

## Commission suggests change in city zoning laws

**Amendment would remove restriction on number of people living in state residential facilities**

Will Koenig  
 The Daily Evergreen

After more than an hour of often heated debate, the Pullman Planning Commission decided Wednesday night to recommend a change in the city's zoning code.

If approved by the Pullman City Council, the change would remove current language that restricts the number of people living in state-approved residential service organizations in R-1, R-2 and R-T zones, Planning Director Pete Dickinson said. The Supreme Court has ruled that state authority supersedes city zoning code, he said.

"We need to defer to the state ... or we're in danger of having a legally indefensible position," Dickinson said.

Residential service organizations include foster families, residential crisis centers and group care facilities for the disabled and elderly, he said. Federal and state law requires that cities do not put "undue burdens" and restrictions on these organizations.

Commissioner Kaye Straight repeatedly objected to the proposed change in the code, and said the change would conflict with the city's current planning scheme, he said. Later in the meeting, he said the Commission should delay taking action until more information was gathered about state requirements.

He made a motion that the amend-

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Pete Dickinson,  
 Pullman planning director

ment be tabled until specifics about state requirements for these organizations were obtained. The motion was defeated 4-3, and the Commission later voted in favor of the amendment.

Commissioner John Anderson said the city should not have laws that are going to lose in court.

"It strikes me that the amendment promotes the public welfare," and would also protect the city from lawsuits, Anderson said.

There are not many residential service organizations in Pullman, Dickinson said. Some, such as crisis services, are confidential to protect the residents.

"I have knowledge of two, three, total," Dickinson said.

There may have been five such organizations existing at any one time during the past 15 years, he said.

"It's not so much the number of people living there," Commissioner Ron Faas said. "It's the traffic."

The Commission agreed to ask the city staff to find out the specifics of state regulations that apply to the organizations. They specifically requested more information on parking restrictions.

The City Council will discuss the proposed amendment and decide whether or not to make it law early next year.

*A point of light*



THE DAILY EVERGREEN/RAJAH BOSE

Ten year-old Amy Bergley participates in a vigil for victims of HIV and AIDS Tuesday night. The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Allies Association sponsored various activities in recognition of AIDS Awareness Week.

## AIDS Day guest speaks of hope despite 'hard reality'

Brye Butler  
 The Daily Evergreen

What Jennifer Jako heard from the doctor when she was 18 years old woke her up to a "hard reality," a hard reality known as AIDS.

Jako came to WSU on Wednesday, World AIDS Day, to share her story.

Jako, 26, was infected with HIV through sexual contact in 1992. She was told at diagnosis she only had four to five years to live.

"All I could do was cry," Jako said. "But I wasn't crying for the illness, I was crying for my future."

Jako stopped crying and started fighting. By disclosing the most difficult part of her life, she

is helping people become aware of the reality of HIV and AIDS, she said.

Jako grew up in a multi-cultural household. Throughout her childhood and teenage years she felt different from her peers.

Her father was an abusive man and it was hard for her to have a "normal" life at school when things weren't "normal" at home, she said. Jako felt her father kept her isolated and protected; she didn't date or go to parties with friends.

When she was 18, she left home.

Jako rented a room and lived alone, supporting herself by working at Safeway. She felt free and started dating. It was a time of growth, she said.

The intimacy with partners she dated was not satisfying, she said, her emotions paid the price of her promiscuity.

"I needed to save myself emotionally," Jako said. "I started being who I wanted to be."

Only a short time later, Jako used her savings to travel around Europe. When she returned to the United States, she had a clear idea of who she was and the kind of person she wanted to be.

A few months later, Jako learned she was HIV positive.

Jako began to travel around the United States and tell her story.

She met other people with the disease and interviewed them for a documentary film titled "Blood Lines."

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## Senate approves sorority funding; Egan resigns

Hannah Bringhurst  
 The Daily Evergreen

The ASWSU Senate probably will begin spring semester the same way it began fall — with a vacancy.

District 5 Sen. Nicholas Egan resigned from the senate because he is moving out of his district, which covers Rogers and Orton residence halls.

"This is my last senate meeting with the 29th senate," Egan said. "I'd just like to thank all of you and say I've enjoyed my time served on the senate."

Students can pick up applications for the empty seat starting Friday at the ASWSU office on the 3rd floor of the CUB.

"The seat most likely won't be filled

until early next semester," said Senate Pro-Tempore Jesse Keene.

Egan first announced his resignation to the senate Nov. 17, but he stayed a week longer in order to pass bill 29-11.

Bill 29-11, sponsored by Egan, requested \$500 to be transferred from ASWSU funds to assist Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., in starting a sorority at WSU.

The bill passed unanimously.

Public service, leadership development and the education of youth are the focus of the community service-based sorority, according to the Sigma Gamma Rho constitution.

The WSU chapter now has six members.

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