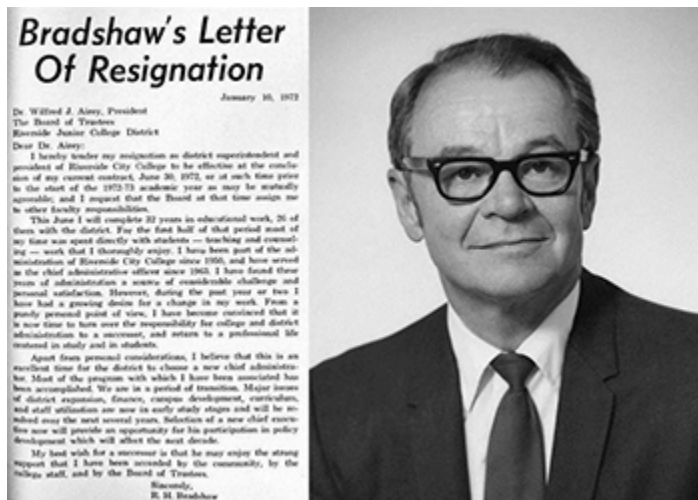


May 6, 2013

## Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

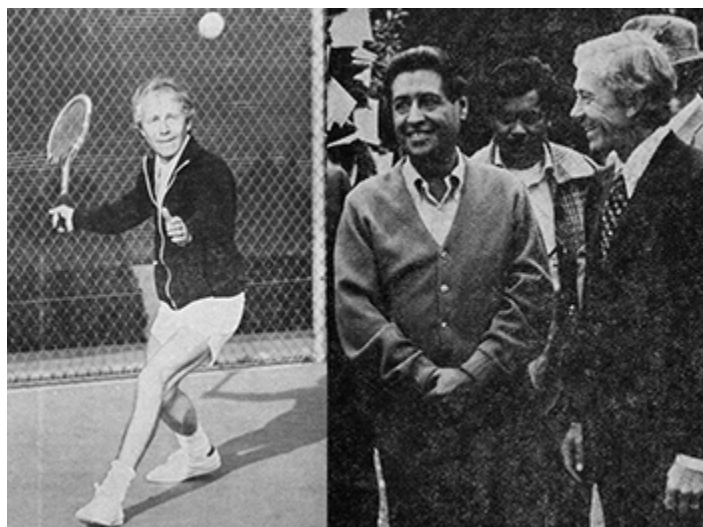
Ralph Bradshaw, the third President of Riverside City College, submitted his resignation in mid-January 1972 to the Riverside Junior College District (as it was known then). In his letter of resignation Bradshaw said: *“Apart from personal considerations, I believe that this is an excellent time for the district to choose a new chief administrator. Most of the program with which I was I have been associated with has been accomplished. We are in a period of transition. Major issues of district expansion, finance, campus development, curriculum and staff utilization are now in the early study stages and will be resolved over the next several years. Selection of a new chief executive now will provide an opportunity for his participation in policy development which will affect the next decade.”*



Since Bradshaw's resignation was not effective until later in 1972, it gave the Board ample time to name his successor. They appointed a seven-member committee representative of all groups associated with the college. It consisted of Alan Pauw and Leroy Gren, trustees; two members of the faculty; one administrator; one member of the classified staff; and one student. The committee considered 51 applicants from 16 states and Canada and finally made its choice on April 21, 1972. Dr. Kenneth Harper was chosen to be the fourth President of RCC. Below left is the May 26, 1972 *“RCC Reports”* district publication. Below right is a story from the April 28, 1972 *“Tiger Times”* student newspaper.



Prior to Dr. Harper's selection, all previous RCC Presidents (A.G. Paul., O.W. Noble and Ralph Bradshaw) had been promotions from within the College. Dr. Harper was the President of Prima College, a Junior College in Tucson, Arizona. He was a former minister and a professor of Anthropology who held a degree in theology from Asbury College in Kentucky and a Ph.D. degree in anthropology from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Harper started his professional career as a minister at Glide Memorial Methodist Church in San Francisco where he served as Director of Education. From that position he went on to Rhodesia (today known as Zimbabwe) where he was superintendent of schools jointly for the Southern Rhodesia government and the Methodist Board of Missions. When he returned to the United States, he became the Dean of Men at the University of Kentucky. After 11 years there, he served three years as the National Director of Training Programs for VISTA, a nationwide federal opportunity program for the disadvantaged. He then became the founding President of Prima College. While at Prima, Dr. Harper developed a system of management which he called "participatory democracy" involving active participation of the board of governors, administration, faculty, and students. Below left is a photo of President Harper playing tennis from the April 4, 1973 "Tiger Times" newspaper. Below right is a photo of President Harper greeting César Chávez during his visit to RCC from the October 20, 1972 "Tiger Times".



Dr. Harper's first day on the job was August 1, 1972. On this first day, the local press reported that Dr. Harper worked with the board on such matters as faculty salary negotiations, adoption of a teacher evaluation process and a new professional growth policy. The beginning of his Presidency coincided with some important administrative changes. The business of hiring and firing personnel had become so extensive that a Personnel director was hired for the first time in the college's history. The early 1970s were a time of upheaval in education and RCC was no exception. In March of 1973 spokesmen for the RCC Black Students Union approached the Board of Trustees on the subject of having a Black representative on the board, citing a need to *"improve Black communication with the Board."* The Board responded with legal reasons making the fulfillment of their request impossible but advised them to *"lay the groundwork now"* for the next board elections. Later in March the same BSU spokesmen, President John McDonald and Vice-President Rev. Jerry Louder (2010 RCCD Alumnus of the Year), approached Dr. Harper with a demand that Blacks be hired for administrative positions before April 1. While Dr. Harper agreed that Blacks should have greater representation at the administrative level, he could not accede to their demands on such short notice, adding that he could not *"correct the ills of society...over the past 100 years."* In 1973, labor issues also arose during the Harper presidency with five part-time English instructors, employed in a college English lab/clinic program, alleging that the District had illegally placed them in the classified category even though they were fully qualified certificated staff. On December 18, 1973, Dr. Harper announced his surprise resignation as RCC President to the Board of Trustees (to be effective July 1, 1974). He stated the decision was strictly his own and that it reflected a desire to teach and to remove himself from *"the constant press of items"* and the *"responsibility and control of other human beings."* He did admit that he got *"impatient and discouraged"* when minority participation progressed slowly. Trustees acknowledged that there had been problems during Harper's administration, but that they had not sought his resignation. BSU student leader, Rev Jerry Louder regretted his resignation, commending him for *"putting out 100%"* to change the system. So after less than two years the Harper RCC Presidency came to an end. To select the next President of RCC, the Board decided to employ a professional community college consultant for the first time in the College's history. Board of Trustees members Alan Pauw and Leroy Gren formed a Board committee to work directly with the consultant. The article below is from the January 17, 1974 *"Tiger Times"* newspaper.

**Board looking for new president following Harper resignation**

**By JIM KUDLAK**

The R.C.C. Board of Trustees is in the process of selecting a new president following the resignation of Dr. Kenneth Harper, effective June 30, an unprecedented president of the Knoxville Junior College District. The Board met in executive session and approved the change in management which was made at the request of Dr. Harper. The Board announced that Harper's decision and the executive session was called.

A professional community college consultant will be engaged by the Board to aid in the selection of a successor to Dr. Harper. Trustees Alan Pauw and Leroy Gren will form a board committee to work directly with the consultant.

At the Board meeting Tuesday, in reply to a direct question on when an announcement of Dr. Harper's resignation would be made, Dr. Wilford Aiken said, "The committee doesn't have a crystal ball," Alan Pauw assured replied. "The announcement will definitely be made before June 30."

Dr. Harper will accept a faculty position in the Social Science Division of the college next fall, he said he had been thinking about it for several months and finally decided he would like to return to the classroom.

After spending 25 years in administration, Dr. Harper said, "It (administration) has been a very good life for me, but I'm looking forward to relating to students better now." As far as what classes he will be teaching, Harper said, "It will be up to the District Chairman to assign me classes. I don't want to replace anyone."

Dr. Harper is serving in his second year as RCC president. He will have plans to keep his focus "I want to write and study about democratic government," he said. "That includes using a practical and realistic definition of rules, decision-making, government, implementation of decisions, and power structures."

Dr. Harper wants to study democratic government at all levels of the college and university structure. "I feel that democratic process should start in grade school and be a part of the student's entire school process," he said.

Dr. Harper began Knoxville and has plans of continuing here indefinitely in relation to his career here in Knoxville, he said. "I have appreciated the cooperation I've received from the students and the faculty. I am looking forward very much to working with them closer than I have been."

Before coming to RCC, Dr. Harper was "regional director" of the Knoxville College, the second for A. B. and R. D. from Auburn College, also for A. and F. C. from the University of Kentucky. He did participate in the study of linguistics and African culture at Harvard.

Dr. Harper formerly conducted training programs in group dynamics, was director of the Training Office of Economic Opportunity, master professor of anthropology and dean of men and international relations at the University of Kentucky. He also served as superintendent of schools, Southern Rhodesia government and Kentucky Board of Ministers, South Rhodesia, Africa.



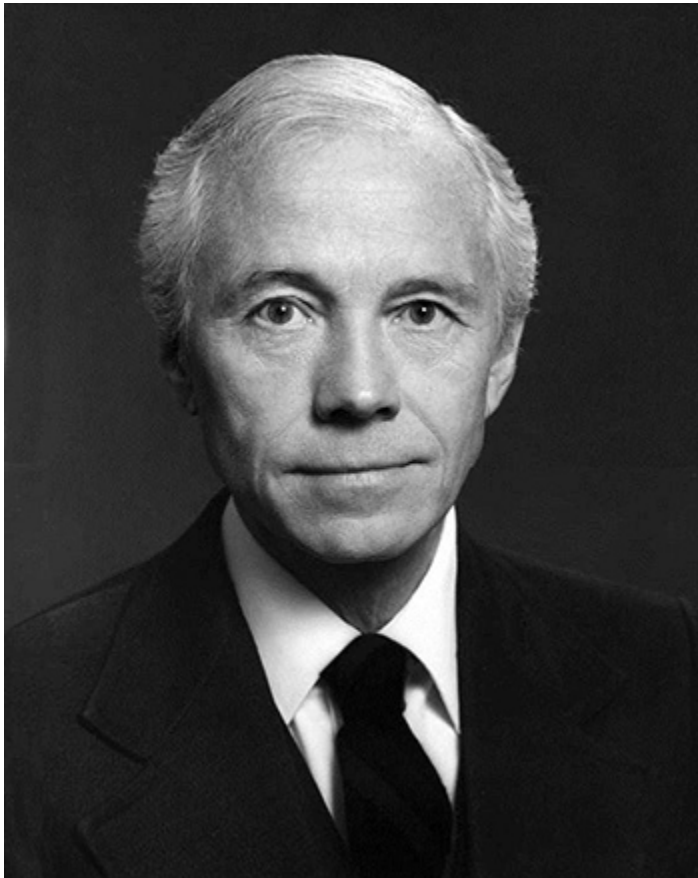
However this was not the last RCC was to see of Dr. Kenneth Harper. He exercised his option to remain in the District as an instructor and became an RCC Associate Professor of Anthropology. After spending 25 years in administration, Dr. Harper said, *"It (administration) has*

*been a very good life for me, but I'm looking forward to relating to students better now. I have appreciated the cooperation I've received from the students and the faculty. I am looking forward very much to working with them closer than I have been." He added, "I want to write and study about democratic governance. That involves organizational structure, definition of roles, decision-making processes implementation of decisions, and power structures."* He expressed a desire to study democratic governance at all levels of the college and university structure saying, "I feel the democratic process should start in grade school and be a part of the students' entire school process." After 13 years at RCC, he retired in 1985. Later, he went on to found his own church in San Diego, the Natural Renewal Guild. In 2006 he moved to Phoenix, Arizona where he taught Tai Chi, dance, meditation and poetry classes. On March 15, 2013, Dr. Kenneth Harper passed away at the age of 91. Read a story about Kenneth Harper here:

<http://aztecpressonline.com/?s=Kenneth+Harper&x=25&y=4>

And read his obituary here:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/azcentral/obituary.aspx?pid=163738213#fbLoggedOut>



It is 3 years and 44 weeks until RCC's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on March 13, 2016.

The Riverside City College Instructional Media Center is bringing you this five year countdown to RCC's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Our intention is to give everyone a weekly glance at the many people and events that have been a part of the college.

Our thanks go to the RCC Digital Library Archives and the District's Office of Strategic Communications and Relations for allowing us to use their photo and newspaper collections. Thanks as well to all of the RCC students and Faculty Advisors that were a part of the yearbook and newspaper staffs. Thanks also to Tom Johnson and Gilbert Jimenez who wrote "the book" about RCC's history. "Riverside City College 1916-1981- A 65 Year History" is available in the RCC Digital Library.

For copyright purposes, all images originating from Riverside City College publications and the District's Office of Strategic Communications and Relations are the property of the Riverside Community College District.