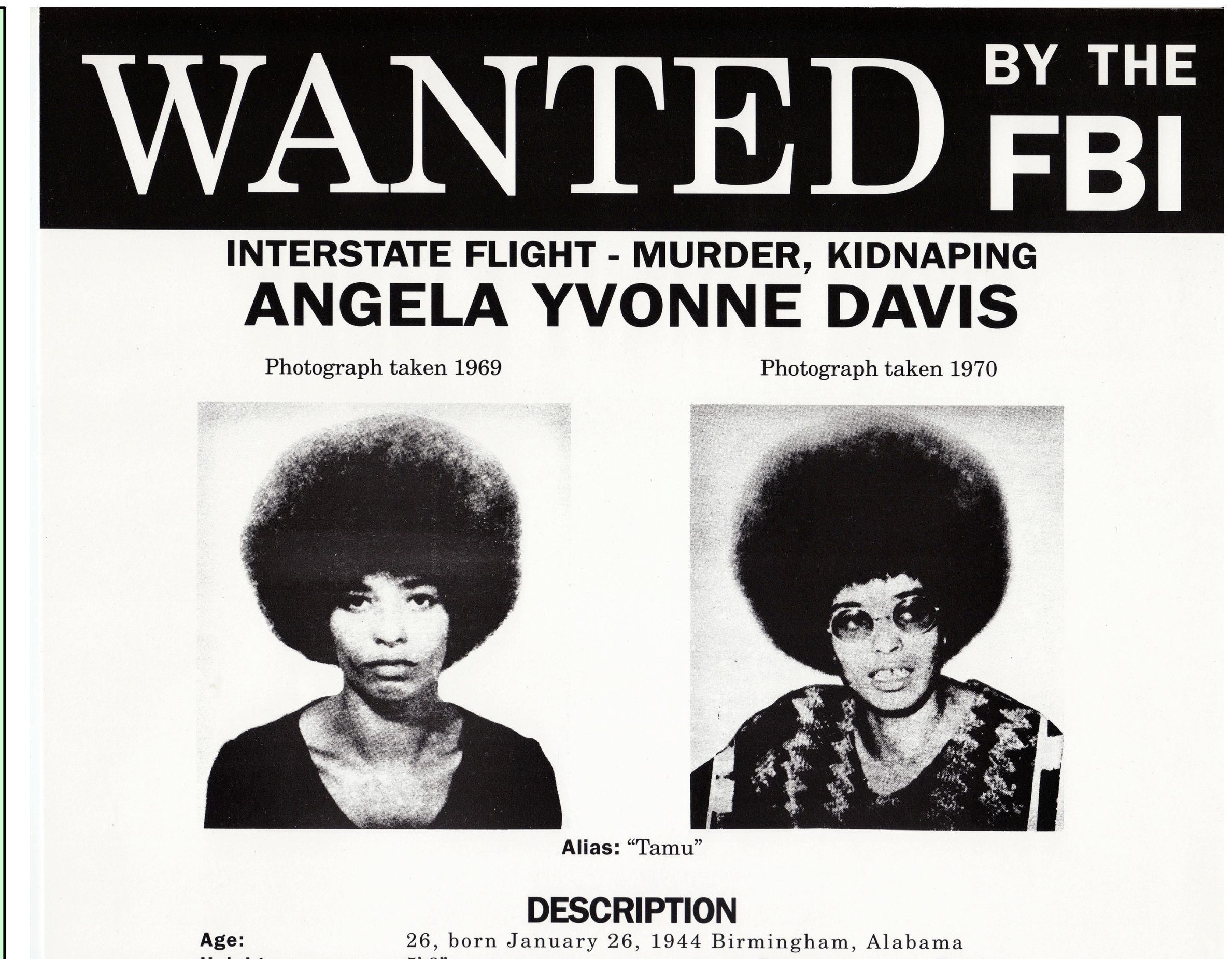


A Leader You Should Know: Angela Davis

Rachel Overbeck and C. Petr
Leadership Seminar, Doane College, Crete, NE 68333



4. Angela's Message for Our Generation:

"It's important to think forward and imagine the future, and history, in a way that's not restrained by our own lifetimes. Oftentimes people say, "Well, if it takes that long...I'll be dead." **So what?** Everybody dies. And if people who were involved in the struggle against slavery...if they had that very narrow, individualistic sense of their own contributions where would we be today? We have to learn to **imagine the future** in terms that are **not restricted to our own lifetimes.**"

"Activism isn't something special, it's not located in a particular space. It's about doing the work you're able to do, given the position you're in, at any given moment."

5. TAKE HOME MESSAGE:

Angela Davis is an Authentic, Transformational Servant-Leader. She challenges citizens of the world to imagine the future in terms not narrowed to their own perspectives or lifetimes, but in a way that brings us closer to a global community.

1. Background and Major Accomplishments:

- Born January 26, 1944 in Birmingham, Alabama
- Attended Brandeis University, the Institute for Social Research at the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, and the University of California at San Diego
- Joined the Che Lumumba Club of the Communist Party, USA June 2nd, 1968
- August 19th, 1970 Angela became the third woman ever to appear on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list
- Acquitted of all charges June 4th, 1972
- Author of nine books including "Women, Culture and Politics" "The Meaning of Freedom" and "If They Come in the Morning"
- Founding member of Critical Resistance, a national organization dedicated to dismantling the prison industrial complex
- Affiliated with Sisters Inside, an abolitionist organization in Queensland, Australia that works in solidarity with women in prison
- Lectured in all 50 states as well as in Africa, Europe, the former Soviet Union, and the Caribbean
- Distinguished Professor Emerita in the History of Consciousness and Feminist Studies Departments at the University of California, Santa Cruz

2. Historical Impact:

- Internationalist: believes that without a global community nothing will get done
- Her case sparked a global movement that touched many lives, including Roger McAfee, a dairy farmer who put up Angela's \$102,500 bail
- Continues to advocate for oppressed peoples and speaks around the world about and for prison abolition, social movements, and activism

RESEARCH QUESTION:
What kind of leader is Angela Davis?

3. Leadership Style and Analysis:

- I. Authentic Leadership
 - a) Interpersonal Definition: Reciprocal Process
 - b) Demonstrate 5 characteristics
 - i. Understand their purpose—Passionate
 - ii. Strong values—Behavior
 - iii. Establish trusting relationships—Connectedness
 - iv. Demonstrate self-discipline—Consistency
 - v. Act from the heart--Compassion
 - c) Strengths:
 - i. Fulfills expressed need for trustworthy leadership in society
 - ii. Emphasizes learned behavior theory over trait theory
 - d) Weaknesses:
 - i. Still in formative stages
 - ii. Moral component not fully explained
 - e) Angela's Example: Demonstrated 5 characteristics while on trial and as an activist
- II. Transformational Leadership
 - a) Definition: a process in which leaders and followers raise one another to higher levels of morality and motivation (Burns)
 - b) 4 Factors (4 Is)
 - i. Idealized influence, Inspirational motivation, Intellectual stimulation, Individualized consideration
 - c) Strengths:
 - i. Widely researched from many different perspectives
 - ii. Intuitive appeal
 - iii. Treats leadership as a process that occurs between followers and leaders
 - d) Weaknesses:
 - i. Lacks conceptual clarity—too broad
 - ii. Personality trait vs. learned behavior
 - iii. Suffers from "Heroic leadership" bias
 - e) Angela's Example: Gave motivation to her followers in the form of letters and speeches and challenged them to think beyond the status quo
- III. Servant Leadership
 - a) Definition: Leader who desires to serve others first and then makes a conscious decision to lead
 - b) End goal is for those who are served to grow, become more knowledgeable and empowered, to gain inter/independence
 - c) Weaknesses:
 - i. Very early stages of development
 - ii. No guide to measure or qualify
 - d) Angela's Example: Didn't set out to be a leader in the liberation movement