



## Hong Kong celebrates festival

Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the major festivals celebrated in Hong Kong, and is known also as the Lantern Festival and the Moon Festival. Traditionally, people travelled to hilltops, or to open spaces and parks to view the moon rising to its zenith.

Young children carry lighted paper lanterns in traditional fanciful design. Public parks are popular gathering places for the celebration, and the flickering glow of lanterns in various sizes and shapes adds a mood of gaiety to the evening. Traditional designs included fish and flowers but now even cellophane army tanks can be seen.

Weeks before the Festival, stores and stalls sell these colourful lanterns and bakeries turn out special moon cakes, which contain a rich and heavy mixture of bean or lotus seed paste with a salted duck egg.

The legends behind the celebration handed down from one generation to another have kept alive the spirit of the Festival. One legend tells the story of I, the Divine Archer, rewarded with an herb of immortality for shooting down nine of the ten suns that were plaguing the world. His wife, Chang O, found the herb and swallowed it. Fearing the wrath of her husband, she fled to the moon. Arriving breathless,

she coughed and accidentally spat out the herb which turned into Jade Rabbit, an important mythological character for the Chinese. Today, children still look for the Rabbit and Chang O in the moon.

The origin of moon cakes is not known. They have been in existence since the Tang Dynasty (618-906 A.D.) but during the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368 A.D.) they were used to call the villagers to revolt against the Mongols. The message to "Revolt on the night of the full moon" was written on pieces of paper and embedded in cakes which were smuggled to compatriots.



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## Bars open until 3 a.m.

by Christina Frei

There is definitely no shortage of bars in downtown Halifax. The problem is not in finding a place to drink, but rather in finding The Best Place To Drink. So here is a short rundown of those clubs, other than just the line-up on Argyle St., which I think are worth knowing about.

The big attraction, for me, is always live music and the two prime spots to see great bands are Pub Flamingo and The Middle Deck. Pub Flamingo has the more polished interior, with a black and white checker-board floor and bright furniture, while the Middle Deck has a low ceiling, wooden surroundings, and a smoky atmosphere. You'll find acts like The Sattalites, Billy Bragg, or Clarence Gatemouth Brown at the Pub Flamingo, and The Middle Deck always seems to

get fantastic musicians out of Toronto, some of whom have gone on to make it really quite big (k.d. lang, Jane Siberry, Blue Rodeo, Rita MacNeil, Andrew Cash — to name just a few).

If you're looking for a place to talk with friends or just have a quiet drink, try somewhere like Thackerays on Spring Garden Road, or, a favourite of mine, the Seahorse. The Seahorse is also one of the oldest pubs in town and you'll find a mixed crowd of artsy types, rez types and people you've been trying to avoid for months.

For dancing ... well, a lot of places that have bands also have a dance floor, but if you want a DJ and those little colored lights, go to Brandy's, Bogart's (on Argyle), or even the Sheraton Lounge (Harbour Front Bar). There are not a lot of options if you're a

dancer. The only dance place in town, Cabbagetown, closed down last spring. There are even fewer options if you are gay. The only club in Halifax is called Rumours and is located on Gottingen St., a cavernous former movie theatre whose music is monotonously programmed to an irritating techno-bop.

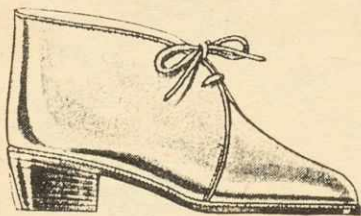
Oh, and before I forget, I guess I should mention those two old standbys — conveniently open until 3:00 am — The Moon and The Palace. Not much here in the way of atmosphere and often too hot and packed to really enjoy yourself (unless you're well over the edge and like the meat market scene). And if you've made it this far into the night and feel the need to fortify yourself, Alfredo's serves food until 4:00 am, or better yet, try La Cave which is much cozier and more laid back.

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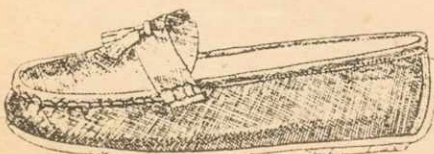


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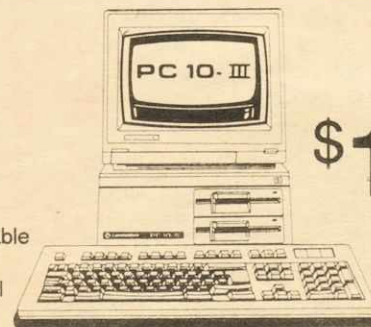
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