



MARGARET MITROV ENJOYS A PRINCE PÜCKLERS MILKSHAKE

PHOTO BY TRASK BEDORTHA

# A WALK DOWN MILKSHAKE LANE

Closing summer on a frozen note BY NILS HOLST

**W**ith the long days of summer drawing to a close, one develops a certain nostalgia for the simpler things in life: long walks on the beach, a day at the pool, 25-cent lemonade stands, the Eugene Celebration parade and milkshakes.

While most of these things are beyond the reach of us over-stressed and nihilistic adults, milkshakes are one bit of nostalgia everybody in Eugene can partake in, a proud tradition that has been passed down from one corner storeowner to the next for generations.

After extensive consultation with local experts, we here at *EW* have compiled a list of some of the best places in town to get your shake on.

First off, there's Fins Drive In at 4090 Main St. in Springfield. We love our neighbors to the east, and when it comes to shakes, Fins knows how to do it right. With more than 25 base flavors plus seasonal specials, Fins

certainly isn't lacking in the variety department, and for 35 cents extra you can combine flavors, creating endless possibilities. Malts are an extra 25 cents if you want that extra old-fashioned malt shop feel.

When asked why people keep coming back to Fins, employee Ben Smith says that "more than anything it's the nostalgia. The nostalgia of the '50s and stuff, people can come out and have a milkshake just like their grandma used to make."

Prince Pücklers on the corner of 19th and Agate specializes in ice cream, making it a natural choice for milkshake connoisseurs. The store carries 49 flavors and allows customers to combine up to three flavors, leading to wacky creations like strawberry/banana/French roast or peanut butter/Oregon Bing cherry/chocolate almond. Pücklers' fruit sorbets and ice creams are made from fresh local ingredients, and are especially popular during summertime.

Nobody understands the serious business of milkshakes better than Jim West, owner of Dickie Jo's, near 13th and Pearl. Using high-quality natural ingredients ("the fancy stuff," according to Jim) and specialized equipment, Dickie Jo's churns out some of the richest milkshakes in town.

Jo's has six flavors, the most popular of which are chocolate, vanilla and strawberry. According to West, it all comes down to the butterfat in the product.

"I'd like to think we have the best milkshakes in town," West says. He adds, "Most of these guys are playing around with four to eight percent butterfat," and explains that Jo's uses no less than 10 percent. "The reason for that is because butterfat is so expensive."

Sweet Life Patisserie at 755 Monroe St. is also in the milkshake-making business but uses hand-made hormone-free gelato. "Starting with a really dense gelato is much different than ice cream," says co-owner Catherine Reinhart. "It makes an amazing milkshake."

Last but certainly not least is Billy Mac's on Jefferson and 19th. Although it doesn't offer a cornucopia of flavors, and prices are a bit steep in comparison (a regular shake is \$5), the shakes are still worth checking out. With a homey old-time flavor and rich, creamy consistency, Billy Mac's has maintained a loyal following. Traditional to the core, Billy Mac's offers chocolate, vanilla and strawberry. ■

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