

NOTED; Strange looks and funny lines from the past week

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Body

Quote of the **week**. (Or year.) "Marriage isn't a passion-fest. It's more like a partnership formed to run a very small, mundane and often boring nonprofit business." --- Lori Gottlieb, writing in The Atlantic in an article titled "Marry Him! The case for settling for Mr. Good Enough." Gottlieb is a journalist and author of "I Love You, Nice to Meet You" and other books.

Not so dumb? Emory English professor Mark Bauerlein has gestated a new book, on sale in May, called "The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future." There's another subhead, but you get the idea. Student editorialist Eric Betts at the Emory Wheel got the idea, too. Wrote Betts: "Access to knowledge isn't the same thing as knowledge. Our challenge is to turn the torrent of information ... into something we --- and everyone else, for that matter --- can actually learn from. And with our knowledge, we'll be ready the next time the Vietnamese bomb Pearl Harbor."

Sixback. We've **noted** before the Freakonomics blog contest for the best six-word U.S. motto, and now there's a winner: Our Worst Critics Prefer to Stay. The runners-up, in order:

- * Caution! Experiment in Progress Since 1776
- * The Most Gentle Empire So Far
- * You Should See the Other Guy
- * Just Like Canada, With Better Bacon

Taxing carbon. British Columbia last **week** became the first place in North America to enact a tax on carbon emissions --- taxing virtually every fossil fuel that British Columbians burn. The goal is to raise \$1.75 billion in the next three years and begin to wean BC off of oil and natural gas. At the same time, the province is cutting its corporate and personal income tax rates to compensate for the new levies, The Christian Science Monitor reports.

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