by Burt S. Kaliski

A survey by the National On-Campus Report (NOCR) in November showed that federal financial aid cuts and unemployment are the top two national problems faced by college student leaders this year.

Students cited apathy as the number one campus problem for the fourth consecutive year, according to the NOCR. The need for better campus facilities was the second highest problem.

NOCR sent questionnaires to 1200 student government presidents and college newspaper editors. Twenty-six percent of those polled — 175 presidents and 133 editors — responded to the survey.

Financial aid cuts were listed as the top national problem by thirty-five percent of student government leaders, while only nine percent of the newspaper editors listed it.

Several students complained that program cuts were made behind closed doors, NOCR reported. There is "a growing feeling among administrators and faculty, that student rights, input, and freedom should be curtailed," one leader told NOCR.

"We're the last ones consulted about cuts," one student leader replied to NOCR. "What we say doesn't matter."

Unemployment was the top concern of twenty-seven percent of the newspaper editors, while unemployment of the student government leaders called it their top national concern.

Past concerns such as the environment, energy development, and social program cuts were not listed this year, according to the survey. Only one student, it said, listed the Social Security crisis as the number one national problem.

NOCR also asked these questions if they accepted the stereotype of college students as "career-focused and self-centered" in the poll. One-third of the student government leaders and almost half of the editors agreed.

The third largest national problem was the economy, listed by ten percent of government leaders and seventeen percent of editors, according to the poll.

Nuclear proliferation, ranked fourth, was cited by six percent of the presidents and sixteen percent of the editors.

Other problems listed were the...