

Christian Student Leadership

by Chris Faison

While I was listening to the Rev. Bernice King speak during this year's Martin Luther King Jr. lecture, some of the philosophies that I had once believed about the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. were beginning to change. I tried to apply what she was saying to students and our various causes on campus, in order to make what she was saying more tangible for us to understand. Much of the message seemed to center on the topic of Christian student leadership.

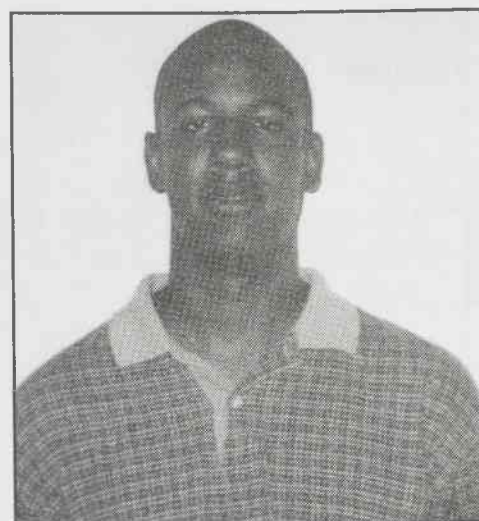
As college students, we have been bombarded with many views and assertions on what kind of man Martin Luther King Jr. was. When I was able to hear his youngest daughter describe him as being a man of God first and foremost, it caused me to wonder why she referred to him as such. She defined being a man of God as "a man who has an intimate relationship with God." She credits the unconditional love that he learned from this relationship with God as what truly set him apart from many other renowned leaders.

Unfortunately, many stu-

dents, including myself at one time, consider themselves Christians without really knowing what the word means. The New Open Bible defines Christians as "believers in Jesus Christ." Once people understand that by simply attending a Christian church or being raised in a Christian home does not make you a Christian, that will clear up a lot of confusion.

Because Christians are in this world but not of it, it is high time that Christian student leaders begin to stand for righteousness on certain issues. In Matthew 5:14, Jesus refers to Christians as friends and says "You are a light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." Too many college Christians are "closet Christians," meaning that they do not openly stand firm by what the Bible teaches as good and what is sinful. Christian students need to set a standard for others on how to live like Christ.

The Rev. Bernice King also stated that college students need to sacrifice some things in order for our cause to be furthered because we have less to lose due to our low



level of responsibility. She also asserts that our generation does not want to struggle, but we must to a certain degree if we want to see positive change.

Bernice King said it best when she suggested that "a genuine leader is not directed by consensus, but is a molder of consensus." Anyone can be a student leader in almost any organization campus. I personally plan to stand for righteousness on issues and I hope that some Christian student leaders will rise to the occasion too.

Chris Faison is the Black Student Movement president-elect.