

CONTACTING US

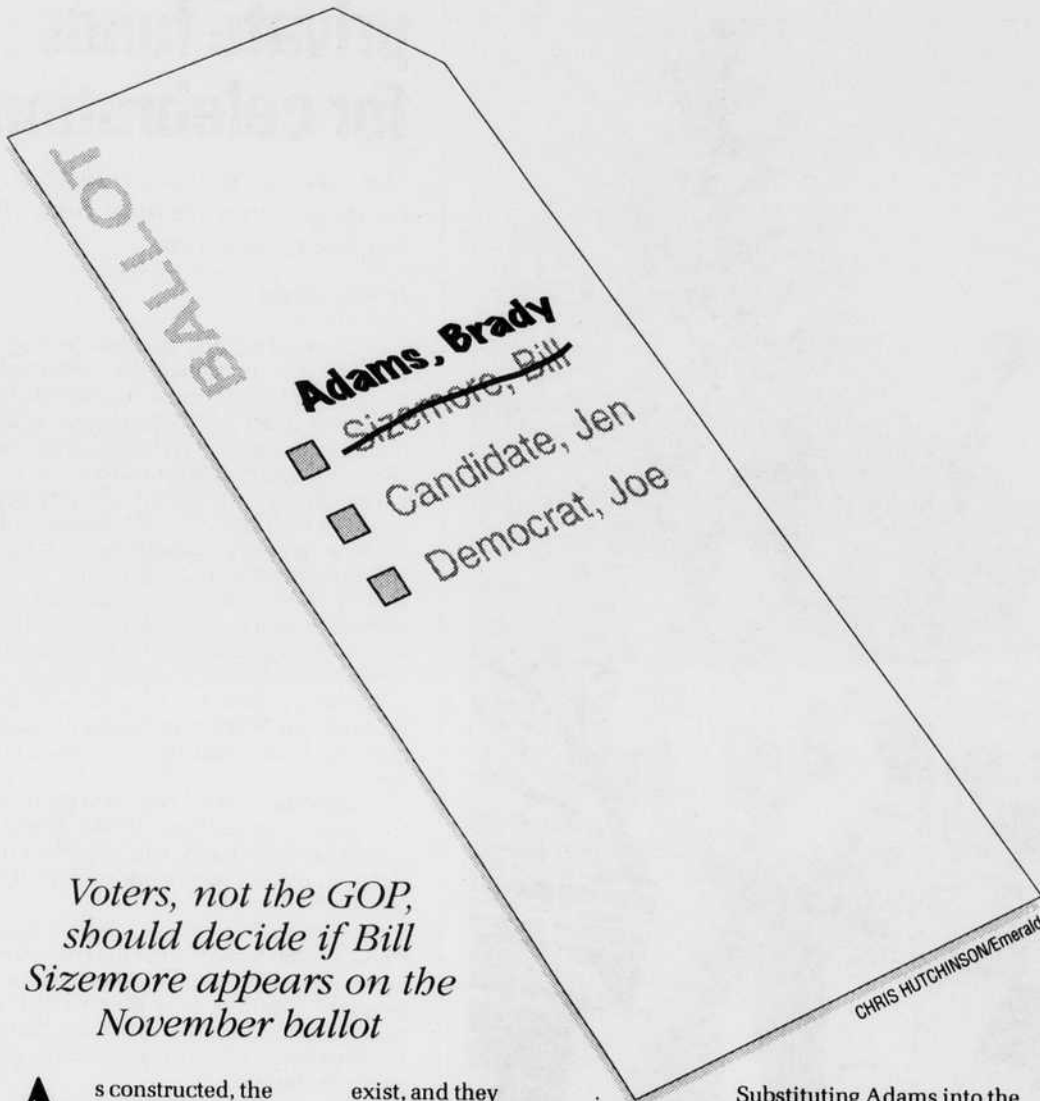
NEWSROOM: (541) 346-5511
 ADDRESS: Oregon Daily Emerald
 P.O. BOX 3159
 Eugene, Oregon 97403
 E-MAIL: ode@oregon.uoregon.edu
 ONLINE EDITION: www.uoregon.edu/~ode

PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR IN CHIEF
 Sarah Kickler
 EDITORIAL EDITOR
 Mike Schmierbach
 NIGHT EDITOR
 Mike Schmierbach

The people's CHOICE

AN EMERALD EDITORIAL



Voters, not the GOP, should decide if Bill Sizemore appears on the November ballot

As constructed, the American political system is a funny thing. Voters don't select issues, policies or parties; our ballots are cast for highly personal reasons, and voters select individuals, not policies. Many people vote based on party membership, but most voters, especially in a highly independent state such as Oregon, select candidates for a range of issues that have little to do with the letter next to a candidate's name. Until the political process moves beyond the current system and its two painfully similar parties, we think it should be the candidate and not his or her political affiliation that voters focus on. It is because voters pick candidates and not slates that we have a primary process. Otherwise, parties would simply select a candidate who was most likely to win and best represented the values of the party hierarchy. This is why Bill Sizemore should stay in the race. Sizemore has been under attack ever since The Oregonian published an article detailing the string of unpaid debts the anti-tax lobbyist had left behind. Sizemore doesn't deny the debts

exist, and they should certainly factor into any voter's decision. Nevertheless, Sizemore was aware of his financial past before he entered the race, and he obviously felt it wouldn't interfere with his ability to be elected and govern. The fact that his past is now public knowledge shouldn't affect Sizemore's willingness to campaign and lead. Oregon GOP leaders don't necessarily feel the same way, however. Oregon Senate President Brady Adams announced that he would gladly leap into the race if Sizemore ducks out. If Adams wanted to be governor, he should have put his name on the ballot in the beginning. This need not have been as a Republican; there is certainly nothing wrong with a candidate running as an independent because he or she isn't pleased with the selections of the two major parties. In fact, Adams should certainly feel free to run for the governor position this fall. But he shouldn't play political games and demand Sizemore exit the race. Sizemore is no less qualified to run now than he was when he first expressed interest in the governor position. It is the political support of the state Republican leadership that has shifted.

Substituting Adams into the race for Sizemore would be dishonest to the voters. It would also be a grave insult to the three other Republican candidates in the primary, all of whom would be slighted in the move. If voters don't consider Sizemore qualified after reading The Oregonian's story, they can express this at the polls by rejecting him in the primary or by backing a different candidate in the general election. If that candidate is a third-party representative, so much the better for diversity in our political system. In an interview with The Register-Guard mentioned in a Wednesday Guard article, Sizemore indicated he intends to continue to run. We are glad. If Sizemore has to exit the race because of personal or financial reasons, we would support his move. But if he exits because the GOP demands it, we will be upset. As long as our current, quirky system continues, it should be voters and not political parties who decide what name appears on the ballot and on the governor's nameplate.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Scientific research

We were disappointed to read Jeff Shaw's editorial (ODE, April 22). Perhaps we might clarify some of the things Shaw somehow felt compelled to misrepresent. First, Professor Matthew Ginsberg never implied that scientists should act without a social conscience. What he said was that it was inappropriate for scientists to usurp society's conscience. Decisions about the use of technology belong not to us but to society at large. Indeed, for society to abrogate its responsibility in this area would be to let a handful of scientists dictate moral policy to the world. Our role as scientists — and we made it clear to Shaw that this is one of the most important things we do — is to inform society of the possible uses of the technology we provide, the better to enable them to make well-informed decisions.

As for CIRL's involvement with military projects, the lab is currently looking at three specific application domains for our work. Two involve the manufacture of aircraft and of fiber optic cables. One is military.

This single military application involves helping AMC (the U.S. Air Mobility Command) plan its flights more efficiently. This is a strictly peacetime application; AMC is responsible for moving men and material around the world.

If CIRL is successful, we will save AMC some 50 million gallons of fuel annually. That's \$50 million in savings for American taxpayers. Perhaps more importantly, it's 50 million gallons of gasoline that won't get burned in Earth's atmosphere — about as much as all of America spends commuting to and from work each day.

Fundamentally, CIRL does not do "military research." We do scientific research. We pick the scientific questions that we will investigate, not our sponsors. The military supports our work not because they expect to tell us what to work on, but because they expect to benefit from solutions to the problems we have already decided to tackle. Unlike many private sources of research funding, the Department of Defense doesn't demand exclusive rights to research results or try to inhibit their publication. Were the work conducted on military bases (as Michael Olson suggests), neither of these would be the case, and both society and industry would suffer.

Bottom line? The U.S. government pumps \$2.7 million into the University and Eugene economies. They get many times that amount back in efficiency savings, the environment gets a bit cleaner, and the technology developed makes American industry more competitive. It's difficult for us to understand exactly what Shaw is so upset about.

Brian Drabble
 David W. Etherington
 Matthew L. Ginsberg
 CIRL

Educational employment

Regarding the article about developmentally disabled students working at the Skylight Cafeteria (ODE, April 15):

Oregon employment law provides for on-the-job training for special education students. The guidelines include the work being non-paid, no more than four hours a day and the job changing every three months. This may take the form of a change of work site or a change of work goals at the present site. Students in "work experience" have goals to this effect in their federally mandated individual education plan.

This is a facet of their school education. The primary focus is to experience a variety of job tasks, as well as employment attributes (dependability, responsibility, independence). Employment for our students is exceedingly scarce after high school, thus work sites such as the Skylight are invaluable to our program to help prepare them for this time.

We are very appreciative of the many employers who assist our students in their training.

Laura Krenk
 Teacher, Springfield High School

More than money

I am writing in response to and in support of Carlotta Hoffart's letter (ODE, April 27). This letter was in itself a response to Chris Kenning's article on disabled students working in the EMU (ODE, April 15). While Hoffart offers an excellent argument through social and educational issues, I would like to provide a more business-like argument.

Coming from the business school, I can vouch that most students here expect to be paid for work and/or internships. It is usually a general mentality of the typical business student and many in this market economy of ours. Many graduating MBAs already have dollar signs in their eyes, as their starting salaries will average \$40,000 in just a couple more months.

Even so, I can attest to the few here who see work as much more than just making money. They do it for additional reasons; experience, fun and new friendships/connections are definitely at the top of the list. They realize the importance and value of the work they do and the environment they do it in. They see that it is much more than just a simple paycheck.

Similarly, there are myriad benefits that disabled students obtain from their EMU work that are far more important than a paycheck. The sheer experience of their endeavors, at a reputable workplace, will be highly valued by future employers.

Perhaps some readers out there are already saying that an MBA like me would say this just to exploit the free work I get from these students. Not the case. From a completely business perspective, for example, the budget of the University/EMU may simply not be enough to officially hire all of these students at the going rate of \$6 an hour. And then, they would not even get the most valued part of all: experience.

Work is much more than greenbacks at the end of the month. It can have social, economic and spiritual benefits that far outweigh its economic value. Isn't it time that we looked beyond the bottom line?

Gonzalo del Real
 Graduate Student