

Watermelon drop repeated this year

June 16, 1966

One of the "older" traditions of the San Diego campus of the University of California will be repeated at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, June 18, when a large watermelon is tossed from the top of Urey Hall.

The purpose of the Watermelon Drop is to see how far the melon will splatter when it hits the cement in the plaza seven stories below. The object of repeating the drop this year is to try and beat the distance record established last year when pieces from the first melon ever dropped flew 91 feet from the impact area.

The reason for staging a drop at all is to signal the end of final exams for the year at UCSD.

UCSD's 2nd Annual Watermelon Drop will follow a three-hour physics exam, considered by most of the students who will take it as the toughest thing they will face all year. The last page of the exam will contain a ballot on which each student is to vote for a Watermelon Queen, or "Miss Splat" as she was affectionately tagged last year. Those students not taking the test will vote for their choice for queen in front of the Physics-Chemistry Building between 9 and 10:00 a.m.

It is the job of the queen to climb to the top of Urey Hall with the watermelon under her arm, march to the railing of the seventh floor stairwell and, following a small ceremony, toss the melon as far into space as possible. The student body judicial council is responsible for obtaining an accurate and official measurement of the splat. Last year the job of finding the furthest piece took on the look of an Easter Egg hunt before it was over.

Following the melon drop and official measuring, the students will gather at the Camp Matthews intramural field for a watermelon feed and seed spitting contest. A student body dance will be held at 11:27 p.m. Saturday night in the South Dining Hall of the Central Facilities Building on the Revelle College campus.

Student chairman for the watermelon drop is Miss Barbara Hoffer, a freshman psychology major from Manhattan Beach, Calif. Her main concern at the moment, however, is not the melon drop or even the selection of a queen.

"It will be a miracle if I ever get through that physics exam in time to attend the ceremony," she said.

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