

STATE AND LOCAL

Cook, Royall agree

'SG needs to improve'

By KAREN HELLER Reporter

Mike Cook and Sean Royall both say Student Government can make a difference — if the right person is running it.

But that stance is not surprising, since both men are in the run-off election for student body president.

Royall and Cook spoke at Sully's Symposium, sponsored by Lambda Sigma, Tuesday afternoon.

Each candidate was given five minutes for an opening statement and two minutes for a closing statement.

In between, the candidates were asked four questions prepared by Lambda Sigma and numerous questions by onlookers.

Both candidates were asked how they had voted on the Gay Student Services recognition resolution and the women in the Aggie Band resolution. Royall voted against both, and Cook voted for recognition of GSS but against women in the band.

Royall said he voted against recognition of the GSS because he doesn't believe the student body was in favor of the GSS.

"If they were in favor, I still would have voted against it because of . . . my moral convictions," he said.

Royall said that Texas A&M's stance on the two issues hasn't adversely affected the University community, but Cook disagreed.

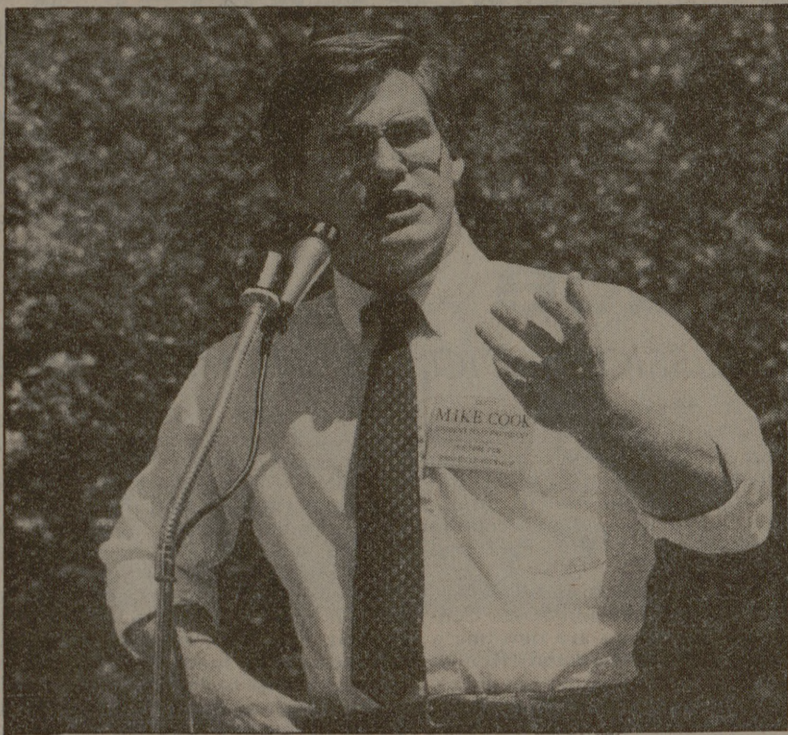
"If (adversely affected) means it embarrassed us in the eyes of the state of Texas . . . it adversely affected us a lot," he said.

In response to a question about the relationship between Student Government and The Battalion, Cook said Student Government hadn't been doing its job.

"Student Government doesn't like The Battalion right now, and The Battalion doesn't like Student Government," Cook said. "I'll tell you why, though. I think the reason the relationship isn't good is because I don't think Student Government is doing its job."

Royall added that Student Government needed to improve its communication with the students.

"I think Student Government has failed in communication, letting students know what Student Government is doing," Royall said. "I think that Student Government needs to improve. We need to step out to The Battalion, and try to improve our relationship there."



Mike Cook Photo by FRANK IRWIN



Sean Royall Photo by FRANK IRWIN

Judge voids election results for sheriff of Brazos County

Associated Press

State District Judge Arthur Leshler ruled Tuesday that the result of the November election for sheriff of Brazos County is void.

Leshler's ruling is a victory for Democrat Howard Hill, who brought charges against Republican Ronnie Miller when a recount of votes from the election revealed that

Miller won by 162 votes. Hill's lawsuit questioned the validity of the election results because more than 470 county residents voted illegally.

Miller's representative, Bryan attorney Chris Kling, said Leshler ordered the county officials responsible for elections to arrange for a second election date.

However, Kling said he is appealing Leshler's decision. He notified the judge of the appeal after Leshler made his ruling, Kling said.

"We disagree with the judgment," Kling said.

The appeal will be made to the Court of Appeals for the 1st District in Houston, Kling said. The date of the second election is unknown, he said.

Judge permits failing students to attend show

Associated Press

SHERMAN — After parents complained that an agriculture show is part of school curriculum, a Grayson County judge ordered five schools not to prohibit about 100 students from attending the Texoma Junior Livestock Show this week in Denison.

In accordance with Texas' new "no-pass, no-play" rule, the Grayson County schools had barred the students from participating in the livestock show because they failed at least one subject during the past six weeks.

Judge Joe Joiner signed the temporary restraining order Monday and has scheduled a hearing next week on whether to make the injunction permanent.

The students' parents claim that the agricultural and home-making exhibits at the annual show aren't extracurricular activities but are requirements of the courses themselves.

They said that preventing students from attending the show will force them to fail an agriculture course because raising and showing an animal is part of the course's requirement.

The annual Texoma show got under way Tuesday afternoon, and exhibitions and judging are today and Thursday.

The plaintiffs in the case say the six-week rule would stop the students from showing livestock until April 16.

Credit card fee bill approved by Senate

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Senate voted Tuesday to allow Texas banks to charge a "reasonable fee" each year for issuing credit cards. One opponent questioned whether it might be a tax bill in disguise.

Sen. Ed Howard, D-Texarkana, said the fee, which would be paid by each cardholder, would be "somewhere between \$18 and \$25."

Howard said the fee would allow Texas banks to compete with other states that charge credit card fees and can offer more services.

Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi, asked Howard, "Is this bill that you're proposing in keeping with increasing the cost to the people of Texas while at the same time disguising that we're not passing a tax bill?"

"No, senator, it has nothing to do with that," replied Howard.

He said additional services offered by out-of-state banks that charge a credit card fee include discounts on travel insurance and auto rentals and other tourist discounts.

"I don't consider this a tax, senator," said Howard. "There's a difference in a tax and a fee, and if you don't want it, you don't have to use the card."

Truan responded by asking, "How much longer are we going to roll over and play dead to try to accommodate these big businesses who are making millions of dollars?"

Howard's bill was sent to the House on a 24-6 vote.

Senators also voted Tuesday to allow cities with a population of

50,000 or more and a mass transportation system to levy up to a 1 percent sales tax to fund mass transit. Cities of over 230,000 already have the taxing authority, and Sen. Chet Brooks' bill would extend that authority to 13 smaller cities on a local option basis.

The Senate also approved and sent to the House proposals that would:

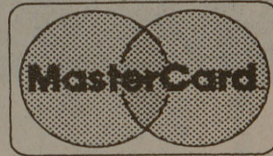
- Establish a \$5 saltwater sport-fishing and freshwater trout sport-fishing stamp, which would be in addition to the regular fishing license. The stamp would bring in approximately \$3.3 million to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department over the next year with that figure going up each year.
- Make gang rape a first-degree felony punishable by up to life in prison.
- Direct the Commission on Standards for the Teaching Profession and the State Board of Education to require student teachers to be trained to recognize signs of child abuse among public school students.

- Require the Legislative Budget Board to say how any bill or resolution with a fiscal impact of \$5 million or more would affect the state's cash-flow.
- Exempt from Railroad Commission regulation the transportation of goods by a subsidiary company for its parent corporation.
- Fix at 12 percent the interest rate charged in judgments on delinquent taxes.
- Create a water district to acquire and distribute water in Bosque County.

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