

Martial Arts Dances and

the start of a menstrual period. This week's column is a brief This introduces more estrogen than is normally present at the time. The levels are similar to those present during pregnancy, and act to inhibit the pituitary's usual signals to the ovary, which in turn does not produce any eggs. When no eggs are being released, no pregnancy occurs The progesterin in the pill also has effects which make conception less likely to occur. It increases the thickness of the cervical mucus, which blocks the movement of the sperm, as well as affecting the uterine lining in such a way as to make it unfavourable for implantation of a fertilized egg. The pill is manufactured in different dosages, theoretically to offer women enough hormones to prevent egg maturation, but not more than is needed for that purpose. Especially with a low dosage and mini pills (50 or 30 micrograms of estrogen), it is important to take them at the same time every day. More detailed descriptions of the pill's effects are available at Harbinger, 214 Vanier Residence.

estrogen in a woman's blood is kept

high enough to prevent the pituitary

from signaling the ovaries. Pill users

start taking it on the fifth day after

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Masked Dance Accompanied by Gamelan Music

Wed. Oct. 26 **BURTON AUDITORIUM** 8:30 p.m.

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discussion of how the pill works. Next week's column will talk about side effects of the pill, and how to decide it is the best method of birth control for you.

complex hormone system and very

few users understand how it really

works. Indeed, scientists and doctors are still discovering new

facts about the influences the pill

has on body systems.

Birth Control pills contain synthetic female hormones, estrogen and progestin (progestin is a synthetic form of progesterin).

When you take these hormones, they make it unnecessary for your body to manufacture its own. The pill creates a situation much like natural pregnancy, during which the maturation and release of new ovum is halted.

During a normal menstrual cycle, estrogen causes the uterine lining to grow so it can nourish a fertilized egg, should one happen along. Both estrogen and progesterin are released during the middle part of the cycle, further influencing the nourishing abilities of the endometrium (uterine lining).

About halfway through a regular menstrual cycle, high levels of estrogen trigger the release of a matured egg from the ovary.

If the egg is unfertilized, the levels of both hormones drop rapidly and