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Chain stone-cold scoops other parlors

Cake batter ice cream. Need we say more?

With apologies to Eugene's own Prince Pückler's - where we would never stop a sane soul from going on a hot summer's night - Team Best of ... has a confession to make. A guilt trip to divulge.

We jumped on the corporate America bandwagon, decided to dis our local ice-cream makers and selected a franchise that has more than 650 stores across America - including 21 in Oregon - just like the one at Oakway Center, as our Best Ice Cream Outing.

But again: Cake batter ice cream. Need we say ... It's ingenious. You take one of the best tastes on the planet, cake batter, and you mix it with freakin' ice cream.

Cold Stone is the place where high school kids working a summer job take massive scoops of your favorite soft-and-creamy ice cream, plop it down on a frozen granite block, then look all ice cream coordinated while slapping in your favorite ingredients - berries, graham cracker crust, Oreo cookies, brownies, candy - and working it into a milk-and-sugar frenzy while your tongue hangs sideways out of your mouth.

And they'll even sing to you when you tip them. Or, of course, on your birthday.

They'll serve it in a dish or a fresh-baked waffle cone. And the amount they cram in either one is mind-boggling. Enough to make you go on a diet for the rest of the year. Or the rest of your life.

Make your own concoction, or order up Apple Pie a la Cold Stone (sweet ice cream, cinnamon, graham cracker crust, apple pie filling, caramel), Candy Land (cake batter ice cream, Snickers, M&Ms, Kit Kat) or Berry Berry Berry Good (sweet ice cream, raspberries, strawberries, blueberries).

Got chocolate on your mind? How about some Germanchokolatcake? That's made with chocolate ice cream, pecans, coconut, brownie and caramel. If you think Chocolate Devotion looks dangerous, try ingesting the mix of chocolate ice cream, chocolate chips, brownie and fudge then going for a run.

And you won't want to miss out on the Mint Mint Chocolate Chocolate Chip - same recipe as the Chocolate Devotion, just substitute mint ice cream for chocolate. And it's so good the mint and the chocolate gets mentioned twice. Mentioned twice.

But don't try these recipes at home. They're trademarked.

Best of ... may leave you feeling bloated. So don't read it all at once. Savor it. To gorge on the Best of ... archive, go to www.registerguard.com/bestof



Ice cream is mixed with marshmallows and other assorted goodies at the Cold Stone Creamery outlet at the Oakway Center.
Photo: Kevin Clark / The Register-Guard