

The News Is Pregnant

(An excerpt from the PETERSBURG PRESS editorial by
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The news this week was pregnant with fact and fantasy. The Interior Department announced in Washington that information on birth control was to be made available to Alaska native people through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Through the years they have tried about everything on the Alaska native from the attempt a quarter of a century ago to substitute walrus blubber and cold wooden frame houses for nice warm igloos in the Arctic with the resultant increase in those days of tuberculosis, since controlled as a result of fast transportation, improved communications and medical knowledge advancement. So a birth control pill for the native citizens of Alaska, while a bit novel, won't be anything surprising to the original residents — Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut. They've been guinea pigs for just about everything. But like everything else it will be a new era on the trail.

The BIA doctor with the modern needs — the red pills for meat, the green for vegetable and the white pills for birth control . . .