Lawrence fossil hunter spurs evolution debate with his sculptures

of pebble-sized pieces of fossilized considers implausible. Tyrannosaurus rex and Triceratops bones to create a sculpture of Jesus lying in his tomb.

Another of Detrich's sculptures features a fossilized T. rex tooth.

He believes dinosaurs were is if I quit trying.' among God's first creations and that

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for twelve ladies decked out in

every kind of a hat imaginable.

Those present for an afternoon of

fun-and finger foods provided by

Laura were Lois Starns, Lucille

Bruns, Louise Smith, Chris

Furches, Patsy Kahle, Juanita

Repshire, LaVonne Baxter, Marge

Ausmus, Judy Gfeller, Dianne

Kvasnicka, Mabel Berndt, and Jean

olunteers honored at 'hat party'

Ausmus, Rick Ausmus, Dustin and

Casey all of Colorado Springs,

Marilyn Ochs and Lane, Roger and

Norma Straub and Al Ausmus

the Duff/Lamb wedding.

Dorothy Peitz and Becky Richard and Laura Ausmus, Rod, on the weekend.

"I'm doing something no one else

Detrich is gluing together hundreds talking about evolution, a theory he sity, thinks his unusual background led him to this point.

As a fossil hunter, his claim to can do, and I think I can find a mar-fame is a nearly complete T. rex that ket for it," he said. "No one else is he and his brother, Robert, came making religious icons out of dino- across in 1992 in South Dakota. saur bones. The only way I can fail Detrich said the remnants of the meat eater, dubbed Samson, are Detrich, a mostly retired fossil worth millions but won't reveal their remains are the ideal artistic hunter who has a master's degree in their exact worth because he signed

the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, which cleaned and studied it. Neither Detrich nor his brother are trained paleontologists. Their interest was sparked by their father, an oil explorer, who brought home

show his sons.

ham Ferguson Lacey.

Its skull is "among the best if not

the best of any T. rex ever found,"

said Matt Lamanna, assistant cura-

tor for vertebrate paleontology at

core samples filled with fossils to

Straub of Denver, Alfred Ausmus, were house guests of Gary and "So I've always been exposed to the earth and the abundance of fos-Lois Starns, LaVonne Baxter, sil here," Detrich said during a re-Ruth Smith and Jean Lowe attended cent interview at a coffee shop near Larry and Michele Werth, Wyatt the WPAA measure x measure conthe University of Kansas, where he and Layton of Brewster, Gary and cert in Oakley Wednesday evening. took classes last year in paleontol-Donita Goyen and Judy Gfeller ogy and art, casting more than Marge Ausmus and Glen Ausmus left Thursday to visit their respec-\$100,000 in gold to include in his were special guests of the bride at tive families in McPherson and

He lives in a Best Western hotel, Donita will accompany Doug despite several lucrative discoverwere house guests of Roger and and Tandy Wine and Spenser to ies — Samson among them — that Marge Ausmus and Glen Ausmus. Branson, Mo., for a family reunion generated enough publicity to land him on a list of the top 50 single men

LAWRENCE (AP) — Alan medium with which to get people fine arts from Wichita State Univer- a nondisclosure agreement with the in a 2001 issue of People magazine. skeleton. Lacey has not announced buyer, British corporate raider Gra-As a young man, Detrich invested

in oil while also running an antiques business in the western Kansas town of Great Bend. He said the oil hunting taught him about fossils. and the antiques shop taught him another lesson: "The money is where the pizzaz is.'

will eat a 10-year-old boy, it's a big

prehistoric underwater predator that resembles a dragon from the ocean — now the Kansas prairie. The giant sea creatures, called mosasaurs, are worth big money to collectors from Asian countries where the dragon is a symbol of power in folklore and art.

One of Detrich's finds now resides near a collector's swimming pool. Other fossil finds are in overseas museums.

The Samson T. rex is heading overseas as well after a New Jerseybased preparation firm recently finished cleaning and mounting the intelligent design.

where Samson will be displayed.

Over the years, Detrich has often found himself at odds with the scientific community, which generally supports the theory of evolution and prefers to see trained paleontolo-

gists uncovering fossils. Scientists, like Lamanna, also He continued: "If it looks like it frown upon selling fossils, saying

they should be donated instead. Detrich is aware of the criticism He was soon unearthing a type of but dismisses it, saying fossil hunt-

ing is a risky, expensive business. "They treat me like a pirate, like bottom of what was once a giant a capitalist pirate — one notch short of Enron — because I'm selling these treasures," he said. "It's really global economics. What's wrong with selling these to the world if they've got the money? Really, it's

free trade.' Detrich also defends the use of fossils in his art. He said they are not part of larger specimens so their scientific value is limited.

But the artist and collector also believes his work is serving a higher cause by promoting his belief in

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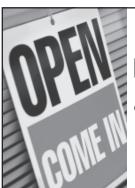


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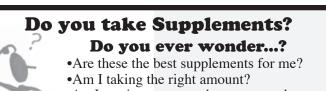


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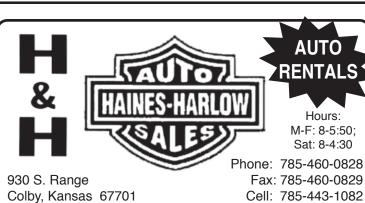


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