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Sizemore to gear up campaign

By Brad Cain
The Associated Press

SALEM — Republican gubernatorial hopeful Bill Sizemore concedes he's run a low-profile campaign so far, despite his underdog status against popular Democratic Gov. John Kitzhaber.

That's going to change starting this weekend, Sizemore says, when he and Kitzhaber appear jointly before a newspaper publishers group.

Political scientist and University of Portland professor Jim Moore said Sizemore needs to get moving, because to date he hasn't been able to define himself for voters, much beyond being a purveyor of ballot measures aimed at limiting government.

"We haven't seen any articulation from him about what his candidacy is about," Moore said. "He needs to go out and get around the state. He needs to hit county fairs, watermelon festivals and everything else."

Sizemore's campaign has been marked by anemic fund raising, media accounts of his past business failures and persistent rumors that some influential Republicans are trying to persuade him to drop out of the race.

In recent weeks, Sizemore's campaign has missed key opportunities to show the differences between him and Kitzhaber.

When Kitzhaber advocated putting excess income tax money into a rainy-day fund for schools instead of sending it back to taxpayers, Sizemore — Oregon's leading advocate of lower taxes — wasn't available for comment.

Fan: Dotson will never forget meeting the band

Continued from Page 1
felt closer to the band.

"They made themselves more open to the public, and once that happened I was able to get more out of the music and the band," Dotson says.

Then, five years later, during Metallica's May 18, 1997, concert in Portland, Dotson was dancing as close to the stage as one could be when bassist Jason Newsted came within inches of him. They touched foreheads during "Fade to Black," an experience Dotson says "was the coolest thing I had ever done."

"That experience fueled the fire in me to be a good enough musician that I could play on stage and do that for someone," he said.

From that experience, he wrote an article for Metal Edge magazine, which was published in the May 1997 issue. In the article, Dotson thanked Newsted for the experience.

A year later, MTV stepped in to give Dotson the ultimate Metallica experience.

Before he knew it, Dotson was in a limousine with Stratton on his way to Portland to fly to Baltimore, Md., to interview his idols — drummer Lars Ulrich, vocalist and guitarist James Hetfield, Newsted and Hammett. The band was in Columbia, Md., for a concert where there was a roped-off area just for Dotson.

He arrived at the Merriweather Post Pavilion where he was greeted backstage by a reporter from the Baltimore Sun. For a moment, Dotson was the celebrity.

He was finally given the word

that Metallica was ready for their interview. As he headed toward the interview area he became nervous, Dotson says.

"It's like when you see the biggest roller coaster and you're in line waiting to get in the front car," Dotson says. "Then when you're just about to get on, your stomach just drops. That's how I felt as I approached the door."

Dotson conducted two separate interviews. The first was with Hetfield and Hammett, the second with Ulrich and Newsted.

"I couldn't believe they were right in front of me," Dotson says. "It was mind-boggling."

Being the fanatic that he is, Dotson didn't necessarily have anything specific he wanted to know because, he says, "I'm so into them that they don't really have any secrets."

His goal was to relay four things to the group. He wanted to thank them for putting heart and soul in their music, to tell Kirk that he bought his guitar, to tell James that Dotson's 3-year-old son, Stephen James, was named after him and to thank Newsted for letting him sing along at the Portland concert.

"I didn't want to pillage them for anything," Dotson says.

In fact, it was Dotson who gave them something to remember the experience by — one of his prized Oregon license plates.

The interview, which will be broadcast tonight on MTV at 11 p.m., took place on July 1, and Dotson is still happy to describe the entire event as if it happened yesterday.

"That memory is permanently burned in my mind," he says.



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