

Centennial Blvd. name change prompts community reactions

The City Council voted to rename the street where Autzen Stadium sits after Martin Luther King Jr.

By A. Sho Ikeda
Reporter

Students and residents who live along Centennial Boulevard have many different reactions to the Eugene City Council's recent decision to rename the street after civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr.

After months of controversy and debate, the council agreed in June to rename Centennial Boulevard, reversing its earlier June 9 decision not to rename the street. City traffic control employees said new street signs should be up by Wednesday or Thursday of next week, but street posts will have both old and new street signs on them for one year.

In response to the decision, Eugene native and University graduate Margaret Chuman initiated a petition to persuade city councilors to reconsider the name change. Chuman is a resident of Chase Village, which lies along Centennial Boulevard.

"I think that there was a lack of information for the public and a lack of democracy," Chuman said.

Chuman said she collected 109 signatures of people who wished to keep the current name of the street. Despite thinking her efforts may have come too late to change the council's decision, she wanted her voice — and the voice of others — to be heard.

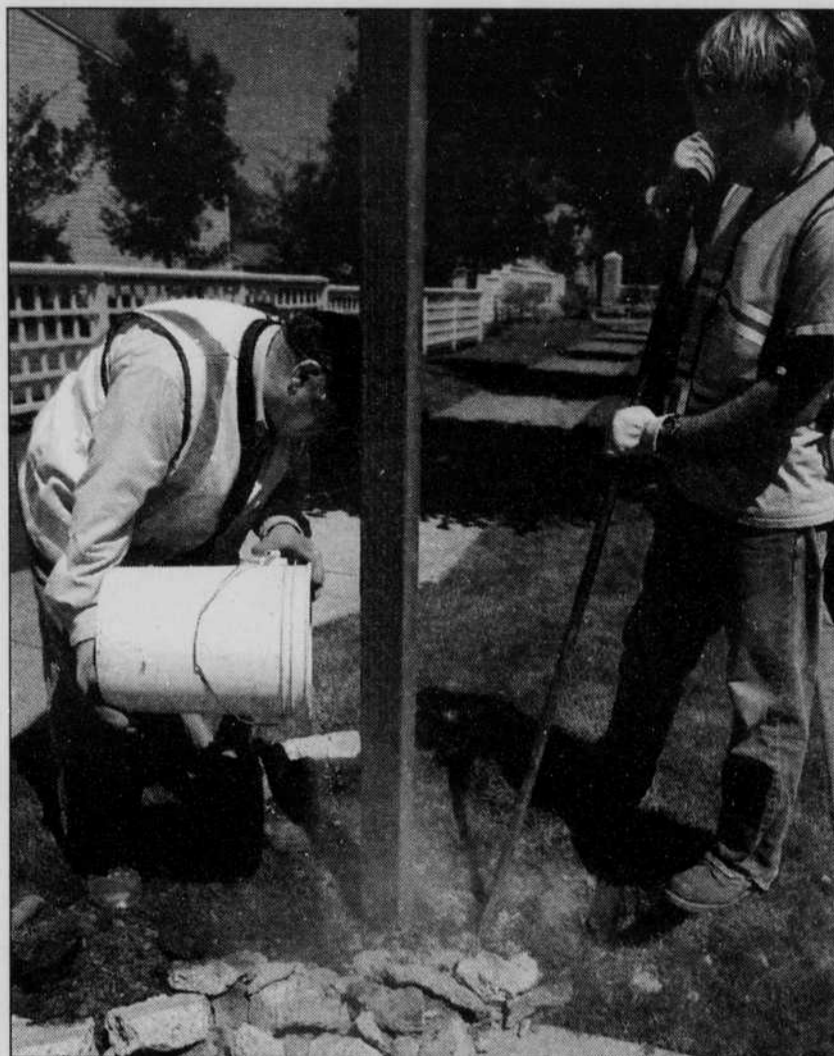
"There wasn't much consideration of the public in the decision," Chuman said.

Chuman believes Eugene should honor King with an appropriate memorial, but she disagrees with the choice of Centennial Boulevard.

"I think that they should have chosen a roadway that doesn't affect so many addresses," Chuman said. "The Beltline Highway would have been better choice. It's much larger and more prominent than Centennial."

Ward 3 City Councilor David Kelly said he desired to rename a street after King rather than a highway.

"I think naming a street after King is better than naming a highway after him because a street goes through a



Jessica Waters Emerald

Eugene Public Works employees Charles Lange (left) and Jeff Koziol replace the signposts on Centennial Boulevard to accommodate the new Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard signs.

community rather than passing by it," Kelly said.

He added the name change was a symbolic act of respect toward Eugene's black community.

"Martin Luther King Jr. is a major American hero and he deserves to be honored in every community," Kelly said.

Kelly voted in favor of renaming Centennial Boulevard both times the council voted on the issue.

Andrea Eide, a sophomore biochemistry major, was concerned with how the name change will affect her mailing address. Also a resident of Chase Village, Eide said she was unclear whether she needed

to notify the postal service of a change of address.

"I'm not sure now if my bills are go-

ing to arrive at my apartment or not," Eide said.

Eide added that she did not think that the name change was very timely.

"I don't see the sudden need to change the name now," Eide said. "I don't see why the city waited till this year when they could have done this years ago."

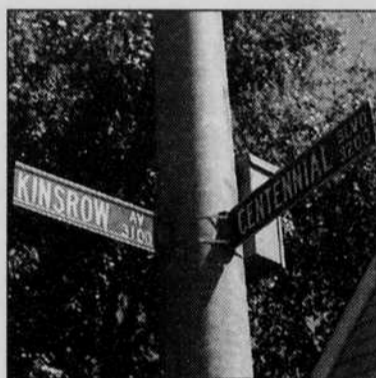
Steve Morozumi, programs adviser for the Multicultural Center, believes the city made the right decision.

"This decision was particularly important because Oregon as a state and Eugene as a city have to make amends for their history of racism," Morozumi said. Blacks have been the target of discrimination in Eugene and Oregon in the past, Morozumi said.

Morozumi added that memorializing King would provide an educational opportunity for everyone in Eugene.

"I think that honoring a great human rights advocate isn't asking much at all," Morozumi said.

Contact the reporter at shoiked@dailyemerald.com.



Jessica Waters Emerald

This Centennial Boulevard signpost at Kinsrow Avenue is at one of the eleven locations that will boast the new Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard signs.

Now leasing!



- 4 bedroom, 2 bath.....starting at \$335
- 2 bedroom, 2 bath.....starting at \$405
- 1 bedroom, 1 bath.....starting at \$610

- ✓ Clubhouse w/ game room
- ✓ Fitness center
- ✓ Ample resident and visitor parking
- ✓ Resort-like swimming pool
- ✓ Lighted volleyball and basketball courts
- ✓ Outdoor gas grills & bbq
- ✓ Decked out kitchens
- ✓ Cable/internet hookups
- ✓ Emergency alarm buttons
- ✓ Individual leases
- ✓ Roommate matching service
- ✓ On bus route to campus



Come check us out!
www.universitycommons.com
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Premier Travel
• Airfare Specials!!! •
Tampa - \$288.00*
Newark - \$268.00*
Cancun - \$436.00*
Hong Kong - \$599.00*
*tax not included, restrictions may apply. Subject to change without notice.
Eurail Passes issued on-site!!!
E-mail: fares@luv2travel.com
1011 Harlow
747-0909
Student Travel Experts

Today's crossword solution

T	E	S	T	A	D	D	S	A	D	A	P	T	
O	M	O	O	T	R	I	O	S	A	D	I	E	
T	E	L	E	G	R	A	M	S	S	T	E	E	N
E	R	A	H	A	M	S	F	E	E				
M	Y	R	N	A		S	O	T	H	A	T		
		S	O	N	G	S	T	E	R	R	O	S	E
S	K	Y	L	A	R	K	I	N	G	E	S	P	N
N	O	S	E	E	I	E	I	O	S	P	I	T	
E	A	T	S	E	P	I	L	E	P	T	I	C	S
A	L	E	S	L	I	N	E	S	O	U	T		
D	A	M	S	E	T				S	P	A	R	S
		B	O	Y	T	W	O	S	L	E	I		
B	A	S	I	L	S	H	O	R	E	B	I	R	D
A	B	A	T	E	R	O	M	E	E	T	A	L	
H	E	X	E	S	O	R	B	S	T	Y	N	E	

• Homemade Soups
• Fresh Salads
• Fresh Pizza • Hamburgers
• Fish & Chips • Pastas • Ribs
• Microbrewed Beer and full bar
• Homemade Root Beer

199 E. 5th • Eugene • 686-2739 • www.steelheadbrewingco.com

kegs to go!

Plan Your Summer Party With Us!
Hundreds Of Domestic & Imported Beers Available
Cups, Ice, Taps, & Keg Coolers Available
Last Minute Service

new menu

Featuring An All New Selection Of Freshly-Baked Pizzas
Philly Steak & Chicken Sandwiches
Seasoned Meat & Vegetarian Lasagnas
And All New Nightly Specials

Full Cocktail Service
Plenty Of Outdoor Seating
Oregon Video Lottery

Convenient Campus Location!
1417 Villard, Eugene
Just 2 Blocks East Of Campus
541.338.0334

meligkbera