

the community enjoys the services of Mr. Golub. Mr. Speaker, please join me as I recognize the significant life accomplishments of Mr. Lewis Golub and wish him all the best in his bright future. We can all take a chapter from his life and benefit from his example. My Congressional District is better served through the commitment to excellence Mr. Golub demonstrates and our communities are fortunate to call him a neighbor and friend.

THE VOLUME THAT'S MAKING A
LOUD NOISE: PEOPLE FLOCK TO
HEAR ABOUT 'COVENANT'

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Tavis Smiley for his publication of a remarkable analysis of the status of Black America, "The Covenant With Black America". Smiley, an instrumental American author, political commentator, and radio talk show host has contributed a great deal to the discussion on the goals of African Americans from fair minimum wage increases to equal and accessible healthcare. Smiley is determined to bring the plight of Blacks to the forefront of the national agenda by convincing African American leaders to embrace it. He introduced the covenant at a leadership conference in Atlanta and it appears to be succeeding in taking the covenant to other cities.

His Covenant with Black America is now number one on the Washington Post best seller list and number two on the New York Times best seller list, an indication of a significant audience for its proposals which is being augmented by the taking of the proposals to audiences in the Black community such as the Shiloh Baptist Church in downtown Washington.

The covenant includes pieces from an array of notable contemporary African Americans including former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher; Marian Wright Edelman, Angela Glover Blackwell, and Cornel West. The book has African Americans all across the country gathering and discussing Black America as was done with Smiley's presentation at Shiloh Baptist Church in downtown Washington on Thursday, April 7, 2006. Smiley has made many think about their status as he has asked the very pertinent question, "Can we go from moment to momentum to movement?"

Also notable about "The Covenant" is that it is No. 1 on the Washington Post's paperback nonfiction bestseller list. This alone indicates that there are many who are interested in engaging in the discussion of the future of Black America. More than 200,000 copies have been sold since it was published less than two months ago.

I enter into the RECORD an article from the Washington Post entitled "The Volume That's Making a Loud Noise" for the acknowledgment and support of a book with such a profound and straightforward method for tackling the vital issues within the Black community. Now is the time for revitalization in those communities across this nation and the Black community must rise to the occasion.

[From The Washington Post, Apr. 7, 2006]

THE VOLUME THAT'S MAKING A LOUD NOISE: PEOPLE
FLOCK TO HEAR ABOUT 'COVENANT'

(By Linton Weeks)

When a book becomes a collection of people, not just pages, we sit up and pay attention.

"The Covenant With Black America," a volume of essays pulled together by omnimedia personality Tavis Smiley, may be doing just that. At No. 1 on The Washington Post's paperback nonfiction bestseller list, "Covenant" is the book of the moment. It's been on the list for four weeks. And it is No. 2 on the upcoming New York Times paperback nonfiction list.

All across the country, many black Americans are gathering, mostly in churches, to hear Smiley spread his gospel of response and responsibility and to buy a bunch of books. The publisher, Third World Press, reports that more than 200,000 copies have sold—at \$12 apiece—since "Covenant" was published less than two months ago.

In downtown Washington last night, Smiley's rousing presentation from the lectern of Shiloh Baptist Church is greeted with scores of amens and several standing ovations. Brandishing a copy, he says, "Make black America better, you make all America better."

Funny and self-effacing, Smiley asks the thousand or so people in the pews, "Can we go from moment to momentum to movement?"

The volume could also be titled "The Purpose Driven Community."

"Covenant" is a collection of pieces by notable contemporary African Americans, including former U.S. surgeon general David Satcher; Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund; Angela Glover Blackwell, founder of the think tank PolicyLink; and Cornel West, who teaches religion at Princeton University.

The 250-plus-page book is divided into 10 core chapters, each plumbing a single subject, such as the right to health care, the unequal justice system or the racial digital divide. Arguments are buttressed with statistics and calls to personal and political action. For example, in the chapter on accessing economic prosperity, the book encourages elected officials to "increase the minimum wage to a living wage" and urges individuals to "open and maintain a savings account, no matter what your family's income is."

Smiley, who has written a handful of books and is a regular on public television, is proud that "Covenant" has sold mostly through the traditional African American grapevines of church meetings, talk radio and word of mouth. And that he has bypassed the Great American Buzzmaking Machine.

"We haven't been on 'Oprah!'" he shouts to the crowd. "We haven't been on the 'Today' show! And we haven't been on NPR! That's all black folks," he says about the book's phenomenal rise on the bestseller lists. "Black folks did this."

He uses the success of his book to illustrate the economic and political might of the African American community. He also points out that he chose Third World Press in Chicago, an influential African American publishing house founded in 1967, to publish his book.

"It's selling so fast we can't keep up with demand," says Bennett J. Johnson, vice president of Third World.

Johnson says one of his friends describes the book as "an oasis in the desert" because it is the rare volume that "allows black Americans to view their own interests in an organized fashion, and it provides white America with an articulated version of what black America wants."

This will be "a wedge book." Johnson predicts, that will make book buyers and the publishing industry look at black publishers and writers in a different light.

"Covenant," he adds, "is not a bible. It's not 100 percent right on each issue. But it starts a dialogue."

The book does touch a certain chord with some people. Pamela Johnson, 38, of Upper Marlboro, for instance, who is sitting near an aisle in the church. She heard Smiley talking about his ideas on the Tom Joyner morning radio show. African Americans have to "understand what we have to do to improve our situations," Johnson says. An industrial engineer and a mathematics professor at Strayer University, she is especially interested in the book's emphasis on establishing an equitable system of public education.

Edelman, who is onstage with Smiley, wrote the book's statement of purpose. "Covenant," she writes, "calls on parents, educators, preachers, social service providers, community leaders, and policy-makers to act now and create a brighter future for our children."

The book grew out of several annual State of the Black Union symposiums that Smiley conducted. Contributor Blackwell explains from her home in California that Smiley wanted to take the conversations from those confabs "and harness the intellectual power and the energy."

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST
BETTY FRIEDAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Betty Friedan, devoted social activist and writer, whose best-seller served to greatly benefit the women's movement. Ms. Friedan was a beloved sister, mother, grandmother, friend and mentor to many, whose activism, talent, and dedication changed the lives of women and sparked one of America's greatest social movements.

After graduating summa cum laude from Smith College in 1942, Ms. Friedan studied psychology for a year at the University of California at Berkeley. Frustrated with inequality in the workplace and women's accepted role as wife and mother, Ms. Friedan directed her passion and energy into her 1963 bestseller "The Feminine Mystique." Her commanding voice and passionate words opened the minds of women and led to substantial positive changes to define their status.

In 1966, Ms. Friedan co-founded the U.S. National Organization for Women, and became its first president. Her strong influence, beliefs, and wisdom laid the foundation for the organization that has grown exponentially to the size it is today. In addition to her vital work with NOW, she was essential in advancing women's rights to privacy, choice, and political participation. In 1979 she led an effort which resulted in women gaining half the delegate strength at the Democratic Party's nominating convention.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues please join me in honor and remembrance of Betty Friedan, whose enthusiasm, devotion, and ability to affect the world with her writing, has served to improve the status and lives of women everywhere. I extend my deepest condolences to