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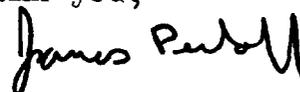
Dear Dr. Lederberg,

First, I would like to thank you for permitting us to print your columns. The sporadic nature of their publication devrieves from Daily disorganization, rather than disinterest.

I would however like to suggest a possible topic for a column in the near future. Interest about the Pill is running at a high level at Stanford because of President Pitzer's recent liberalization of health center policies. I know that the Stanford community, as well as your Washington readers, would be interested in some kind of background information for evaluating the current controversy. I myself am interested in why the controversy has suddenly become so heated, whether the Pill is undergoing unusually intense criticism for a drug, how is it being evaluated, and are the people opposing it moralists? a catholic lunatic fringe? or honest scientists?

Since the Pill is strictly out of your major field, I can't hope that you would discuss the merits of the Pill. But I do think that your column would be an appropriate place to discuss the scientific principles involved in the discussion. Presumably, none of us can make an intelligent decision about the Pill without understanding the basis for the controversy.

Thank you,



James Perloff

editorial page editor