

MORE WAVES Action fills the airwaves as the tide of acquisitions, ratings swings and staff changes continues. At KEZR, general manager **Jim Smith** is out as the result of a "mutual understanding," according to company chairman **Jim Levitt**, who has stepped back in the saddle as GM with plans to stay for the next six months. He and brother **John Levitt** recently sold San Diego station KBZT for \$10 million, \$3.7 million more than they paid for it three years ago. Jim Levitt says he plans to reinfuse some entrepreneurial fire into the station the brothers took over nine years ago and to shore up KEZR's uneven ratings of the past year. . . . Meanwhile, former KEZR program director **Bob Harlow**, who resigned a month ago, has turned up at Los Gatos' KATD (formerly KRVE), where he replaces **LeeRoy Hanson** as PD. Also signing on with the Kat are new assistant PD **Joe Daniels**, formerly of KEEN, news director **Jim Taylor**, last with the short-lived all news KFYO and music director/DJ **Nikki Stevens**, a longtime KSJOer. . . . At KOME, **Ron Nenni** has arrived from WHJY in Providence, RI to fill the PD slot. . . . And at rival KSJO, the search continues for an afternoon jock, and GM **Gary Rodriguez** presses on with his aggressive push at the newly purchased, restaffed and reformatted station, which has plans to distribute a quarter-million blue and red KSJO decals.

DEMO CATS With the county's two most powerful state legislators, **John Vasconcellos** and **Alfred Alquist** locked in a battle over the unitary tax, San Jose Democrats didn't need the BFI/Waste Management battle to drive another fissure in party ranks. But tensions will probably cool in time for the \$125 a plate dinner September 27 to kick off **Sen. Alan Cranston's** statewide reelection campaign, yes, right here in **Ed Zschau's** front yard. The affair will bring actress **Shelley Duvall** to Hyatt San Jose, along with another as yet unnamed celeb. Party insiders also hint heavily about the chances of first lady-turned-author **Rosalynn Carter** showing up to claim a name tag following her afternoon visit to Foothill College the same day. . . . As

Late Aid

Federal budget snafus delay student aid checks

"Potatoes," says one backpack-carrying student standing in line at San Jose State's Financial Aid office. "I'm eating a lot of potatoes."

She is one of 30 or so waiting to plead their cases to school officials who assist students needing financial aid.

Each year the office routinely dispenses interest-free short term emergency loans to students that meet its stringent criteria and are expecting financial aid checks. This year, however, the problem is worse than usual.

Approximately 3000 at State won't receive promised federal Pell grants until October or November because of Congressional delays in passing its budget bills. Recipients received the unwelcome news as classes began last week.

According to John Bradbury, SJSU's associate director of financial aid, the federal Department of Education provided university officials with financial aid formulas six weeks late. The formulas are required to process the aid awards and make disbursements to students.

The federally funded Pell grants are paid directly to the schools that qualified students attend. The schools are responsible for ensuring that federal laws, including draft registration requirements, are met before making cash disbursements.

"Obviously, this is frustrating both for our students as well as for the Financial Aid office," Bradbury says. "Hopefully, the other aid that students receive will carry them through until their Pell grants are ready."

Typically, SJSU students receive financial aid from a number of sources, including the State of California and the federal government. To qualify for a Pell grant, a student must demonstrate that it would be virtually impossible for them to attend college without federal assistance.

The delay in the federal Pell grant program now forces students to find another way of meeting expenses as they scramble to pay registration fees and purchase books. For a full time

student at SJSU, registration fees and books cost an average of \$500 per semester.

Pell grants average between \$1000 and \$1200 for State students. Processing emergency loan applications takes time, and the loan amounts are small, typically much less than the amount of the delayed federal money.

Bradbury says he cannot estimate the number of students that will be forced to drop out of the university as a result of the federal financial aid delay.

"I'm fairly confident that it won't be very many," Bradbury says. "I hope not."

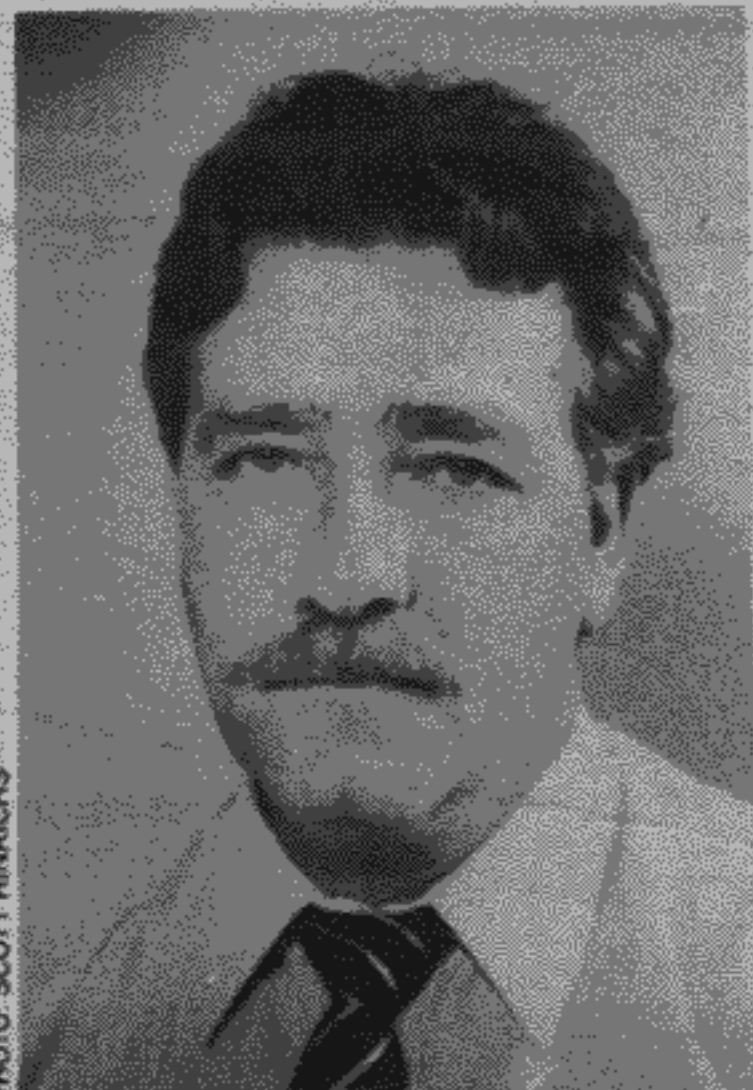
Meanwhile, officials at both the University of Santa Clara and Stanford University report no similar problems with the disbursement of financial aid. Santa Clara and Stanford are private institutions which do not begin classes until the last week of September and are therefore not as acutely affected.

Nevertheless, officials at Santa Clara are aware of the delay and are prepared to automatically advance the amounts of financial aid that their students are awaiting.

"It's really a non-story on our campus," says Richard Toomey, SCU's director of student financial aid. "We know the money is coming in so we can credit the students' accounts and then just deduct the amount from the grants when they are ready."

Stanford's associate director of financial aid, Roberta Johnson, was unaware of delays in the Pell program, commenting "I don't expect any problems, but I will look into it."

Congressmember Ed Zschau, contacted by phone, said he was unaware of the delay but thought it was "outrageous."



John Bradbury, San Jose State's associate director of financial aid.

"It's really a hell of a way to run a country," Zschau said, referring to the delay in passing the Supplemental Appropriations Bill this summer. The Supplemental Appropriations Bill was not sent to the President until July 31, according to Zschau, and this delay is responsible for holding up the Pell grants.

Zschau said the Senate-House conference committee became enmeshed in other issues contained in the bill—including aid to Contra rebels—and the delay forced the Department of Education to hold off on providing the required information needed by San Jose State officials to provide the Pell money at the semester's start.

"The whole budgetary process is in disarray," Zschau said. "We simply need more discipline."

Zschau reported that, unlike San Jose State students, he and his staff have all received their checks on time.

—Hal Plotkin



Some 3000 SJSU students won't receive their Pell grants until October or November because of bureaucratic screw-ups.