

KFAT crew gets suit-and-tie boss

KFAT employees were still in the dark about the future of their careers as well as their radio station Monday. But they got an inkling of what's in the works when the new station manager showed up wearing a suit and tie.

"We never let anyone wearing a suit in there before," Sherman Caughman, a self-described "hippie disc jockey," reported Monday night.

"If they tried, we'd sic the dogs on 'em. We had one dog laying there, but we kept him under control when this new guy came in. That dog, he doesn't like the smell of double-knit."

Caughman and other employees at the offbeat Gilroy country and western station met new management Monday afternoon. The station has been sold to Western Cities Broadcasting, which plans to change the call letters to KWSS. Whether the station's screwy format will change is still a mystery.

The Federal Communications Commission approval of the change in call letters is apparently still pending, Caughman said.

The general manager "has a severance check made out to me from their organization," he said. "But he suggested I talk to the program director and see what kind of a deal I can make for myself."

The new management made the same suggestion to all full-time staff members, he said, adding: "We all went out and had a drink over it, and we've decided we're probably not going to take the deal. I would stay only if they give me a raise and a lot more benefits than I got now."

"Otherwise, it's the unemployment line for me."