



**TV ONE TO AIR TAVIS SMILEY'S EIGHTH ANNUAL STATE OF THE
BLACK UNION SYMPOSIUM EXPLORING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN
IMPRINT ON AMERICA BEGINNING SUNDAY, AUGUST 12**

Network has produced three hour-long specials from the best-selling author and talk show host's symposium featuring African American opinion leaders held at Hampton University near Jamestown earlier this year

Silver Spring, MD, August 6, 2007 -- Beginning Sunday, August 12, at 6 PM (ET), TV One will air a series of three one-hour specials highlighting best-selling "Covenant with Black America" movement founder and talk show host Tavis Smiley's Eighth Annual State of the Black Union symposium, designed to take a historical look at the influence and imprint of African Americans on America as the nation commemorates the 400th anniversary of the first permanent English settlement in Jamestown.

In the August 12 special, entitled "Jamestown...400 Years Later," a panel of experts discusses the link between the nation's first African American settlers 400 years ago and the African American community of today. Participants include the Rev. Al Sharpton, actor/producer Tim Reid, former ABC news correspondent and current NPR host Michel Martin, radio personality Tom Joyner, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Judge Glenda Hatchett, Congressman Keith Ellison of Minnesota, Former Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder and Radio One founder and chairperson Catherine Hughes. This week's hour repeats on Wednesday, August 15, at 1 PM.

On Sunday, August 19, the second hour, "Jamestown...The Next 400 Years," explores what America would be without African Americans and the panel includes Chuck D of the rap group Public Enemy, astronaut Dr. Mae Jamison, Dr. Cornel West of Princeton University, along with former *Ebony* editor Lerone Bennett Jr., Children's Defense Fund Founder Marian Wright Edelman and Rep. Bobby Scott. This episode will have an encore play on Wednesday, August 22, at 1 PM, and Wednesday, August 29, at noon.

On Sunday, August 26, TV One airs part three of the State of the Black Union 2007 symposium, "Jamestown...Memorable Moments." This final hour consists of memorable moments and final thoughts from the symposium to conclude the annual event. An encore play is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29, at 1 PM.

Created by Tavis Smiley in 2000, the State of the Black Union symposium is a unique annual event that brings together some of America's foremost African American opinion leaders, academics, policy makers, religious leaders, community organizers and journalists to discuss, assess and recommend solutions to the most challenging issues facing Black Americans today. In partnership with Jamestown 2007 Inc., the Eighth

Annual symposium was held earlier this year over two days at Hampton University and William and Mary College in Virginia.

“I am delighted to join with TV One again this year to bring the important discussions from our Eighth Annual State of the Black Union to a wider audience of African Americans,” said Smiley. “It is especially important for us to highlight this year—during the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement—the imprint on American culture we have made throughout the entire history of this country. The more people we can make aware of and engage in these discussions, the better off our society will be.”

“It is rare to have in one forum some of the foremost African American thinkers, doers and visionaries in our society. We are honored to bring the State of the Black Union to our viewers as part of our ongoing commitment to inform and inspire adult African Americans, who can rarely find these types of discussions elsewhere in the media,” said TV One Executive Vice President of Programming and Production Rose Catherine Pinkney.

State of the Black Union two-day event title sponsors included Wells Fargo and Allstate Insurance Company. National sponsors included ExxonMobil and McDonald’s. The symposium was produced in partnership with Jamestown 2007, Inc. which included founding sponsors Norfolk Southern (Jamestown 2007’s presenting sponsor), Verizon, Colonial Williamsburg, Chesapeake Donor Busch Gardens & Sea World, and AirTran Airways