



3 February 2001

Greetings, and welcome to Washington, D.C. and the Black Think Tank II!

We are pleased that you have chosen to join us for *State of the Black Union: It's About Us!*

Tavis Smiley Presents, a subsidiary of The Smiley Group, Inc., was created to bring people and ideas together through symposiums, workshops and town hall meetings.

The purpose of today's historic symposium is to present a public think tank that will analyze the critical challenges facing the African American community at the dawn of the 21st century. With the drama of Election 2000 as a backdrop, now is the most propitious time to address these important issues.

I'm sure you will agree that we have succeeded once again in assembling the most eclectic gathering of Black America's thought-leaders and opinion-makers convened on one stage at one time.

I am humbled and honored by the presence of so many friends, colleagues and mentors who so willingly accepted my invitation to join us in dialogue on this day. A million thank-yous.

This symposium promises to be rich—one that will be enlightening and empowering.

Thank you for joining us today. We trust you will enjoy the experience.

Keep the faith!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Smiley", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tavis Smiley