

Senate Bill No. 276

Sen Act

To provide for the establishment
of the
Agricultural and Mechanical
College of Texas
March 23rd Read 1st time
March 28th Read 2nd time
April 4 Read 3^d time
and passed
M. C. Campbell
Secy of Senate

"CONTRARY TO POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS, there is nothing 'historically unclear'* about the connection between Matthew Gaines and the establishment of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. In April of 1871 while serving as a senator representing the 16th district in the 12th Texas Legislature, Gaines, and every other legislator of African descent, voted for Senate Bill No. 276 that allowed Texas to take advantage of the 1862 Land Grant College Act. This Republican party inspired program set aside several million acres of federal land for the support of agricultural and industrial higher education. (The 1871 bill to establish the A. and M. College of Texas obligated the creation, if state officials chose to segregate white from black students, of another federally supported land-grant school for blacks, which subsequently became Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College.) Nor do scholars in any reputable university or college today deny or disparage the accomplishments of Texans of African, Mexican, and German ancestry who after the Civil War tried to build an interracial democracy on the ashes of slavery. The leadership role during Reconstruction played by Matthew Gaines in establishing Texas' first state supported public school system and first venture into higher education for all Texans is a matter of public record."

"As members of the university faculty, we have an obligation to say what we know and to support what we believe is correct. Because our university will soon enter the 21st century, it is a fitting time to look back to the enabling legislation passed in 1871. Indeed, "Vision 2020" represents a commitment to academic excellence that will magnify our school's unique origins. In a university rich with tradition, and as the first public institution of higher learning in our state, it is appropriate to honor our beginnings a century and a quarter ago, and to commemorate the early steps for a free public education for all Texans. Because we stand today as the nation's only federal land, sea, and space grant university, we encourage all Aggies to look back with pride to our beginnings, when courageous and far-sighted Texas legislators, both black and white, came together to establish the "Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas."

- Ben E. Aguirre
Professor of Sociology
- Armando C. Alonzo
Assistant Professor of History
- Sara Alpern
Associate Professor
- Harriette Andreadis
Associate Professor of English
- Judith A. Baer
Professor of Political Science
- Dale Baum
Associate Professor of History
- Dennis A. Berthold
Professor of English
- Walter L. Buenger
Associate Professor of History
- Jon R. Bond
Professor of Political Science
- Daniel E. Bornstein
Associate Professor of History,
and Director, Religious Studies Program
- James C. Bradford
Associate Professor of History
- Albert S. Broussard
Associate Professor of History
and Elton P. Lewis Faculty Fellow
- John Canup
Associate Professor of History
- Jonathan Coopersmith
Associate Professor of History
- Joseph G. Dawson
Associate Professor of History,
and Director, Military Studies Institute
- Chester Dunning
Associate Professor of History
- Marian Eide
Assistant Professor of English
- Susan B. Egenolf
Lecturer in English
- Roy B. Flemming
Professor of Political Science
- Maria-Cristina Garcia
Associate Professor of History

- Cecilia E. Hawkins
Senior Lecturer in English
- Patricia A. Hurley
Professor of Political Science
- M. Jimmie Killingsworth
Professor of English
- Arnold P. Krammer
Professor of History
- Pamela R. Matthews
Associate Professor of English,
and Director, Women's Studies Programs
- John J. McDermott
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy
- Kenneth J. Meier
Professor of Political Science and Holder of the
Charles Puryear Professorship
- Ernest Obadele-Starks
Assistant Professor of History
- Paul A. Parrish
Professor of English
- Marco Portales
Professor of English
- Robert P. Resch
Associate Professor of History
- James M. Rosenheim
Associate Professor of History
- Richard W. Stadelmann
Associate Professor of Philosophy and Humanities
- Anthony N. Stranges
Associate Professor of History
- C. Jan Swearingen
Professor of English
- Lynne M. Vallone
Associate Professor of English
- Paul P. Van Riper
Professor Emeritus of Political Science
- Larry W. Yarak
Associate Professor of History
- Danny Yeager
Professor of Chemistry

[*] "Historically unclear: Despite debate among scholars, role of black senator in A&M founding gains support among students." The Battalion, November 10, 1998. The Battalion endorsed the movement to commemorate the accomplishments of Gaines in an earlier editorial: "Matthew Gaines: The former senator deserves recognition for his contributions." The Battalion (July 27, 1995), p.5. The Matthew Gaines Memorial Committee was originally formed in 1994 to support a statue of State Senator Matthew Gaines for Texas A&M University. The statue would honor Senator Gaines' contributions to the establishment of free public education and the passage of the legislation which allowed the State of Texas to accept the Morrill Land Grant College Act. The following statement describes Matthew Gaines and his accomplishments:

Former Slave, community leader, minister,
Republican State Senator and courageous leader in the 12th Legislature,
which established free public education in the
State of Texas and enabled the founding of Texas A&M University

Visit the Matthew Gaines Memorial Committee homepage:
<http://www.tamu.edu/gaines/index.html>

AGGIELIFE



The Black Crowes
By Your Side
Capitol Records

The Black Crowes, long hailed as the saviors of southern-fried rock 'n' roll, have returned to the musical forefront with their fifth album, *By Your Side*.

Although the changes in the band are immediately evident (the loss of long-time lead guitar player Marc Ford being the most obvious), the Crowes have never sounded better. With new bassist Sven Pippen on board, the band is prepared to re-enter the charts.

The loss of a musician as talented as Ford, however, has forced the Crowes to fill in the gaps.

Lead vocalist Chris Robinson uses the opportunity to its fullest, letting his whisky-tinged southern drawl reach to as-yet-unheard registers.

Even Rich Robinson, primarily a rhythm guitarist until now, stretches out and takes a few perfectly placed solo breaks.

By Your Side is an album that brings The Black Crowes full circle. The Grateful Dead-esque sounds that surfaced on the band's past few recordings are nowhere to be found, leaving only the larger-than-life road-house band the Crowes promised to be when their career began. (Grade: A)

— Riley LaGrone



Foxy Brown
Chyna Doll
Violator Records

Wanting to get back to her roots on *Chyna Doll*, Foxy Brown found inspiration when she returned to her hometown of Brooklyn.

Brown's motto, "What you see is what you get," is proven time and time again by her hard-hitting lyrics.

"My Life" analyzes the double standard that exists between the sexes, while "I Can't" tackles issues of love and trust.

Brown and Jay-Z renew their kinship on "Bonnie & Clyde Part II," and Mya makes a guest appearance on "JOB," a song rich in R&B flavor and Brown's money-or-nothing attitude.

Guest appearances also include DMX, Mia X and Noreaga.

The finest gems on the album are "Hot Spot" and "Can U Feel Me Baby."

Both tracks are polished with energetic beats, seductive rhythms and Brown's smooth delivery.

Not an average 19-year-old by any means, Brown's fiery sparks and vivacious personality match those of other artists well above her own age. (Grade: B+)

— Michelle McNeely



Remy Zero
Villa Elaine
Geffen Records

Named after an old abandoned building that was once built by writer Orson Welles, *Villa Elaine* reads like a dark novel.

Quite fitting, since Remy Zero stayed at the old building, a run-down hotel, while recording their second release.

Though born and raised in the United States, Remy Zero is the persona of a British rock band. The angelic sounds of "Rain" and the light rock of "low" capture the essence of a diohead.

"Whither Vulcan" simulates the classic rock of Queen's "Problem" parallels the sound of Material Issue.

The band's first single, "Prophecy," is a tale about greed and corruption. The song's lyrics and extremely catchy hook provide only a hint to what the album has in store.

Villa Elaine reaches for the stars. It combines the distinctive sound of lead singer, Cinjun Tate, with melodies that move the listener to the edge of their seat.

However, darkness and melancholy resurface in the latter half of the album, and all good things come to an end. (Grade: B)

— Michelle

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