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Roses & raspberries

ROSES to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, whose efforts to link economic and environmental sustainability have drawn national attention.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center and Siemens Corp. recently named the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber one of just three recipients nationwide of the Siemens Sustainable Community Award. The honor goes to communities that best exhibit leadership in improving quality of life while minimizing environmental risk.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro chamber won the award in the midsize community category for creating its Foundation for a Sustainable Community, which promotes environmental stewardship, social equity and economic prosperity.

RASPBERRIES to whichever of the warring parties at The Courtyard in Chapel Hill is most responsible for prolonging the interminable feud there.

Spencer Young, who owns The Courtyard, and P.H. Craig, who owns most the parking attached to it, have long been locked in a stalemate over the parking lot. Young refuses to pay Craig rent for the parking spaces, and Craig refuses to sell Young the parking lot. Months ago, Craig physically blocked off his section of the parking lot.

Now comes a new wrinkle. Young apparently had the locks changed on the 3Cups coffee shop and Sandwich restaurant last weekend; a sign taped to the door claims that 3Cups owner Lex Alexander owes more than \$85,000 in back rent. Alexander says he's been paying rent into an escrow account instead of directly to Young because Young is violating his lease by failing to provide the guaranteed amount of parking.

Good grief. This is a dispute between a few private individuals, and we're not in a position to referee. But the endless standoff is hurting a lot of other people, especially the Courtyard tenants and their employees, and, so far as we can see, benefiting no one. Please, gentlemen, work it out.

ROSES Roses to Claire Royals Wilson, a fifth-grader at Frank Porter Graham Elementary School in Chapel Hill, for displaying wisdom and a way with words far beyond her tender

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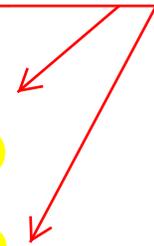
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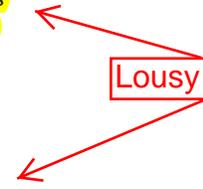
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years.

Claire recently won first place in the literature category of the North Carolina PTA Reflections essay contest. Contestants wrote on the theme, "I Can Make a Difference ..."

Claire's essay, "One Smile," makes the wonderful point that little things matter. It's not just the grand achievements, like curing illnesses or brokering peace accords, that improve the world, she said. Every small change for good --even a single smile -- makes a difference. "Even if you're just walking by someone a smile can make their day," she wrote.

Truth in a small package. Congratulations, Claire, and thanks for brightening our day.

If you have a comment on today's editorial, please contact Dave Hart, associate editor, at 932-8744 or dhart@nando.com.

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