



Lauren Wimer Photographer

U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., speaks to an audience of more than 200 people on Monday night at the Knight Law Center.

SPEECH

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policy.

"It cannot be in the U.S.'s and world's interest to adopt a policy of pre-emption," DeFazio said.

DeFazio is the first speaker for the Wayne Morse Center's new two-year series on current international topics titled "Changing Geopolitical Order."

Morse Center Interim Director Caroline Forell said the center was "very excited" about DeFazio's talk.

"I thought it would be great to have him kick off the Morse Center this year," Forell said.

First-year law student Brian Millington said he enjoyed De-

Fazio's talk, as well as the topic that he focused on.

"I like that he's talking about the topic of Congressional powers," Millington said. "It's important, especially given the climate of the administration right now. They're asserting more power than they should."

DeFazio concluded by suggesting today's officials aren't doing the right things for the country.

"It's up to the political leaders of each generation to leave a world behind that is better off," he said. "Under the current crop of leaders, they are leaving it in worse condition, sadly."

Contact the city/state politics reporter at shoikeda@dailymerald.com.

Toxic mold infects homes, triggers allergic reactions

The lack of a city housing code has many students bearing responsibility for removing household mold

By Ali Shaughnessy
Senior News Reporter

Mold may have brought medical miracles with the creation of penicillin in 1938, but now it is bringing sickness to University students as it infects homes throughout Eugene.

Dan Stih, a Healthy Living Spaces LLC certified microbial consultant, said Eugene gets a double whammy when it comes to mold because of the moisture both inside and outside. And while outside mold may not affect people, Stih said students and community members need to be increasingly wary of mold living indoors.

"Technically, all molds produce toxins," he said.

However, researchers have found that mold is more likely to produce toxins indoors because it has to work harder to survive.

Senior Nick Taylor said he lived in a "moldy apartment" his sophomore year. Although he and his roommate tried to wash off the mold, Taylor said

he still felt continuously sick while living in the apartment.

"It was a never-ending cold," he said.

According to a study done by the New York City Department of Health, mold can commonly cause allergic reactions with symptoms ranging from a runny nose or eye irritation to congestion and coughing.

University Health Center Director Thomas Ryan said about 5 percent of the population is allergic to mold and might experience these symptoms. He added that in more serious cases there may be memory loss, headache or difficulty concentrating, but there is no proven causal link between the symptoms and the mold.

Stih said it is fairly easy for mold to grow indoors, as long as there is moisture in the environment. Places where mold can grow more easily include leaks around a toilet seal, under wet carpet, leaky plumbing in sinks or showers and underneath kitchen sinks.

C. Eric Devin, co-chairman of OSPIRG's Renters' Rights Campaign, blames the mold problem on Eugene's failure to institute a housing code.

"I am outraged that these conditions exist anywhere in Oregon, especially Eugene," Devin said. "However, Eugene's lack of a housing code is a

major barrier in making sure that housing standards are upheld."

Until a housing code is implemented, many students will bear the responsibility of removing mold from their residences.

The Environmental Protection Agency Web site suggests people get rid of mold with a cleaning detergent and water mixture. Stih recommended borax and water, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site recommends mixing bleach with water.

The CDC Web site also advises people to keep the humidity level in a house below 50 percent, use an air conditioner or dehumidifier during humid months, use mold inhibitors that can be added to paints and clean bathrooms with mold-killing products.

For those not comfortable with cleaning mold on their own, contractors such as Healthy Living Spaces are available. Contractors will also do initial mold checks, Stih said.

For more information on mold, visit the CDC Web site at www.cdc.gov or the EPA Web site at www.epa.gov.

Contact the crime/health/safety reporter at alishaughnessy@dailymerald.com.

DUCK STOP

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yearly budget of \$800,000, which is necessary for operating all of its services.

"It's a nice fundraising opportunity for us," she said. "We're in need of all the community support we can get."

Tremayne said that about half of the budget comes from grants from private organizations and community support. Grants have become increasingly competitive, she added, because other non-profits are facing the

same government cuts as the HIV Alliance. She said that last year employees opted to take a cut in hours instead of cutting any services when the organization was under-budgeted.

"We're trying to come up with creative and new ways to raise money," she said, adding that the Duck Stop donations are just the kind of help the alliance is looking for.

Tips from the Duck Stop will help pay for services such as first-aid supplies and clean syringes for the Sana Needle Exchange program, which aims to prevent the spread of the disease among

intravenous drug users. Other services include financial assistance for families with HIV-positive members.

Tremayne added that the fundraiser is also a way to remind people, especially students, of the importance of the cause. She said that every 14 seconds, a youth aged 15 to 24 contracts HIV.

"People have become complacent about the disease," she said. "It's a huge opportunity to increase awareness."

Contact the higher education/student life/student affairs reporter at chelseaduncan@dailymerald.com.

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RESIDENCE

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Vice President for Student Affairs Anne Leavitt said there is not currently much connection between the classroom and residence halls, and the living and learning center will help to bridge that gap.

"Faculty and students will have a physical place to interact in a place that's accessible to residence halls," she said, adding that faculty who teach freshmen were especially interested in the project.

She said the hall's central location right at the heart of campus will be an added advantage.

"All the halls around it will benefit from its location," she said.

The University built its last new residence hall, Bean Complex, in 1963.

"We have to upgrade and modernize the facilities," Eyster said, adding that there is no modern housing in the central part of campus. "Students are different now than they were 40 years ago."

He said he recognizes that prospective students have a lot of choices in where they choose to go to school.

"I'm concerned that our existing halls are so out-of-date that it will affect the University's ability to recruit students," he said. The primary population of the new hall would be first-year students.

One of the key differences in the new hall will be the size of the rooms. While rooms in current halls are about

150 square feet, the new hall will boast rooms of about 225 square feet.

"That's not extravagant, but it's much nicer than what we have now," Eyster said.

Earl and Walton, the two complexes surrounding the site, are even older than Bean. Eyster said that the construction will be the first step in making that quadrant of campus more attractive. He said other halls would eventually also be upgraded and renovated.

"This is the first step for a long-term process to renovate all our residence halls," he said.

Some students welcome the idea of a new residence hall, especially since halls are their home away from home.

"There could definitely be some improvements facility-wise," freshman Brita Merkel said. She said that the halls are comfortable now, but some alterations would only make them better.

"I'm excited about any changes that could happen," she said.

Freshman Stephanie Nicholls said while the rooms in the residence halls are a bit small, they are livable and a great place to make friends.

"I like the sense of community," she said.

Freshman Michelle Lothers agreed, saying that everyone gets to make new friends.

"I love them," she said. "I like how central it is (in relation) to my classes."

The living and learning center should be open for business in fall 2006.

Contact the news editor at ayishayahya@dailymerald.com.

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