

The DAILY
EASTERN NEWS
"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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The daily editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of The Daily Eastern News.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Governor encourages students

Taking time out of his busy schedule, Gov. Pat Quinn encouraged participants of the Premier Boys State to develop awareness about politics and service on Monday.

Premier Boys State takes place each summer at Eastern.

In the past, former governors would come and give words of encouragement to the high schoolers. However, this has not happened in the last few years.

Quinn said he hoped the boys taking part in the event come out inspired by this experience.

By speaking about his experiences and involvement during his political career, it provided the boys with a positive aspect about the government and officials.

Quinn's speech was presented to the crowd in a down-to-earth manner, relating to their needs and issues. Realizing that certain government officials care about the people inspired many to make a difference.

Quinn also gave honor to the American Legion for sponsoring Boys State and including the Illinois soldiers who are serving overseas.

With the words of advice and encouragement, the participants had a great advantage that should not be taken for granted.

It is not everyday the governor comes to Charleston, let alone Eastern. This was an opportunity of a lifetime.

The continuance of governors coming to Boys State should be a tradition forever at Eastern.

Letter to the Editor

As a study abroad coordinator at EIU, I enjoy hearing EIU students' perceptions of study abroad. I was delighted to see Tuesday's editorial "Summer best time to study abroad for EIU students."

However, had I written the editorial, I might have changed the headline to "Summer best time to study for *many* EIU students."

I speak partially from my own experience.

1. Sometimes one summer term just isn't enough. This is especially true when studying language. I studied in Japanese for three semesters. I became fluent in locals easily. This could not have been accomplished in one summer term.

2. Summer is the most crowded time for many tourist destinations. When I studied in Italy in January, our group visited the Leaning Tower of Pisa to snap pictures—and we had practically the whole city to ourselves!

3. Studying abroad for a longer period of time provides students with more independence. The writer(s) of the editorial asserted that students who study abroad longer might get homesick. This is certainly true. However, by fighting through the homesickness, students become more independent and learn their own inner strength.

4. Sometimes the winter season actually provides the best weather. I studied in Cuba in December and January, which was a wonderful break from the snowy Midwest. It was warm enough to swim at the beach, but not as unbearably hot as the Cuban summer.

-Lisa Brown
Study Abroad Coordinator

COLUMN

BP needs to stop the spill

The oil spill is a big crisis. The U.S. government and celebrities in Hollywood are trying to step in to do what is right, but it could reach the dangerous phase soon.

It is not only killing off species along the shores of the Gulf, but also affecting the water of the residents who live in the area.

It is estimated that over 100,000 barrels of oil are going into the Gulf each day. What does it take for someone to get down there and plug a leak?

BP Oil is responsible for this oil leak and they are trying to fix the leak. With oil spilling into the Gulf, an area as large as South Carolina, I don't know how they are going to do this safely and without endangering wildlife.

How are they going to filter out the oil so the local water is safe for the residents to drink out of the faucet? This is an irresponsible act that could become very dangerous and hazardous if this oil



Jennifer Brown

spreads to other bodies of water connected to the Gulf.

A newscaster last night referred to this oil spill as bad as Hurricane Katrina.

I have to disagree with that due to the fact that a hurricane, just like any storm, is temporary.

It doesn't make species extinct or make complete bodies of water unsafe.

We are fortunate to live in a country where we have safe drinking water, but now these residents

have to be concerned where their water is coming from.

Farther back in their mind, I'm sure they are wondering who is going to stop this from continuing in the future.

Barack Obama is stepping up and doing his part to stop the oil leaks. He is angry and he wants someone to blame. So, go ahead. Blame BP Oil.

There has to be somebody that first initiated this.

And, that same person has to be held responsible to bring it to an end.

Or there's going to be food shortages and short water supply in these areas that are affected by the oil spill. These areas will be affected by job loss and health costs will rise.

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FROM THE EASEL



ILLUSTRATION BY ALESHA BAILEY | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

COLUMN

Tenure under fire around the country

This article is courtesy of Illinois State University's newspaper, The Daily Vidette. To read more, log on to <http://www.videtteonline.com>.

Tenure is being pulled into question in many states as to whether it is necessary or if teachers can feel safe in their position without it. Colorado, Florida and Washington D.C. are looking to eliminate tenure for teachers.

Washington, Maryland and Ohio are working to extend the number of years it takes to receive tenure, but all ideas are still in the works.

Teacher effectiveness in the classroom has been under scrutiny after they've received tenure and many feel getting bad teachers out of the classroom needs to become easier.

In the experiences we have had with tenured teachers, it seems many, but not all, who have worked hard toward tenure have slacked ever since. It's all about motivation. If the teacher is only motivated to get tenure just to be safe in their job, they probably won't be as motivated to be an exceptional teacher after the fact.

What is even more frustrating is teachers with

tenure are hardly affected by student evaluations at the end of each semester. Whether they receive good or bad reviews, they are safe in their job. If it does come to the attention of their superiors, they'll get a slap on the wrist and then go about their ways. Students become frustrated at this. If student evaluations do nothing for tenured teachers then what's the point?

Many teachers in the K-12 grades can receive tenure in as little as two years on the job. Once tenure for these teachers is received, what would keep them working as hard as they did to receive it?

Budget cuts in Illinois may also have teachers on edge when it comes to cutting tenure. If tenure is cut in Illinois, many more teachers who have been around for a long period of time could potentially lose their jobs.

Tenured teachers have the advantage of job safety whether they are considered great teachers or not. Many tenured professors at ISU do take student evaluations seriously and work on their weaknesses to better educate their students. It is these teachers that need the positive attention and job security that tenure would give them.

The teachers who do not take student cri-

tiques to heart are the ones to worry about. Students are frustrated semester after semester when their evaluations prove to do nothing to change the way a professor teaches their students.

There are laws that cover teachers when it comes to termination due to personal vendettas or discrimination, which should protect teachers.

Tenure was first put into place around World War I to protect teachers against being fired for reasons having nothing to do with their work ethic such as race, political views, gender or even if a teacher got pregnant.

It is obvious with the times we are in now that teachers no longer need this protection as much. There should be stronger requirements for teachers to receive this honor and they should be evaluated by superiors and forced to change if student evaluations are proving the need is there.

The need is everywhere to have top-of-the-line teachers in every school whether it is in kindergarten or college. Education is the most important thing in a youth's life and if the teacher is not motivated to find the best way to educate, then the students are not going to be motivated to learn.

Letters to the editor can be submitted at any time on any topic to the Opinions Editor to be published in *The Daily Eastern News*.

The DEN's policy is to run all letters that are not libelous or potentially harmful. They must be less than 250 words.

Letters to the editor can be brought in with identification to *The DEN* at 1811 Buzzard Hall.

Letters may also be submitted electronically from the author's EIU e-mail address to DENopinions@gmail.com.