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Wood: Shiver me timbers

This week: pirates, hippies and 'Pac-Man'

Brian Wood Thursday, July 20, 2006

Let us now embark on a brief moral tale involving a pirate and a fellow swashbuckler.

The two are all hopped up on pirate juice and are looking starboard and waxing deep and heavy.

They debate the best rums, worthy booty to gank and how to best avoid scurvy, before closing with a punch of honesty. I happened to overhear the two pirates while I was at sea as a quartermaster, and these are the simplified notes.

Is a lie OK if it's a so-called "pirate lie?" Or if the man you lied to was "protected" by your thoughtfulness and carefully crafted fib and you score loot and booty with little or no consequence? Or what if it's like a pirate song, where the singer's belief is so ridiculous it is assumed the opposite of what was sung?

Like, "No more rum. Hum, deeee dum." We all know that was a lie.

I am heading for the latter option. I said something along the lines of "relationships are overrated" to a good friend, who happens to be in one of those things. I mean, when I was a pirate, going steady with someone back on shore was clearly not an option that I get. But I've put all that behind me; now my days pillaging on the great seas are done.

Actually, it's going into work on a Sunday night when you should be out swashbuckling with a girl that's way overrated.

I soon needed to make myself feel better.

So I played "**Pac-Man**"

on the Interwebs. That game is hot. I feel good about it. Try it yourself here:

www.media.ebaumsworld.com/pacman.swf

But I must admit, despite this acting as a legitimate distraction, it's far off the seafaring map from the real thing that I grew up playing. There's a disconnect that comes from a Flash-based "Pac-Man."

Remember throwing all your allowance and lunch money into those quarter-eating games at the awesome arcade? Those slimy buttons and knobs, all gross and ill from years of jamming. Those were the days.

So go in for the real thing at newly opened **Lyons Classic Video Arcade at Oskar Blues**, now located downstairs

at the superstar Lyons brewery, 303 Main St.

We're talking about 27 classic arcade games and two pinball machines, a sister operation to Lyons Classic Pinball, located next door. And it's nice enough of them to keep the original 25-cent per game price structure intact.

Pair your games up with any of Oskar Blues' frosty beverages and you are guaranteed to improve you scores by, like, a ton. Dale's Pale Ale is best with "Super Mario Bros." Look out for other rad and nostalgic greats like "Q*bert," "Paperboy," "Ms. Pac-Man," "Galaga" and "Asteroids Deluxe."

Get your game face on at www.lyonspinball.com.

While in more remote and low-key Lyons, you might find your inner noodle-donkey bucking wild. If so, it's most likely the **17th Annual Charles Sawtelle Gnu Mountain Jam** up at Gold Hill Inn, 401 Main St., beckoning you.

From noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, blues, bluegrass, folk and jazz bands get down for the annual KGNU (88.5 FM) fund-raising concert. You'll be hearing the sweet sounds from these folks: Sweet Sunny South, Clay Kirkland Band, Uncle Squ'Earl, and Darol Anger and Scott Nygaard.

Tickets, \$12-\$15, are available through KGNU; call (303) 449-4885 or visit www.kgnu.org for details.

Recap: I went from pirates to hippies and touched on morals, love, booze and the classic '80s along the way.

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