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Memorandum 06

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MEMORANDUM

December 8, 1982

TO: Senator
FROM: ADC
RE: Follow-up on RI State Council on the Arts

The name of the Newport organization that was ultimately denied a grant by the State Council is "Concerts on the Island". It was founded about 3 years ago by Warren Rogers who works at URI in the business end. The director is Bruce Murray who, ironically, is the assistant manager of the RI Philharmonic - the group that benefitted from the Council reversal.

"Concerts on the Island" plays occasionally at Beechwood and Rogers High and after a slow beginning is now playing to standing room only audiences. I hear that it now runs a model concert series with an enlightened management and a loyal, growing audience.

As I mentioned before, this was the group that the review panel unanimously favored for a $3000 grant. There was no question that the group needed the money and that it would spend it wisely. The Council then decided to reject the organization and award the Philharmonic with the money instead. There is a growing feeling that the Council is not in touch with what is really going on in the arts in the state and that it too blithely gets involved in conflict of interest situations.

The board of directors of the Newport group may attend the January meeting of the Council to protest en masse.