

Which of these ice cream eaters are you?

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

In honor of National Ice Cream Week, we called a meeting of our one-person local chapter of the AAWICEI -- Amalgamated Association of Watchers of Ice Cream Eaters, International.

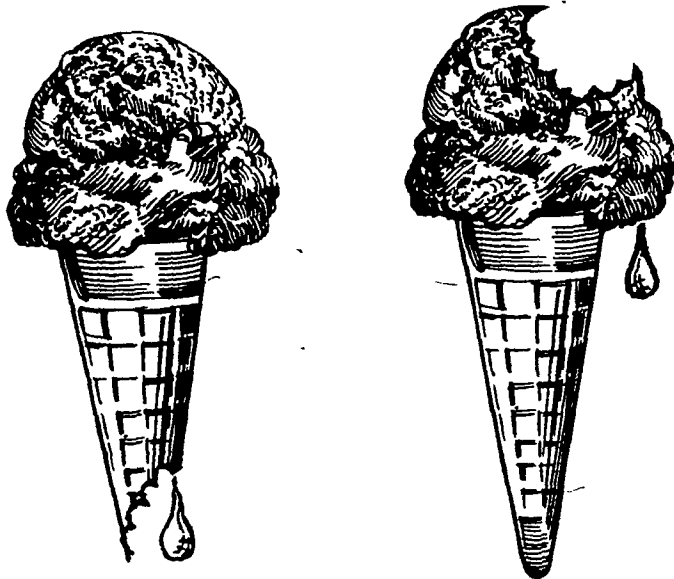
This Association meets sporadically for the sole purpose of watching people eat ice cream.

And, there's no better time to watch than during National Ice Cream Week. After all, if our national leaders decree something, it must be so.

When calling a meeting of the Association, it is best to select an inconspicuous vantage point near an ice cream sales outlet. A warm sunny day is best. On such a day you get a better variety of customers. Also, the ice cream melts easier and people must eat faster. In trying to keep up with the dripping object in their hand, they lose all of their culturally-spawned eating inhibitions and imbibe more naturally.

At this week's observation, we noticed the following types of ice cream eaters. See if any look familiar.

THE MACHO MUNCHER -- This type of ice cream eater literally attacks the cone, taking large bites and chewing each creamy mouthful. The typical consumption of a cone in record time is customarily accompanied by prominent display of the eater's pearly whites -- Eric Estrada style. With each bite, the eater appears to make a macho statement: "Look, I have no fillings and chewing ice cream doesn't bother me at all." Critics of this type of eater often claim that the rapid consumption of the



ice cream is necessary to cool off more latent desires often associated with machismo. The macho muncher is usually accompanied by

THE DAINTY ROMANTIC -- In contrast to her companion, this type of ice cream eater primarily utilizes the lips and tongue in very suggestive union. The lips are puckered as if to kiss and applied lightly to the surface of the ice cream. The tongue is then lightly flicked across the lips to remove the creamy deposits. The dainty romantic rarely buys more than the smallest of dips because the natural melting of the cone is generally faster than this type of eating process. Next, is the

NEEDLE NOOTZER -- This eater prefers soft ice cream because it's easier to eat the cone into a perfectly tapered shape. The base of the ice cream taper is the size of the cone and the eater gradually decreases the circumference

until it disappears to a needle point at top. When the needle is formed, the eater can be seen to nootz the ice cream the way a baby nootzes its pacifier. The best of the eaters works on the needle tip ever so gently, challenging it to defy gravity and trying for the narrowest of ends. Then, they like to watch the needle end slowly tip over and form a curlicue. The larger the curlicue, the more adept is the needle nootzer.

THE SNEAKY SIPPER -- This eater is not too prevalent but can be observed among children. Apparently, it is a trait that is outgrown, much like sucking your thumb. After the cone is conventionally eaten to a certain point, the Sneaky Sipper bites the bottom of the cone off and sips and sucks the remainder down through. Caution -- this method can get messy. I guess it's adult inhibitions that cause people to outgrow this method.

THE SLURPING SCHLECKER -- This consumer utilizes only the tongue. But he or she really relishes the cone and slurps and schlecks with enthusiasm -- complete with sound effects. Here are two sub-categories -- the flitter and the lapper. The flitter has a tongue that darts in and out (kinda like a snake), taking rapid-fire tiny schlecks. The lapper usually takes the tongue all the way around the cone. The cone is either revolved between the fingers or the eater appears to hold the cone steady and sorta walks the head around the cone.

Of, course these are just a few of the types of ice cream eaters.

So, why don't you form your own AAWICEI chapter.

Happy watching.

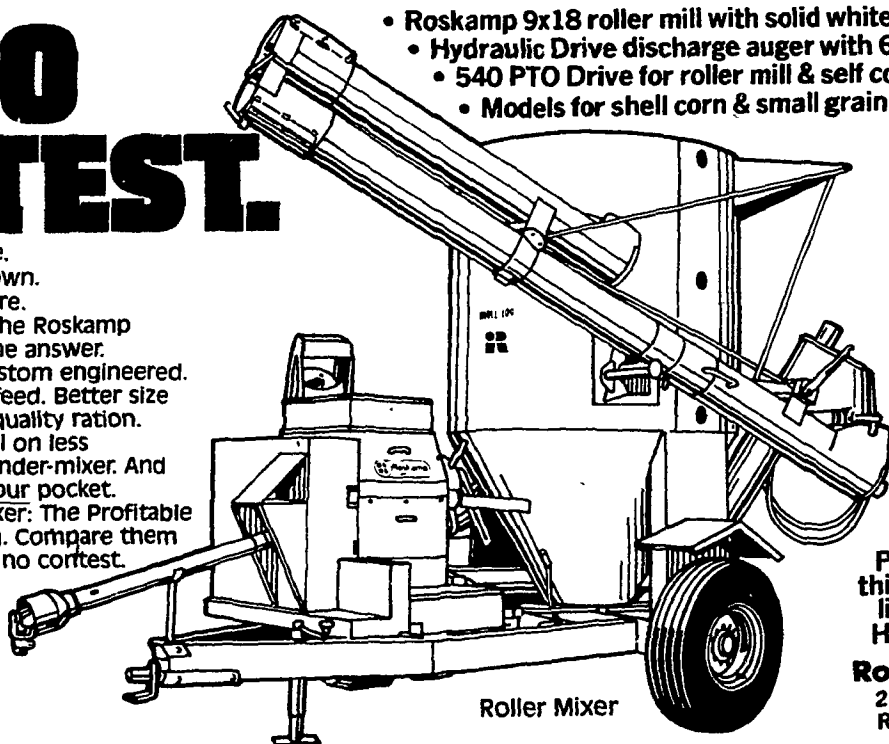
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