

# news

## Student rights: words to work by

by Helen Hyrek

If you aren't finding the advent of another torturous semester utterly depressing, then take a look at the employment section of our local newspapers. There you will find a reality that's bound to dim your spirits; there are no jobs. What's more, January and February are the least

promising months in which to find them. Granted, unemployment is a nightmare of financial anxieties, but being employed as a minimum wage earner while balancing studies is not always a pleasure trip either. Working students in today's economy must have two talents: a flair for creative economizing and an ability to make a lot of compromises. It's not surpris-

ing to see many students backed into a corner by the demands of employers, simply because the luxury of quitting is not an option.

For those of you who are fortunate enough to be employed but are disgruntled by the agonies of minimum wage slavery, there are a few facts you might not know in terms of your rights as a non-unionized minimum wage

earner. Most of this information falls into the category of common sense, however you'd be surprised how few people are aware of their rights.

Let's say, for example, your laughably meagre paycheque bounces. While this is a rare occurrence for most employees, it can happen. According to Labour Standards, your employer is obligated to compensate you within five working days after the end of the pay period. If he or she fails to do so, you can file a complaint with Labour Standards. If you are charged a fee by your bank for the bounced cheque, it is up to you only to seek compensation from your employer. As the Labour Standards rep informed me over the phone, "We can't touch it."

In the case of a bounced cheque you are not by any means justified in trying to compensate yourself for the amount, meaning that if you dip your hands into a cash register you could be charged for theft. I was surprised to see how few people knew this.

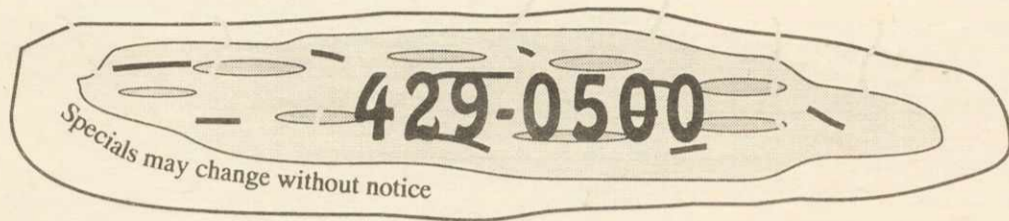
At this point in the economy, many businesses are suffering under the constraints of competition. Often an employer might see fit to

lower your pay, and he or she is legally justified in doing so, just as long as your rate of pay is not reduced below the standard minimum wage level. Incidentally, minimum wage went up to \$5.15 as of January 1, 1993.

There is often a lot of confusion regarding what constitutes a statutory holiday. Moreover, the correct wages for working a statutory holiday tends to be another source of confusion. Again, according to Labour Standards, legal statutory holidays include: Christmas Day, Canada Day, Good Friday and Labour Day. As a part time, non-unionized worker, you may qualify for time and a half for working a statutory holiday if you have worked the day before and the day after the holiday. If you are not paid time and a half, your employer may give you a paid day off.

At the very back of the white pages in your phone book you can find a section of blue pages entitled "Government Listings". Here you can find all the numbers to call should you be confused about your rights.

**PAUPER'S PIZZA** 5566 Fenwick St.



**The Panhandler (Delivery)**  
**2 - 3 TOPPING MEDIUM PAN PIZZAS**  
 and a 2L Pop  
**\$14.95**  
 all inclusive

**The Parkbench (Pick up)**  
**LARGE PEP/MUSH/GR. PEPPER**  
**\$7.95**  
 all inclusive  
 (one item is substitutable)

**FREE Delivery south of Quinpool Road**

# THE NORTHERN PIKES

## IN CONCERT

AT THE McINNES ROOM  
 DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION BUILDING

JANUARY 27TH, 1993 - 9:00PM  
 TICKETS ON SALE JANUARY 18TH



**\$18.00**

INC. GST  
 NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES

SPECIAL GUEST:

**THOMAS  
 TRIO**  
 AT THE RED ALBINO



PRESENTED BY :



N.S. LIQUOR I.D. OR  
 STUDENT I.D. REQUIRED.  
 THOSE UNDER 19 YEARS  
 OF AGE WILL BE  
 ADMITTED ONLY WITH  
 VALID DALHOUSIE  
 STUDENT  
 IDENTIFICATION.