

Bones indicate tribe's cannibalism

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — Architec- tural remains of an ancient Indian civil- ization that inhabited what is now the southeastern shore of Lake Pont- chartrain indicate the Tchefuncte tribe may have practiced cannibalism, a University of New Orleans professor says.

Dr. J. Richard Shenkel, who has organized excavations at the Indian sites in eastern New Orleans, said the recovery of fragments of bones — apparently from butchered bodies — could mean the Indians ate human flesh.

"I don't think they were cannibals out of necessity," Shenkel said. "They had plenty to eat." The professor said the human body does not

provide as much meat as other animals, so the practice may have been ceremonial rather than a necessary source of food.

Shenkel said cannibalism was not uncommon in the southeastern United States, in southwest Louisiana and in parts of Texas. But he said the basic Indian diet consisted of the teeming seafood and wetland wild- life that inhabited the area — deer, muskrat, turtles, drum fish and alligators.

"The wetland marsh environment is the richest in the world," Shenkel said. "They could exploit all those environments."

The artifacts were located on what formerly was an island between the Mississippi River and the Gulf of

Mexico. Shenkel said about 5,000 years ago, several islands stretched from the mouth of the Pearl River to the northern part of Jefferson Parish. These islands later formed the south- ern shore of Lake Pontchartrain when the land gradually built itself up.

Those Indian inhabitants appar- ently relied on a small white clam for sustenance, but as the Mississip- pi's delta encroached and poured fresh water into the clams' salt water breeding grounds, they began to die.

"That's why the Indians moved about 100 B.C.," Shenkel said.

From three summers of digging, students at UNO have been able to piece together a sketchy idea of what

the Indians looked like. Shenkel said the men, who lived into their 30s, were about 5 feet 4 and the women were about 5 feet tall.

"They are not our ancestors," Shenkel said, "but they are our heritage because we occupy the same space and we eat the same things. We try to survive in the same environment. They did pretty well for 2,000 years."

"We've been here only about 200 years, and they managed to live in it without ruining it. At the rate we're going, we might not have it for too much longer."

The architectural site, called Oak Island, has been included in the National Register of Historic Places, but its future protection may hinge


on whether it is included in the pro- posed Jean Lafitte National Park. The park has yet to spend any of its \$9.24 million to purchase land.

Birth control pills missing

United Press International
CHICAGO — About 23,000 pack- ets of birth control pills valued at more than \$100,000 were discovered missing during the Chicago Health Department's six-month audit, offi- cials say.

The pills, known as "Orval," were discovered missing from the depart- ment's central warehouse, Deputy Health Commissioner Terry Hocin said Tuesday.

Hocin said federal authorities were called to assist in the investiga- tion because the pills were purch- ased with federal funds.



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Tot purchase plan doesn't work

United Press International
BESSEMER, Ala. — Charles and Sandra Hasty were no longer able to provide for their 21-month-old son, so they made plans to give the child to friends for \$500 and get out of his life.

But the deal never came off. The Hastys were arrested Tuesday on misdemeanor child neglect charges, and a Family Court hearing was scheduled Wednesday in Birming- ham to determine who would get temporary custody of the child, Charles Hasty Jr.

After the Hastys were arrested,

the boy was sent to a state-run home. Marshall and Barbara Jackson, the couple who took the child in last week, vowed to wage a court battle to retain custody of him.

The Hasty's told police they plan- ned to give their son to the Jacksons for \$500 because they could not provide for him. The money, which apparently never changed hands, was supposed to be used to get the Hasty's out of the state so the young- ster would not remember them.

The Jacksons said they felt sorry for the child. When they received him, "He had on a McDonald's nap-

kin and a plastic bread bag for a diap- er," said Jackson. "They said he hadn't been bathed in a long time."

Mrs. Hasty, 19, was released Tuesday on \$1,000 bond but her 21- year-old husband remained jailed, unable to meet bond.

"It's a weird situation," said detec- tive Doug Acker. "You can't imagine anyone doing it."

Acker said the Hasty's home in the Virginia Mines area northwest of Bessemer had no hot water, refriger- ator or bed for the youngster.

"The Jacksons went in there one time and the kid was sick, sleeping on the floor with just a blanket, no bed," Acker said. "They brought the kid home and got attached to him."

Acker said the couples had known each other for some time.

The Hasty's signed a statement re- linquishing all rights to the boy and the Jacksons took Charles in last Fri- day. The Jacksons said they did not plan to "buy" the boy, but merely give his parents enough money to send them back to Texas.

Shark bites surfer off Oregon coast

United Press International
CANNON BEACH, Ore. — The five men had been surfing for an hour without incident off the north- ern Oregon coast. Then the shark struck.

The fish slashed into one of the surfers Tuesday in a frenzy that sent so much water splashing the other four could barely see their compan- ion's struggles.

The attack stopped just as sudden- ly as it began. Kenny Doudt, 26, struggled weakly back onto his surf board and floated toward shore. His friends, pulled him from the water with gashes in his left leg and broken ribs.

Doudt, of Reedsport, Ore., was hospitalized in Portland, Ore., where he underwent a two-hour operation and was reported in stable condition Wednesday.

Surfer Jack Bird of Seaside, Ore., said when the shark, which appeared to be at least 10 feet long, emerged, "I heard him (Doudt) yelling for help and I looked over and could see a little bit of gray rolling in the water."

"I didn't know it was a shark; Ken- ny wasn't yelling shark, but a few seconds later, its tail came out of the water."

Bird said when the shark let Doudt go, "Kenny was able to pull himself back on his board."

"He has a large bite on his left flank and a couple of broken ribs," said John Holtermann, executive di- rector of the Seaside hospital.

Holtermann said Doudt was "con- scious, alert and talking" while he

was at the hospital.

"I know there are sharks off the coast," said Gizdavich, "but I never heard of one attacking. It's totally unheard of in this water."

The type of shark that made the attack was not known by the surfers.



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