THE OBSERVER

PARTIES AND WALL-PAINTING

I. THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1. Friday, the Bexley Cross-dressing Party in the Space Center...

At some point, Bill comes down and complains that the bass in the music is penetrating his floors, and requests that it be turned down. The bass is turned off *mid-song* and remains that way for the duration of the party.

At 2 AM, Bill returns in his nightshirt and asks that the party be "wrapped up." After two more songs, the stereo is shut off and dismantled.

Several people remain in the Space Center talking. One person begins to play the piano, and is stopped shortly thereafter by security guards there at Bill's request, 20 or 30 minutes after the stereo had been dismantled and moved upstairs.

2. Sometime very early Sunday morning, outside Bill's suite...

Several Bexleyites, upset that Bill chose to use outside forces to get his way, paint various incarnations of "bury your own dead" outside his suite and in the stairwell between the first and second floors in the 48 entry as a reminder.

3. Sometime later Sunday, Bexley Desk...

According to witnesses, Bill is livid, claiming that a Bexley rule was broken when someone dared to paint in his whitespace. He claims "That is the zeroth rule."

II. THE DISPUTE

I quote directly from "A Guide for the Bexley-Impaired":

"Bexley Hall has only three official rules:

1. Bury your own dead.
2. Freshmen can't smoke pot in the elevators.
3. Make no more rules.

Rule #1 means that you are expected to be responsible and mature enough to deal with the potential conflicts you may have while living at Bexley. In other words, if you have a problem with someone or something, you are expected to deal with it first hand, within the house."

Bill violated Rule #1 by calling security instead of dealing with the problem internally.

Bill violated Rule #3 by claiming that not painting on his whitespace is a Bexley Rule.

I again quote from the guide:

"The OJ's request that any party in the "Space Center" (by the basement kitchen) end by midnight, as their apartment is directly overhead."

"A final note regarding painting: please do not paint below the second floor in the 48 entry. The Housemasters regard this hall area as part of their suite."

First of all, the 48 entry is no more part of Bill's suite than the Zen Lounge is part of 407.

*Second, these are **requests**: if Bexley's **rules** are not broken, perhaps Bill's **requests** will be honored.*

III. THE AFTERMATH

House Meeting time...

The issue here is really one of respect; Bill showed the residents of Bexley no respect by only half-heartedly trying to deal with a problem before calling in the hired thugs. One who is disrespectful can expect no respect in return.