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EDITORIAL

Applause for those who get things done

CHEERS: To Gerald Benjamin, who finally has something at SUNY New Paltz named after him. The longtime professor, dean and resident expert on politics and government now goes to work at the Benjamin Center on campus. Formerly known as the Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach, it was founded by Benjamin and continues to be run by him as a way to use the college's research and educational assets for the benefit of the Hudson Valley. Benjamin, 70, has been a vocal, visible, prominent fixture (in best sense of the word) at New Paltz for nearly half a century. He has also served 12 years on the Ulster County Legislature, participated on state panels studying government reform and headed the SUNY Rockefeller Institute in Albany. There's lots more.

Perhaps most significantly, though, Benjamin has over the years earned a wide reputation as someone to provide an objective voice of reason and sound judgment on politics and government policy. That alone deserves having something named after you.

CHEERS: To Gerald Celente, founder of the Trends Research Institute and publisher of Trends Magazine, for literally putting his money where his mouth is. What does a "trends forecaster," as he describes himself, do when there doesn't seem to be anyone trending in a way he would like? He starts a trend himself. Or tries to. In this case, he gets political/consumer activist Ralph Nader to come to Kingston to help kick off a movement that, Celente hopes, others will join. Occupy Peace, founded by Celente (and not affiliated with any of the other Occupy groups), has as its slogan, 'No foreign entanglements.' That means bringing all U.S. troops home, closing U.S. military bases abroad, and letting the American people vote by referendum on whether they want to go to war. It's a challenging proposal. The rally in Kingston included live music and a video crew. Celente and Trends Institute CEO Derek Osenenko said they paid \$80,000 of the \$100,000 cost of the rally out their own pockets.

Don't know if that's a trend or not.

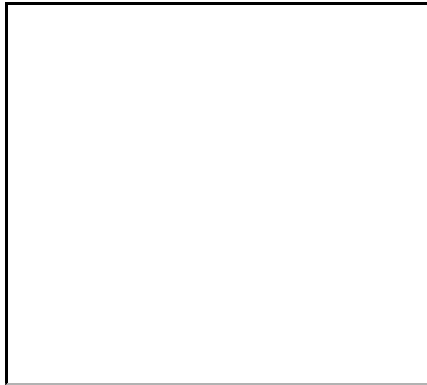
CHEERS: To the dozen goats from Green Goats of Rhinebeck, who did a splendid job this summer of clearing weeds, poison ivy and everything else growing under the portion of the Walkway Over the Hudson that is actually over land. The New York State Bridge Authority hired the goats to do the landscaping on some 1.5 acres of empty lots in Poughkeepsie at a cost of \$10,440. That's half what the authority usually spends on seasonal maintenance. Expect the goats back for more work.

CHEERS: To New York baseball fans, who have the rare privilege of rooting for both the Yankees and Mets as Major League Baseball's playoffs begin this week.

The Mets, behind strong, young pitching and some recruited hitting, won their division, while the Yankees squeaked in as a wild card, meaning they have to win one game to get into the meaningful playoff rounds.

Still, it's October and the local teams are still playing baseball.

Doesn't get any better than that, unless one of them wins the World Series.



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