

Norplant offers alternative method of birth control

by Stephanie Holland

There is controversy surrounding everything these days. If a person likes to get a good suntan-forget it, if a person decides that they want to have an abortion-watch out. Birth control is also one of these eyebrow-raising topics.

From the ever-popular birth control pill to the new RU486 there always seems to be questions surrounding the method.

One of the newer forms of protection from an unwanted pregnancy is the Norplant System.

According to one student who recently had the Norplant inserted, "I wanted to get off of the pill because there was always a chance that it wouldn't work if I didn't take it at the same time every day. Over the last five years the Norplant has had an average annual pregnancy rate of less than 1 percent so I feel a lot safer, and I don't have a daily pill to worry about."

Janet Waugh, a nurse with the Women's Healthcare Associates of Nevada states, "The Norplant is the most technically advanced method of birth control available today. It consists of six rods made of Silastic material. They're like time release cold capsules except they release a synthetic

hormone, levonorgestrel, that suppresses ovulation and thickens cervical mucus."

Before a person can get the Norplant they have to watch a video which, as the student stated, "runs about 15 minutes and tells you everything you ever wanted to know about this method of contraception." She continues, "after the movie you talk to a nurse, and ask any questions that you may still have. After your questions are answered, you sign a release form and make an appointment to have the procedure done."

When the "big day" came for the student to receive the Norplant she says, "I think the worst thing about getting it was the waiting. Once the doctor came in, the whole procedure took about 15 minutes and the only part that was not painless was the local anesthetic. The next day there was a bruise and it was a little sore but other than that it was a really simple thing to do."

"I think the best thing about the Norplant System is that for the next five years I won't have an unwanted pregnancy to add to my list of 'things to worry about'," says the student, summing up her feelings about her decision to use the Norplant System of contraception.

Honors Program expanding

by Mary Alice Torgerson

Contrary to the popular idea that UNLV is a school only for basketball, an organization exists on campus that is highly academic.

The UNLV Honors Program is rapidly expanding. Approximately 300 students will be involved in the Honors Program next fall.

Two divisions of the Honors Department exist. The most popular division is the University Honors. The University Honors Program is a four-year program for students just completing high school. In this program, the core curriculum is replaced by the honors core requirements. The same type of classes are required, but the honors classes include more writing and discussing.

"This encourages the students to develop their communication skills and makes the students more careful thinkers," said Jeff Portnoy, Honors

Program assistant director. There are 51 honors classes being offered this semester.

The other program is Department Honors. This program is designed for transfer students and students already enrolled at UNLV. Students must have a 3.5 grade point average and be recommended by a department before their junior year. There are currently 10 students involved in Department Honors. Department Honors requires students to participate in four seminar classes and complete a six-credit senior project. Department Honors has not gotten as much attention as the University Honors, but it is the fastest growing part of the program, Len Zane, Honors program di-

rector said.

Honors students tend to have classes with fewer people, have the advantage of working in the Honors Lounge in the library, and get to participate

in social events that are organized by the Honors Department.

"Students seem to enjoy the small classes and the interdisciplinary seminars that the Honors Program offers," Zane

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—Jeff Portnoy, Honors Program assistant director.

said.

"The success of the program depends on the students feeling that the program is beneficial, the faculty feeling that it is worth the effort to teach the honors classes and the university seeing the Honors Program as an important part of the university," Zane said.

NAME

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change."

All names mean something, said Gardener. "Why should we carry on the legacy of slave owners? Most blacks either adopted the name of the slave owner when they left the plantations or took on the name of their occupation. It's only been within the last 200 years that we have been stripped

of our natural names and adopted the names of slave masters. Why shouldn't we want to change them?"

Adejoke suggests that people "choose a name that means something. If you are going to change your name as a sign of your awareness of your African culture then you should choose an African name."

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