

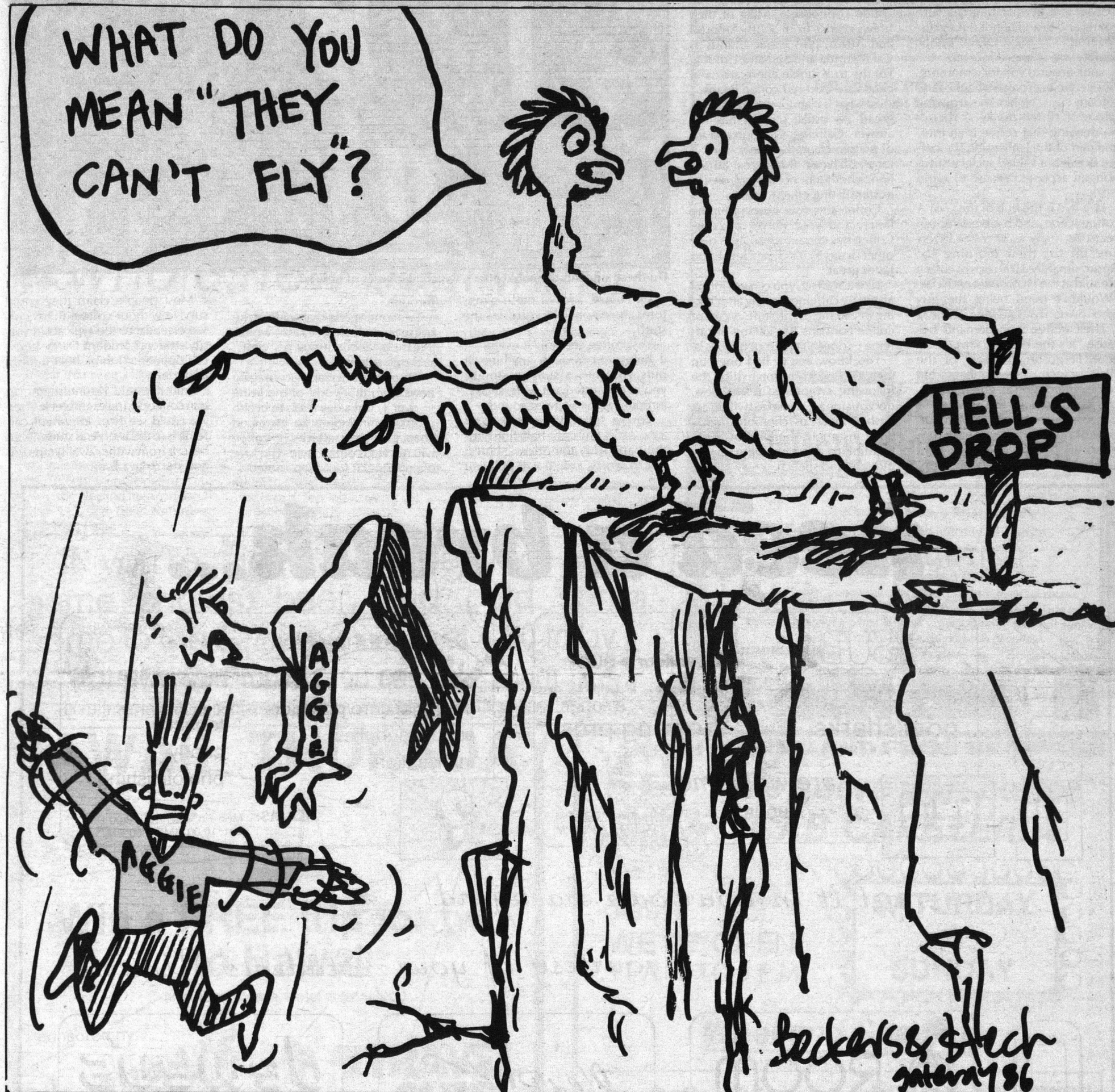
"Beheading should be continued..."

# The Gateway

Thursday, January 23, 1986

...because the death penalty should have a certain spectacular effect."

Jean-Marie Le Pen,  
leader, National Front of France



## No one got the joke say chicken killers

by Pat Maguire and Ann Grever

The agriculture students who threw the chickens from a first floor balcony in CAB feel their prank was taken too seriously.

"What started out as an innocent prank got blown way out of proportion," said one of the two students charged in the "Chicken Scandal", in a conversation with the Gateway yesterday.

The prank was "in order to maintain the ongoing rivalry between the Aggies and the Engineers", but, in their own words, the reaction "is fucked".

Charges were laid Wednesday morning against two of the students involved.

The six chickens were bought "from a local farmer. We told him it was Engineering Week, and that we were going to use the chickens

in a prank against them. He said he didn't like engineers either," said one of the two students.

The chickens were painted on campus. "We wanted to paint them green and gold, but we ran out of paint." About ten people were present at that time.

The chickens were taken to CAB where "five, maybe four of us threw five of the chickens off of the main floor into the cafeteria. A sixth chicken "died on the way and was disposed of in a garbage can." That chicken was later turned over to Campus Security.

While the two have admitted they tossed the chickens off, they stress that, "we didn't want to hurt anybody or the chickens." They did think that the chickens could land safely, because chickens can

fly short distances.

The two talked to Campus Security shortly after. "We shouldn't have said as much as we did with Campus Security. We gave our statements because we thought everybody would be cooperating."

According to the students, Constable Rand Wakeford of the SPCA told the two that he had "seen animal molesters and you guys aren't them."

The two students have many complaints about the handling of the whole situation.

Their biggest complaint is against the SPCA. "They are only pushing this because when they get more coverage, they get more donations."

Constable Osrom of the SPCA disagrees. "That is not true... we're

under oath to do a job," said Osrom. "In the matter of a criminal offence of animal cruelty, it is our duty to enforce the law."

The students were also dismayed with the discrepancy in how the chickens died. "The chicken in the paper looked pretty alive to me — did the engineers wring its neck too?" said the third year agriculture student, referring to the front page of Tuesday's Gateway. "The paper said that someone saw an Ag student amused, well a lot of engineers thought it was funny too."

When asked whose fault it was that their prank developed into a scandal, the student blamed "the SPCA... and the papers."

The students said they would like to apologize, "to the girls in the kick-line, I guess we interrupted

their show."

They said they were also impressed with the engineers, "they didn't over-react — engineers have good spirit, it is a fun rivalry."

"We never meant any harm to the chickens or anyone else, but this thing has been blown out of proportion."

Dr. Berg, the Dean of Agriculture, also believes the incident was not serious because no one was hurt and the students did not believe the chickens would be harmed.

"In my opinion, (the incident) was foolish, but not malicious," said Berg.

A court date has not yet been set. The maximum penalty under section 402 of the Criminal Code is \$500.00 or 6 months.