

Campus News

WHO WAS IDA B. WELLS?

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Ida B. Wells has been described as a crusader for justice, and as a defender of democracy. Wells was characterized as a militant and uncompromising leader for her efforts to abolish lynching and establish racial equality. Wells challenged segregation decades before Rosa Parks ran for Congress and attended suffrage meetings with the likes of Susan B. Anthony and Jane Addams, yet most of her efforts are largely unknown due to the fact she is African American and female.

Ida B. Wells was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi in 1862, and the oldest of eight children. When her parents James and Elizabeth Wells died in 1880, as a result of a yellow fever plague, she decided to devote her life to promoting racial equality. It was from her parents that Wells developed an interest in politics and her unwavering dedication achieving set goals. In 1884 she had qualified to teach in the city schools and was assigned a first grade class where taught for seven years.

Wells's writing career was sparked by an incident that occur in May 1884. While riding a train back to her job in Woodstock, Wells was asked by the conductor to move from her seat in the ladies car to the front of the train into the smoking car. When she refused, the conductor attempted to physically remove her seat. It took three men to remove Wells from her seat, rather than move to the smoking car, she got off at the next stop to the cheers of the white passengers on the train. Eager to share her story, Wells wrote an article for *The Living Way*, black church weekly. Her article was so well received that the editor of *The Living Way* asked for other contributions. As a result Wells began a weekly column entitled "Iola". By 1886, Wells articles were appearing in prominent black newspapers across the nations. Her voice grew bolder as she began attacking larger issues of discrimination and inequality, such as poverty and lack of educational opportunities. 1891 she was fired for her teaching position because of her editorials criticizing the Memphis School Board of

Education for conditions in "separate" colored schools.

When a respected black storeowner and friend were lynched in 1892, Wells used her paper to attack the evils of lynching and encouraged the black townsmen of Memphis to go west. While attending an editor's convention in New York, wells received word not to return to Memphis because her life would be in danger. Wells took her cause to England to gain support and earned a reputation as a fiery orator and courageous leader of her people. Later that year, Wells collaborated with Frederick Douglas and other, including her future husband, in writing a pamphlet entitled "Reasons Why the Colored American is not in the World's Colombian Exposition which documented the progress of blacks since their arrival in America.

Upon returning to the United States, she settled in Chicago and formed the Women's Era Club, the first civic organization for African American women. The name was later changed to the Ida B. Wells Club in honor of its founder.

In June of 1895 she married Ferdinand Barnett, a prominent Chicago attorney. Wells-Barnett kept active until the birth of her second son, Herman. She resigned as president of the Ida B. Wells Club and devoted her time to raising her two young sons and her two daughters. In 1909, Barnett was asked to be a member of the "Committee of 40." This committee established the groundwork for the organization now known as the NAACP, the oldest civil rights organization in the country.

Ida B. Wells died March 25, 1931. She left behind a legacy of activism, dedication and hope for change. Wells accomplishments are truly extraordinary given the time and social context in which they occurred. Wells traveled throughout the United States and Europe with her anti-lynching message, she wrote extensively throughout her life on the injustices faced by African Americans, and she became ardent community activist, determined to change the path of poverty and crime. Wells work as a writer, social researcher, activist, and organizer, mark her as on the century's most dynamic and remarkable women.



Ida B. Wells
-photo courtesy of
info.umd.edu

MCGRAW-HILL WEBSITE PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH RELIABLE INFORMATION ON TERRORISM

NEW YORK—(BUSINESS WIRE via COLLEGIATE PRESSWIRE)—response to the public's demand for reliable news in the aftermath of the September 11 tragedy, McGraw-Hill Education is offering free online access to the highest quality and most up-to-date resources available on violence and terrorism.

Through PowerWeb, an innovative online educational tool published by McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, a unit of McGraw-Hill's Higher Education division, college students as well as the general public will now be able to locate important information on terrorism-related topics in one place and at no cost.

"The attacks of 9-11 and the ongoing war have led to a greater need for information on terrorism, not only among college students but the American public at-large" said Robert Evanson, president of McGraw-Hill Education. "As one of the world's leading providers of information services, McGraw-Hill Education is responding to the increased demand for reliable news and is working to provide the American people with the information they need at this difficult time in our history."

Anyone can take advantage of Power Web's new violence and terrorism resources by clicking on the Violence and Terrorism icon at the McGraw-Hill/Dushkin website (www.dushkin.com/powerweb). There's no setup or new software to learn, and only registration is required.

Created to help college professors make their courses more relevant to students, PowerWeb organizes current articles from both scholarly journals and the mainstream press by subject matter topics and provides real-time news and weekly updates to students on issues related to their courses of study. McGraw-Hill Education is adding a new violence and terrorism site to the over 58 existing PowerWeb titles in subjects ranging from Business to Marketing to Sociology and Political Science and offering free access to the general public.

Each PowerWeb resource is as-

essed by a team of respected academic experts, ensuring only the highest quality peer-reviewed and refereed content is included. In addition, McGraw-Hill has developed correlation guides that link resources on the new PowerWeb site with specific McGraw-Hill textbooks used in courses such as Criminology, Sociology and Anthropology.

"Searching for reliable information on the Internet can be a daunting task," said Ed Stanford, president of McGraw-Hill Higher Education. "By adding a violence and terrorism title to our PowerWeb series and offering it to the public for free, we're providing a source of up-to-the-minute information on terrorism-related topics that people can access quickly and easily and that they can trust is accurate."

With PowerWeb, users have access to books, magazines, newspapers, journals, databases and newswires containing content on violence-related topics, and PowerWeb search results yield academically focused sources that have been vetted as opposed to random Web results available from any other Internet search engine. In addition to the current articles on violence and terrorism, PowerWeb also provides links to other pertinent Web sites related to these subjects.

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THE BEST MISSED CONCERT: IMANI

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The first concert of 2002 at Elizabeth City State University was an excellent concert, but poorly attended. ECSU sponsored the IMANI concert, which was held Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2002 in the Fine Arts Auditorium.

Despite the poor attendance, IMANI let the concert go on. The show began well into the 8 o'clock hour, because the group was waiting for more people to arrive. Approximately, nine people from ECSU and the community sat in the audience until a small group of security guards joined the small crowd resulting in a head count of sixteen people.

At about 8:20pm, IMANI took to the stage with an enthusiastic spirit. They started with an upbeat and familiar tune, "Lady Marmalade," originally performed by the Labelle's and covered by Lil' Kim, Christina Aguilera, Pink, and Mya featuring Missy Elliot. IMANI brought more familiar tunes to the stage, ranging from contemporary music to various disco melodies as the night progressed. They performed modern day songs to appeal to the college audience, but their music genre was inspirational and contemporary gospel. They performed their own original songs, such as "B.C. Bad Girls," "Destruction Zone," "Testify," and "Forever Man."

IMANI consists of three young

ladies: Terri, Dawn, and Tanya. IMANI started as a group of five, but over the years the group narrowed down to three people. First, they named their group *Onyx*. They did not just change the number of members in the group; but when a popular rap group took on the name *Onyx* they changed the name of their group to IMANI. IMANI means "faith" in Swahili.

"We've been a group for ten years. Our producer knew each one of us individually and he contacted us about joining a group," Terri said. Unfortunately, like many musical groups, they had been through many changes since they first started as young girls. IMANI currently tours college campuses with their harmonious vocals, smooth choreography, and extreme interest in the audience. They did not just perform their rehearsed songs, but IMANI pulled four young ECSU students from the audience to participate on stage. IMANI got the students to use their stage props: feathered boas and afro-wigs. They had the students form a soul train line and dance in the center stage. One student, McKeith Cordell, was encouraged to sing along to their hit, "Testify" by making up his own lyrics. The other students started singing background vocals along with the group. The students said that they had an exhilarating time on the stage.

IMANI has been performing for these past years to inspire people to glorify God and trust Him with all types of relationships in life by captivating the audience and bringing them into their show. They left the Mighty Vikings with as much energy with the small audience as if the entire school had attended.