

Media Advisory on 11th annual watermelon drop and feast

June 3, 1975

MEDIA ADVISORY

STORY: UCSD's 11th annual watermelon drop and watermelon feast

DATE: Friday, June 6

TIME: 1 p.m.

PLACE: Outside Urey Hall, Revelle College campus

VISUAL/AUDIO POSSIBILITIES: Watermelon toss from seventh floor of Urey Hall, Revelle Plaza fountain filled with 1,500 pounds of watermelon, band playing on Revelle Plaza, birthday cake for 2,000 persons

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COMMENTS: The UCSD Watermelon Queen will toss a watermelon from the top-floor balcony of Urey Hall to the pavement on the east side of the building. Before throwing the watermelon, the queen is required to carry it up the outside stairwell allowing the crowd to follow the progress.

Purpose of the toss, UCSD's one tradition, is to see how far the pieces of watermelon will fly following impact. The distance is measured from the farthest flung pieces to the north and the south. The best toss is disputed since official records have not been kept. Last year's toss yielded a splat of 167 feet 4 inches.

The watermelon is supposed to be the biggest available in the supply of 1,500 pounds of watermelon brought in for the giant feast which follows the splat. Watermelons used in past years have usually weighed more than 20 pounds.

In honor of Revelle's 10th anniversary year, birthday cake for 2,000 persons will be served in addition to the watermelons.

The 1975 Watermelon Queen will be chosen at a "non-sexist, equal opportunity" pageant at 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 4, in the Revelle College Cafeteria by a panel of UCSD staff and administration members. The competition is open to Revelle College freshmen, male and female.

The watermelon drop was first held in spring 1965 when the initial UCSD freshman class sought an outlet following the freshman physics exam. The idea for a watermelon splat and feast came from a problem on the test which concerned the path of a watermelon falling from Urey Hall to the ground. The last question on the physics exam was really a ballot for selection of a queen.

(June 3, 1975)