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**NAACP HONORS TAVIS SMILEY'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN BROADENING
AMERICAN CONVERSATIONS WITH IMAGE AWARDS**

LOS ANGELES — PBS talk show host Tavis Smiley triumphed in two categories at the 39th annual NAACP Image Awards held last night in Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium. Smiley won the talk series award for his "Crisis in Darfur" program in the television category and for his instructional book "*THE COVENANT In Action*," in the literature category.

Accepting one of the awards on Smiley's behalf was Neal Kendall, executive producer of "Tavis Smiley." "Everyone on our show is blessed to work for a man who encourages and empowers us to do bigger and better things every year," he said.

Smiley was unable to attend the Image Awards event due to his commitment to organizing the "State of the Black Union" (SOBU) symposium, which will be held on Feb. 23 in New Orleans. This year's gathering will focus on the role African Americans will play in the 2008 elections and the mobilization of volunteers to rebuild some of the poorest areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

These two awards bring his total to 12 Image Awards throughout his career in radio, television, print and philanthropy.

The NAACP Image Awards are presented annually by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to honor outstanding African Americans in film, television, music, and literature.

About Tavis Smiley

In addition to his PBS weeknight series, Tavis Smiley is the host of "The Tavis Smiley Show from PRI" and the author/editor of 11 books, including *The New York Times* best-sellers *Covenant with Black America* and *What I Know for Sure: My Story of Growing Up in America*. His latest book, *THE COVENANT In Action* is in stores now. For more information, visit www.tavistalks.com.

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