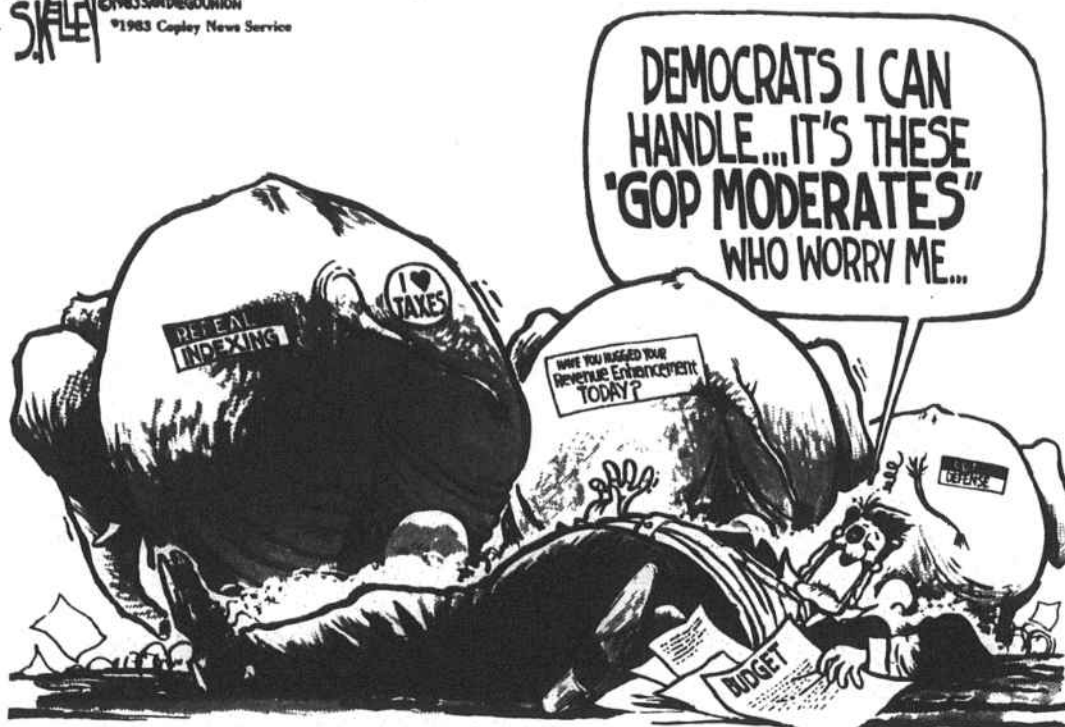


Opinions

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Young love, can be 'fast track'

by Lucien Coleman
Our society seems hell-bent on pushing youth into experiences for which they are neither emotionally nor financially prepared, then penalizing them for taking the bait.
Consider this advertisement in a local newspaper:
"GOING STEADY? GIVE HER A 14K GOLD PRE-ENGAGEMENT RING -- \$19.95"
"She's your steady and deserves something more than just a friendship ring," the ad went on to say.
The message made it clear that "pre-engagement" (what an idiotic term) was "something more" than mere friendship. And it was also "something more" than going steady, apparently. But how much more? The ad writer never got around to that.
That advertisement appeared several years ago. But, recently, the idea was back in a new guise. Now the "pre-engagement" ring

Things That Matter
has been replaced by the "intention" ring.
Such crass commercial exploitation of the social naivete of youth is simply another example of one of our most glaring social hypocrisies, our passion for pushing our young toward marriage long before society is ready to grant them that privilege.
Early dating is zealously promoted by fawning mothers who dress up their little dears in mating apparel and shove them out the front door on their first dates before they get beyond elementary school.
And, if Mom thinks sex - play isn't a part of the dating game, even at this tender age, she's incredibly naive or she just enjoys kidding herself. Constantly urged

on by what they see and hear in movies, television shows, magazines, paper-back books, pop music and even "comics," adolescents have turned love-making into a national sport.
In 1979, according to the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 9,500 babies were born to unwed mothers under 15 years of age (Some were as young as 10 years of age). And in the same year, more than 250,000 babies were born to unwed mothers between the ages of 15 and 19. And neither figure includes unreported births or pregnancies that terminated in abortions or miscarriages.
Even in the face of appalling statistics like these, our society's infatuation with "young love" goes on. Yet, we wag our heads and cluck our tongues when our young fall victim to "pre-engagement" intimacies.

... Letters cite history and schools

(Continued from page 2B)

Dundarrach remembered

Dear Sir:
I read with great interest the article on Dundarrach, written by Sherry Matthews and carried in your May 26 issue.
In 1910-1911 I attended my first school in the little one-room schoolhouse in Dundarrach. The teacher was my father, Martin A. Patterson, country school teacher and farmer of upper Cumberland-later Hoke-County.
There being no school near our home, my father accepted the offer to teach at Dundarrach for a year, after which we moved to Arabia, and then back to our home near Sandy Grove. I recall that we attended Dundarrach Presbyterian Church and that Father was active in the organization of the new county. I have been told that he was a member of a committee which selected Hoke as the name of the county.
The Dundarrach Trading Company was a thriving business in 1910 and a fond memory of it was the penny candy bars which I bought when a penny was available. Alex McMillan was the postmaster and A&R station master.
The McInnis brothers were prominent in the village, and I recall



Overseer of possible Hoke leaders

Mr. Caddell, principal of the Dundarrach School, looks over the erect figures of the 1914 class. Members of the class shown here probably followed that of letter writer Alex Patterson by three years.

the McGilvrays, but can't quite place them. I seem to recall "Uncle Charlie" McMillan best of all.
When Hoke County was organized in 1911 he became a deputy sheriff and was the right-hand man of Sheriff Edgar Hall. The sheriff's son Raymond lived with the McMillans and attended the little school.
According to Bill Powell in his *North Carolina Gazetteer*, Dundarrach was incorporated in 1911. I don't recall, however, that we had

a mayor, city council, tax collector and other city trappings.
Ms. Matthews' fine article contains an error, probably typographical. She wrote of Roderick McGrimmon, which should have been McCrimmon. My great grandmother, Lovedy Ann Monroe, married Roderick McCrimmon of upper Cumberland County.
In doing research on our McCrimmon line, I discovered the Dundarrach line, but never found

the connection between the two lines. I had hoped to find the connection for inclusion in my book, *The Monroes of the Upper Cape Fear Valley*, but failed.
The following names and dates were copied from the little McCrimmon cemetery in Dundarrach: Roderick, died August 28, 1856, 82 years old, born in Scotland; Isabelle, died February 21, 1866, 88 years old; and Norman, born June 30, 1819 and died December 5, 1905. Ages seem to indicate that Roderick and Isabelle were husband and wife and that Norman was their son, but of that I am not sure.
I shall be grateful if any of your readers can tell me more about the Dundarrach McCrimmons.

Sincerely,
Alex M. Patterson
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:
Washington politicians, who are usually the last to hear about something, are now in full cry about the public school system that parents have been complaining about for a long time.
The complaints are that while most athletic programs seem to be in good shape, more records broken than ever before, subject matters like reading, writing and

arithmetic aren't getting enough attention. You can get a high school diploma for showing up for class and looking out the window for 11 years.
The solution, some say, is to pay good teachers more than mediocre ones, under a plan called Merit Pay for Master Teachers.
Teachers' associations object, saying all teachers with the same degrees and experience ought to be paid the same.
I have thought this over, and it's a good idea, but there are some problems.
In order to identify a Master

Agriculture is on diet

by John Sledge
N.C. Farm Bureau Federation
For the first time in a few years we will be able to say that U.S. farmers are not producing record crops this year. Think of it as agriculture on a diet.
More than half the nation's farms are enrolled in various acreage reduction programs to take more than a third of the nation's cropland for wheat, feed grains, rice and cotton out of production.
The Payment-In-Kind program, which returns surplus commodities to farmers for leaving cropland idle, was first detailed by President Reagan at the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting

Teacher, one who is truly educated with a cultivated mind, who is dedicated to the profession and not just teaching till her husband gets through law school, you'd have to have a Master Superintendent and Master Principals with the same attainments. You see what the problem is right away.
And to get Master Superintendents identified and hired, you'd have to have Master School Board Trustees.
And to get Master Trustees ... The problem is getting out of hand.
Yours faithfully,
J.A.

last January in Dallas.
While some thought that interest might wane, it did not, and the result was a tremendous participation in acreage reduction. PIK has already helped the farmers. Prices, especially for corn, have climbed steadily since January. This year's production of corn may be the smallest since 1975, and feed grain stocks could be cut by 33%. Wheat production will probably be the lowest since 1979.
That doesn't mean we are in danger of running short of grain. We have more than enough even with PIK. But, after several years of a steady diet of big crops, agriculture is going on a diet.

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The JIM HUNT Record

Tax, Spend, and Elect!

Spending: **↑ Up \$5.8 Billion**

Taxes: **↑ Skyrocketing**

Meanwhile:
The Share Of The Budget For Public Schools Has Gone Down 5% (and Education is Suffering!)
But **Jim Hunt** Found Enough of Your Tax Dollars for:

- A fancy jet helicopter used by Jim Hunt to fly to political campaign events \$1.4 Million*
- A second legislative office building that a Democratic senator called "the biggest boondoggle in the history of the State" \$8.5 Million*
- Two new horse arenas for showing fancy horses \$4 Million*
- Salaries for Jim Hunt publicity staff members \$117,000*

*The press office is so crowded now that one of (Hunt's press secretary) Pearce's assistants doesn't have a desk!

Now Jim Hunt's Legislature Wants To INCREASE Your Taxes Over \$240 Million!