The Reverend Arthur L. Hardge, a noted civil rights leader, was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on April 8, 1927. He was a son of the late Rev. Elias and Clara Edith (Smith) Hardge.

In 1929, the Hardge family moved to Jersey City, New Jersey where Rev. Hardge received his elementary and secondary education. Later, Rev. Hardge earned a bachelor of arts degree from Morgan State.

Rev. Hardge was baptized at 10 years of age as a member of the Metropolitan A.M.E Zion Church in Jersey City. At age 17, he answered God’s call to the Christian ministry. He was ordained shortly thereafter.

Rev. Hardge’s journey, which connected his life to countless other lives, began with service in Zion churches he pastored in the states of New York, Oklahoma, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

In the early 1960’s, Rev. Hardge’s faith, courage, activism and leadership took him into the forefront of the civil rights struggle.

An early colleague of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Rev. Hardge was in the vanguard of change. He took part in the Freedom Rides for civil rights in the Deep South. He was arrested for civil disobedience several times, along with other religious leaders, including Dr. King.

Rev. Hardge was especially active in efforts to integrate the Tallahassee Municipal Airport. As a result of his arrest and conviction in the Tallahassee Freedom Ride, Rev. Hardge was sentenced to 60 days on a Florida chain gang. Fortunately, a judge reversed the sentence after 10 days and Rev. Hardge went free.

In later years, Rev. Hardge recounted that the Freedom Rides were a time when faith overcame fear. The philosophy of faith over fear endured for Rev. Hardge throughout his storied life.

In 1968, Rev. Hardge accepted the call to the pastorship of Hood Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in Rhode Island. Under his leadership, Hood Memorial expanded its congregation and built a new church structure.

Rev. Hardge served as the first Chairman of the RI Chapter, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Through his leadership, he is considered to be the father of the RI Fair Housing Law.

Applying the principles of non-violent civil disobedience, Rev. Hardge led a successful movement to focus the attention of the General Assembly and the Executive Branch on passing this historic measure.

He also served as the executive secretary of the RI Commission Against Discrimination from 1965-1968.

In 1968, Reverend Hardge became the first African American gubernatorial cabinet appointment when former Gov. John H. Chafee named him as the Director of the RI Department of Community Affairs.

Rev. Hardge’s commitment to Civil Rights and justice led to his appointment as Special Assistant to the President and Director of Special Programs for Talent Development at the University of Rhode Island.

At URI Rev. Hardge was the first African American administrator, first among voices advancing justice through education.

In the wake of Dr. King’s assassination, Rev. Hardge assumed leadership of SPTD, a recruitment and retention program for students of color and disadvantaged persons. With his valued friend and colleague Leo DiMaio, Rev. Hardge fostered growth in SPTD from an initial seed of 13 students to the most successful
HARGE continued

program of its kind in the country, with over 1100 graduates and a current enrollment of 700 students.

Besides his involvement at URI, Rev. Hardge was also a founding member of Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of RI. He became Chairman of OIC in 1967 and guided OIC from a storefront existence in South Providence to a multi-faceted job-training and human resource center that provided services to thousands of people of color and other disadvantaged persons.

Under his chairmanship, a $6 million, 80,000 square foot complex in South Providence was planned and completed. He also served as a member of the Executive Committee for the National OIC under the leadership of Rev. Leon Sullivan, OIC Founder.

Throughout his life, Rev. Hardge was a prayerful man. His faith guided him toward the path of the struggle for justice. Rev. Hardge’s work in the last years of his life (SPTD and OIC) are twin testaments to his commitment to opening doors for others.

He was a man of faith and a man who understood the need for education and jobs. With all his strength, even as his strength was failing, he held open the door of opportunity. He taught us that even great individual strength could fail, that every individual struggle reaches an end, but he left us an open door and a path to follow.

Rev. Hardge was a giant who walked among us and moved on. We still, in this historic moment, feel his presence and his leadership. Rev. Hardge’s achievements, his understanding of relationships, his great love of life, his powerful sense of humor, his intelligence and eloquence, are all there before us on the road, marking the way home to a more just world.

Even after his death in 1983, the life and work of Rev. Hardge is still honored by the University.

In 1984, TD established a financial aid award in his memory. The Arthur L. Hardge Grant provides TD students with $4,600 each year.

On Sept. 12, 2000, URI dedicated a memorial statue in the Reverend’s name. The statue, designed by Arnold Prince, father of Joshua Prince ’91, is located in front of the Multicultural Center and stands approximately 9 feet tall.

The memorial statue was dedicated with this statement written by URI President Robert L. Carothers:

“This memorial honors the life and work of the Reverend Arthur L. Hardge, born in 1927, a man who led by serving his brothers and sisters until his death in 1983, he was a child of many cultures: Africa, Europe and those first Americans who lived on this land.

The great grandson of a man who had his fingers lopped off for teaching and preaching, Arthur Hardge had a passion for learning that could not be easily quelled. Rev. Hardge was a minister from the age of seventeen. He was a leader of the Civil Rights Movement, jailed in Florida for refusing to leave a restaurant reserved for whites and later becoming the first black man in Rhode Island to head a state agency, creating jobs and hope for those who had little of either.

Building on a program established by Harold Langlois and assisted by Leo DiMaio, Reverend Hardge later founded the Special Programs for Talent Development at the University of Rhode Island, in which ‘the Rev’ and ‘Mr. D’ changed the lives of thousands of young men and women.

From those whom others gave no chance to succeed, Rev. Hardge built a new generation of doctors and lawyers, teachers and nurses, leaders of business and government, music and theater - the pride of this University. It was, he liked to say, ‘always a pleasure.’”

Article written by Frank L. Forleo
Let’s face it. Paying for college is a nightmare. It’s one thing to be at school, hit the books and succeed. It’s another thing to be able to pay for it. TD students know that they have the Rev. Arthur L. Hardge Grant (see cover story) but this does not pay the whole bill. So how does one manage the stress of school and financial burdens? In this issue’s advisor column, I will give some suggestions that may improve your chances for financial aid and streamline the processes.

Let’s start with some basics. Does your URI E-mail work? Do you check it? TD emails all current students at their URI email as information is provided to the program. If you do not check your URI email, you will miss important announcements. Also, other offices at URI send important information about registration and financial aid to your URI email address. So check your URI e-mail daily.

Another useful URI tool is Aries. Go to <www.uri.edu> and click on Aries. In addition to checking your schedule and registering for classes, you can get a current account of your Term Bill by logging into Aires and selecting the Term Bill. This will get you a record of your current bill and financial aid, and your payment and refund information.

As most first year students already know, URI Enrollment Services is relying more on the Internet to resolve basic issues. Starting this year, students with a Ford Loan are encouraged to sign their “Master Promissory Note” online in order to get their financial aid.

A useful asset to have is a US Department of Education (DEd) PIN number to access your Federal Financial Aid records. With a DEd PIN, you can access your student loan information, sign a Master Promissory Note, fill out a FAFSA or FAFSA renewal form online, check the status of your federal loans, and get a variety of other services and information. To get a DEd PIN for your federal financial aid information, go to <www.pin.ed.gov> and then check out the link “Where can you use it.” for more information.

The Internet can also be a useful tool to search for scholarships. There are a number of Internet services that list scholarships or will help match your profile to possible scholarships. Just remember that searching for scholarships takes time but it can really pay off in the long run. If you spend ten hours during a semester but find $500 in scholarships, this is like having a job that pays $50 per hour!

Perhaps the most comprehensive of the scholarship search services is FastWeb <www.FastWeb.com>, With FastWeb, you can create a personal profile and it will match your profile to possible scholarships. The College Board provides a simple search tool for scholarships. To use it, go to <www.CollegeBoard.com/paying/> and click on “Scholarship Search.” Other good Internet sites include: SallieMae’s Wired Scholar <salliemae.wiredscholar.com> site, CollegeNet <www.CollegeNet.com/mach25/>, and the SRN Express <www.smexpress.com>. Additionally, FinAid! <www.FinAid.org> provides a range of information and search services including lists of major specific scholarships, general information, and lists of professional society scholarships. RI Scholarships <www.RIScholarships.com> provides a listing of scholarships for RI residents. While you can create a profile on this site, I’d really suggest using the “Search by Categories” option to get the best results.

At the same time you are searching for scholarships on the Internet, it is important to avoid “Scams.” Beware of any search tool that asks you to pay a fee, this will almost always mean “lose your money.”

Before you start searching, I’d recommend going to: <www.finaid.org/scholarships/scams.phtml> for a good description on how to avoid scams.

Good Luck. I know that money and time are tight for any student. But with some effort, time, and self-management, you can have an improved situation in your college financial situation. TD
The BSLG - a force of positive change

“By any means necessary.” The quote is inscribed on a plaque honoring Malcolm X and dedicating the reading lounge on the first floor of Taft Hall in his name.

“By any means necessary” are also the very words that fueled the Black Student Leadership Group (BSLG) 10 years ago right here on the URI campus.

“We want freedom by any means necessary. We want justice by any means necessary. We want equality by any means necessary.” (Malcolm X.)

Faced with what The Providence Journal described as “deep and unrelenting racism” at URI, 300 students organized a “determined but peaceful” protest on Nov. 11, 1992 at Taft Hall.

According to members of the BSLG students of color, “were extremely fed up with the atmosphere on campus” and felt as though [they] were “under represented and marginalized everywhere on campus until it came to [their] shortcomings or mistakes, e.g. altercations with campus police.”

Already struggling with the feeling of prejudice on campus, students of color could no longer ignore the injustices they faced at URI. Although, many incidents were covert the following are examples that were made public through The Good 5¢ Cigar and The Providence Journal.

On April 16, 1992, two African American students were arrested on two charges each of simple assault for the beating of two students on March 27, 1992. A picture of the seemingly brutal arrest was published on the front page of The Good 5¢ Cigar the following day.

Two weeks later, students held a forum accusing the Cigar of “acting racist and practicing poor journalism.” (The Good 5¢ Cigar.)

According to reports from the Cigar, students at the forum complained of “infrequent coverage of multicultural affairs on campus” and demanded to know why the photograph of two minority students being arrested made front page coverage when other crimes committed by non-minority students did not.

The Cigar supported their decision to run the picture on the front page because of the severity of the injuries inflicted on the victims by the suspects.

According to reports from The Providence Journal, students of color felt as though the incident with the Cigar reflected the “long held racist attitudes,” which prevailed on campus.

Many students of color felt as though the incident with the Cigar reflected the “long held racist attitudes,” which prevailed on campus.

As a result of these apparent attitudes, a group of individuals began to come together. These individuals were determined to “take a stand and make a difference not only for themselves but for those coming after them.” This group became the BSLG.


According to reports from The Providence Journal on Nov. 1, 1992, “[Myrtle’s] poem criticized black men for dating white women and characterized white women as rich, cold and weak.”

“No longer was [URI] or the state going to be able to ignore, or fail to acknowledge non-European cultures and their people. These people have a right to feel like they belong too.”

- The BSLG

Though not directly related to the formation of the BSLG, much response was generated by Myrtle’s poem, most of which was negative. Some students were so angered by the issues Myrtle addressed in her poem that they made her the object of their anger.

According to The Providence Journal, Myrtle not only received harassing phone calls laced with racial slurs but also was physically attacked with rocks.

Myrtle told The Providence Journal that she deliberately intended the poem to be racist “in order to stimulate discussion of racism by making white students feel what it is like to be denigrated because of their race.”

According to the BSLG, the attitude of campus police towards students of color and other incidents on campus led the group to plan a two day conference to address the problem of racism at URI and to decide what type of action should be taken to improve the environment for students of color.

During the second day of the BSLG conference, the local media began to concentrate on the University’s alteration...
of a Malcolm X quote which had been carved in the facade of the University library.

The Malcolm X quote inscribed on library reads as follows: “My Alma Mater was books...A good library...I could spend my life reading...just satisfying my curiosity.”

Malcolm’s original words as stated in his 1965 autobiography, read as follows:

“I told the Englishman that my alma mater was books, a good library. Everytime I catch a plane, I have with me a book that I want to read — and that’s a lot of books these days. If I weren’t out here every day battling the white man, I could spend the rest of my life reading, just satisfying my curiosity — because you can hardly mention anything I’m not curious about.”

According to The Providence Journal’s article on Nov. 11, 1992, members of the BSLG felt as though the University’s edited version of Malcolm X’s words was “deliberately sanitized by URI officials in what [was] symbolic of the ‘overt, institutional racism’ at URI.”

The misquote was the final straw for the BSLG and other students of color at URI. They had decided that enough was enough and action needed to be taken.

At midnight on Nov. 10 they staged a peaceful protest in Taft Hall where they vowed to fast until their demands, also known as the BSLG’s 14 points, were met by university administration. (See the BSLG’s 14 points on this page.)

“Wear black, know the password ‘X’, be ready to hold the building all night no matter what. Be ready for a huge press conference tomorrow morning.” These were the only instructions given to students and family members participating in the takeover of Taft Hall.

Cooperating with the BSLG, URI administration publicly responded to the BSLG’s 14 points at a press conference held at Taft Hall on Nov. 12. (See administration’s response on this page.)
A Poem to Our Strong Black Brothers?
written by Myrtle D. Holder ’92
(From The Good 5¢ Cigar Oct. 15, 1992.)

As you walk down up and the hill of life, with one on your arm pale and white. You place her on a pedestal like they did long ago.
What it feels to love a strong black sista you’ll never know.

Her skin so dark, like a warm, clear night.
But you choose to love the skin that is cold and white.

Da sista, she works and cleans to survive each day.
The “other” she shops with no bills to pay.

You gave up on your sista because she screams and yells.
She wants a commitment but you say “go to hell.”

It’s different when the “other” yells and acts to what you refer to as ignorant...

Because to you her loudness is regarded as mean succulents.

Sometimes she smiles with no complaints. After all she’s having fun. In four years she’ll be through and done.

She can’t bring you home to dinner, you best believe, daddy will kill or call you a thief.

It angers me when you see the woman with skin like honey chocolatey sweet and turn to the one with skin so pale, so white, so weak.

Assure me this my brother, why is the Afro-American woman(s) ability to speak her mind freely regarded to you as a curse?

For the only difference between her and the “other” girl is a material thing called a purse.

Sure its true that the sista can’t bring you instant fortune and fame.

But wouldn’t you rather wait on her then to be lead on a leash and tamed?

You see my blood relative, my message is clear, these four years sistas hope to find a brother who is loving with a strong mind.

One that won’t use her to get a piece and sees us in public and hold his speech.

After the club brothers boast and brag about the “others” they’re sure to have.

Sista alone in their room at night, no big deal, she’ll be all right.

You can’t imagine the pain we feel, how can you know, to you, its no big deal.

Silently we weep inside trying to hold back the tears, sistas from long ago faced this for many, many years.

We thank you for the strength you gave us, now we know the game, in 10 years or so, brother, you’ll still be the same.

It’s not easy for me to say the truth to you my friend.

But its obvious our heritage is coming to an end.

What’s happening to us is a disgrace and what needs to take place is reuniting our race.

We do not blame you, you want to have fun, but what happens when all your fame is done?

BSLG continued

Members of the BSLG certainly proved to be courageous and fearless in their confrontation with the administration and their efforts to create a more tolerant university environment.

Members of the BSLG faced many potential risks to themselves; the possibility of arrest, the loss of their scholarships and in some cases the possibility of losing their job at the University. However, these risks seemed to pale in comparison to the real issue at hand, equality and justice for students of color at URI.

Members had to put themselves aside in order to serve the greater good. They were determined to get their message across to the Kingston community and to the state of Rhode Island and they were not about to let the administration stand in their way.

Some members say facing the administration gave a feeling of “rightness.”

According to some members, “there was an energy channeling throughout [Taft Hall] and everyone in it. We were fearless and ready, and we knew we were right.”

On Nov. 10, 1992, members of the BSLG dedicated the reading room in Taft Hall in honor of Malcolm X, naming it “The Malcolm X Reading Room.”

At the dedication, the BSLG lit 14 candles each representing one of the 14 demands they presented to the administration the previous year.

For each demand not met by administration a candle was blown out.

According to an article published by the Cigar, “eight candles were blown out and six remained lit.”

The following are the six demands successfully met by URI administration: “a permanent BSLG conference, a minority counselor, an exchange program with mainly black colleges, a new affirmative action officer, a new Multicultural Center and the Malcolm X Reading Room.” (The Cigar, Nov. 1993.)
The eight demands administration failed to meet included; “a larger share of capital funds for minority students, an African American studies major, two minority career services counselors, a minority orientation program, [more] staff in the Minority Student Services, more space for Minority Student Services and a Native American studies major.  (The Cigar, Nov. 1993.)

URI has since added an African American major to the university curriculum.

According to the BSLG, their actions “made the URI community, as well as the entire state, aware that change was taking place and that [they had] to be ready to accept that change.  No longer was [URI] and the state going to be able to ignore, or fail to acknowledge, non-European cultures and their people.  These people have a right to feel like they belong too.”

Ten years has passed since the formation of the BSLG.  Its members have all since graduated and still maintain contact as they continue to fight for justice and equality.

Looking at URI today, the effect that the BSLG had is clear.  It forever changed the face of URI for students of color.  Its legacy, efforts and the courage of its members, is something that will not be forgotten but will be carried throughout history.

More importantly, the BSLG has taught us that students can really make a difference on a university campus, all it takes is a voice, leadership and courage.

The BSLG has and will continue to lay the foundation of great student groups such as Brothers United for Action (BUA) who will continue the great fight of the BSLG and the groups before it.

This November we celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the BSLG, the lessons they have instilled at the university and their efforts to ensure equality and justice for all here on the URI campus.

This article represents a compilation of interviews with multiple members of the BSLG, their advisors and articles from The Providence Journal and The Good 5¢ Cigar.
**TD News Briefs**

**Alumni Reunion**

**PLANS FOR** the 2003 TD Reunion are continuing with great success. The reunion is intended to unite alumni and celebrate the program’s 35 years of success. It is scheduled to take place on Saturday, August 16, 2003, at the Rhode Island Convention Center in downtown Providence. A “save the date” card was mailed in October. If you are a TD alumnus who has heard about the reunion, please spread the **TD News**. To update your information, you can either e-mail TD at tdinfo@etal.uri.edu, use the online form at www.uri.edu/talent_development/ (click on the alumni link to get to the alumni news page and use the online update form), or call TD at (401) 874-2901.

**Pre-Mat 2002**

**TD PROUDLY** congratulates the 256 students who successfully completed this year’s pre-mat program. The class of 2006 is the largest TD first year class to date. Congratulations to all of you on a job well done. Welcome to URI and much success in your academic future.

**TD News Online**

**MISSED PAST** issues of **TD News** or want to share it with friends or family? **TD News** is available online. To view current and past issues of the newsletter, visit the TD website at www.uri.edu/talent_development/ and click on the alumni link. Issues are available for reading and printing.

**TD News - In the next issue**

- Talent Development - Celebrating 35 years of success.
- Profile on Mr. Leo F. DiMaio Jr. - TD Director emeritus.

**Check out these stories and more in the Spring issue of TD News.**

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