

DEBATE

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tives. Johnson said he and Warren had no lobbying experience in Salem, but they would recruit student leaders who have lobbied to assist them.

"We're not the common people (Speaker of the House) Larry Campbell has seen," Johnson said. "I know Larry Campbell is sick of political science majors up there badgering him."

Bowen is listed in the 1992-93 Student Directory as a political science major.

Johnson later said he's avoided politics before now because he hates it "as you can probably tell by our debating performance."

"Mudslinging is not something we stand for," he said.

Johnson said he and Warren will be able to approach lobbying with a fresh approach. ASUO Vice President Karmen Fore has agreed to help teach Johnson and Warren about lobbying if they are elected, Warren said.

In Bowen's rebuttal, he said there won't be time for the new ASUO president and vice president to get to know all the key lawmakers up in Salem.

"Having a fresh approach is good, but the advantage of knowledge and experience is always better," he said.

Collins Puente is ASUO multicultural advocate. Bowen is ASUO programs coordinator.

Bowen said Warren and Johnson have circulated editorials that say he and Collins Puente are trying to "nickel and dime the students" by sponsoring ballot measures for a Sexual Assault Exam Fund and a multicultural center. Bowen asked Warren and Johnson why they haven't said anything opposing the other three measures asking students to pay additional incidental fees.

"Are you only choosing to focus on the ballot measures put out by the competition?" he asked.

Warren said she and Johnson wrote the editorial after students approached them at the ASUO Programs Fair last week.

"We had people come up to us and say, 'We don't want to be nickle and dimes to death,' and we said, 'That's not our ticket,'" she said.

Johnson asked Collins Puente about Sen. Stan Bunn's bill to increase funding for financial aid.

Collins Puente said Bowen would be better able to answer the question because he interns in Salem. She said she has experience with lobbying on the national level.

"A lot of things that happen to students don't happen on a national level," Johnson said. "I think it's important if both candidates can lobby at the state level. (The 1990 Ballot) Measure 5 is not a national issue."



Photo by Anthony Forney

ASUO Executive candidates Mark Johnson (left) and Leslie Warren debated opponents Eric Bowen and Diana Collins Puente Monday.

WACO

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"We thought, 'Oh my God, they are killing themselves.'"

"We can only assume that there was a massive loss of life," Ricks said. "It was truly an inferno of flames."

Ricks said multiple witnesses, including FBI snipers positioned outside the compound, spotted cult members setting fires.

One person, Ricks said, "was knelt down with his hands cupped, from which a flame erupted."

The agents reported seeing a man wearing a gas mask and black uniform throw something inside, followed by a fireball. Additionally, Ricks said, a man found Monday afternoon in a bunker on the grounds said lantern fuel had been spread throughout the wooden complex and that the fire was started simultaneously in several places.

"We did not introduce fire into this compound," Ricks said. "I cannot you the shock we felt. David Koresh, we believe, gave the order to commit suicide, and they all followed willingly his order. ..."

"He wanted to have as many people killed in that compound as possible," Ricks said. "That is why it was named the Ranch Apocalypse," a term cult members sometimes used.

"It's a bad end and one of the ends we feared from the beginning," said Jack Killorin, a spokesman in Washington for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. "Obviously, suicide was a concern all along, but the method was different; unexpected."

Late in the day, Reno told reporters the FBI's assault was meant to be "a step forward" that "would increase pressure" on the cultists to end the stand-off.

"Obviously," she said, "if I had thought that the chances were great for mass suicide, I would never have approved the plan."

Koresh's mother, Bonnie Haldeman, lashed out at the FBI late Monday while the compound still smoldered.

"I don't know what David did," Mrs. Haldeman said by telephone. "I can't answer for the people in there or for what they did. I don't know what they were thinking. ..."

"There were law-abiding, God-fearing people in there. They didn't hurt anybody. It's ridiculous. They're going to pay," she said in a quavering voice.

Monday's action began well before dawn when federal agents notified the compound's neighbors "that it would end today," according to Melanie Felton, a nearby rancher.

CORRECTION

An article in the April 16 issue of the *Emerald* incorrectly reported former Incidental Fee Committee member Jose Balderas' current enrollment status. Balderas is enrolled as a full-time student for spring term. The *Emerald* regrets the error.

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