10 damage.
9:42 p.m. — Vandalism/criminal mischief, car door damaged, Lot 18A at 15th and U streets, \$100 damage.
2:19 a.m. — Narcotics, Abel Residence Hall, two arrests.

Beginning midnight Wednesday

College Happy Hour 3p.m.-8p.m. 25¢ Draws Lingerie Show By Dynamic Production. 7p.m.-9p.m. Cover Starts at 9p.m. Drink Specials All Night. Dance to Alternative, Techno, and Rave Music All Night Long.

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