



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

To: Board of Library Trustees
From: Marjorie Hill-Devine
Date: November 7, 1994
Subject: November Director's Report

Two matters came to the forefront this month which will need attention, as follows:

1. The NOBLE budget.

I had previously mentioned that the Board should be prepared for a large increase in the member assessment. Scratch *large* and replace it with **ENORMOUS**. Not only are we starting with the \$3500.00 periodical project added to our assessment, but cost overruns have caused the Executive Council to transfer \$44,000.00 from restricted cash¹ into the present operating budget. What are these "cost overruns"?

1. NOBLE moved last June from the FREE SPACE, FREE UTILITIES, FREE JANITORIAL SERVICES, and even some SALARY & BENEFIT PAYMENTS made by its very hospitable landlord - North Shore Community College. This alone is over \$80,000 per year.
2. NOBLE simultaneously implemented a largely grant-funded million dollar equipment upgrade (**PLUS**). Electrical costs at the new site were budgeted at \$12,000. They are running closer to \$30,000. Investigations have been conducted such as turning the whole building off to see if the meter runs anyway, etc. to find that the only mixed lines were 9 outdoor floodlights. Air conditioning costs for the computer room with its new, large MAIN COMPUTER are substantial. Dehumidifier problems also exist.
3. NOBLE had to negotiate a separate new contract with its Executive Director, who was formerly partially paid by NSCC, and also established a 5% pension for its full-time employees.
4. Normal cost increases and a smaller Telecommunications reimbursement from the state add more \$.

¹ The BLC requires a capital fund for grant eligibility, and the accountant recommends an amount equal to 3-6 months operating costs be in a restricted account. This is now less than 2 months.

I expect an assessment in the area of \$27,000.00. In addition to covering present costs, NOBLE must service its debt in subsequent budgets and replenish its funds, or there'll be no money for the next equipment upgrade. (although grants paid nearly \$600,000, NOBLE had to fork over \$200,000 +) I will bring figures to the meeting, if available.

2. The air conditioning bid has been "taken off the street" pending major adjustment to the blueprints and probably also the accompanying specs. Contractors attending the pre-bid meeting on Wednesday, October 26th raised several important concerns, sufficient to cause Trustee Redgrave to recommend to me that an independent review be sought. I got really lucky - one of the engineers who had initially come out to see the library for the RFP but did not bid on the RFP, agreed to look over the plans for FREE. Since he is located in Reading, I was able to run the plans up to him the next day and had received a written opinion in time to notify all parties of the cancellation. The independent review seems quite thorough and cites potentially serious problems we would never have been aware of. (I told the author to please send us some kind of bill!)

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I have been elected to serve as Subregional Representative to ERLAC for the next term beginning January.