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Birth control on a monthly plan

by Roxanne MacLeod

Tired of the tedium of the twenty-eight day birth control treatment, but afraid to embark on the unknown (and largely uncharted) seas of foams and jellies with only your diaphragm to keep you afloat? Well take heart, things may be improving. Dr. S. Yen of the U. of C., San Diego, thinks he may have the answer: the once-a-month pill.

According to the study reported in "Science" magazine, Dr. Yen was able to establish what is termed a "luteal phase defect" in all five of his subjects. By administering relatively small doses of a luteinizing hormone-releasing factor, agonist, he was able to suppress the release of luteinizing hormones, one of the key hormones involved in stimulating the ovaries to produce eggs, and the hormones estrogen

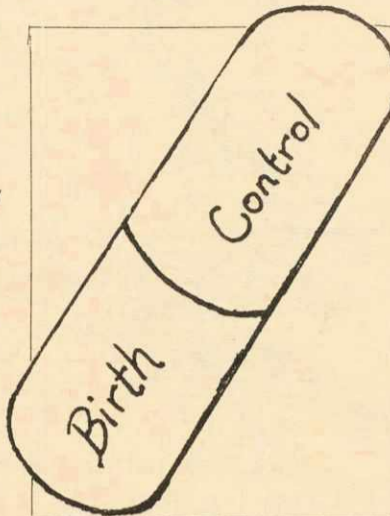
and progesterone. A primary action of these two hormones is to prepare the lining of the uterus for implantation of a fertilized egg, by causing a build-up of tissue along the inner surface of

the uterus. This tissue build-up is shed at menstruation should fertilization not take place.

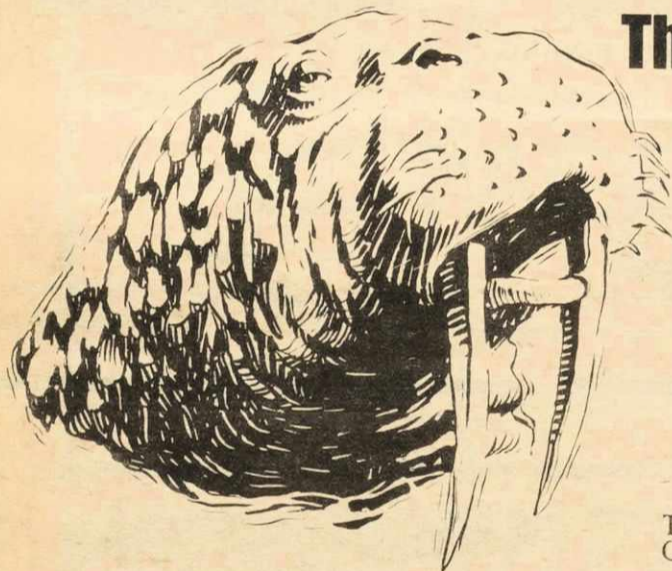
By reducing the levels of estrogen and progesterone, the pill does not allow the uterine lining to develop enough to allow for implantation of a fertilized egg. A pregnancy then cannot be established.

It seems that the merits of this method of birth control would not be limited to its ease of administration. Another big advantage is that the action of the agonist is very specific, acting only on specific target cells. For this reason side-effects of the treatment are minimal, as opposed to the fairly serious side effects of the pill such as the danger of blood clots.

So don't throw away those packets just yet, but prepare yourself for the packet that will be half that size, and will last a whole year!



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**Laugh? I thought I'd die...
I was just joking...**

(RNR/CUP) A military board of inquiry has recommended the discharge of an officer who complained of "practical jokes" among members of his Titan missile unit.

According to his attorney, Captain James Kanak was so concerned about the level of horseplay that he feared he might hesi-

tate before following an order to "push the button."

In a complaint to his superiors, Kanak said he had witnessed "a considerable degree of frivolity, games-playing, practical joking and hazing." He says he was told this was a "common and accepted component of missile crew duty."

**Registrar holds
degrees up**

"Dalhousie students are not Dalhousie students until their fees are paid," says Dr. Arnold Tingley, registrar at Dalhousie.

Dr. Tingley offered this sentiment at Monday's Senate meeting. Dean of graduate studies, Tom Kent, asked Senate to approve degrees of six graduate students who have yet to pay

their tuition in full. The student will now have to wait until May to receive their degrees, assuming payment of their tuition.

Taking Tingley's logic one step further, does this mean that those who waited until January to pay the remainder of their tuition were not true Dalhousie students during first term?

**Social Work
students**

Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Work program who will never set foot on Dalhousie campus, will no longer have to pay student union fees.

Council voted to direct the university not to collect the fees for the off-campus program, where students are instructed at their local campuses.

Some controversy ensued as to what portion of this year's student fees should be returned.

Marty Williams, member-at-large, who is enrolled in Social Work, argued for the full amount, totalling \$2,800, saying that these students never obtain the benefits of their fees, and have been attempting to be exempt from payment since the program began three years ago.

The original motion set an arbitrary figure of \$1,000, recognizing that it was part way through the year, and the student union had budgeted on the assumption that this was a part of its revenue.

Student union treasurer Kevin Feindel, said the loss "would not hurt us" in the end result. Council amended the motion to return the full fees, by a close vote of nine for, eight against and four abstentions.

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