

Annual Watermelon Drop at UCSD on June 4

June 2, 1993

MEDIA ADVISORY

EVENT: Annual "Watermelon Drop" at UCSD

This Revelle College tradition marks the end of the school year at the University of California, San Diego. With much fanfare, a Watermelon Queen, along with outgoing Revelle College Dean Ernie Mort, will proceed from the Commuter Lounge to Urey Hall. The Queen and Dean Mort, the "honorary tosser," will then drop two watermelons (a "royal watermelon" and a "Mortmelon") from the top (7th) floor of Urey Hall, trying to break velocity and splat records. Traditionally, hundreds of UCSD students gather to witness this annual ritual. This year's participation by Dean Mort, who has been Revelle's dean for 21 years, represents a highlight in the history of the event.

DATE/TIMES: Noon, Friday, June 4

LOCATION: Optimal viewing is from the sidewalk in front of

Urey Hall, Revelle campus. (see map.) Photographers can accompany the Queen and Dean Mort to the Urey Hall balcony drop site.

BACKGROUND: The Watermelon Drop (or splat) originated with UCSD's first undergraduate class in 1965. All Revelle freshmen had to take a physics class with Professor Bob Swanson. In his final exam, Swanson asked what the velocity on impact (terminal velocity) would be of a watermelon dropped from the 7th floor of Building B., later named Urey Hall. The class arranged an actual watermelon drop after the test, and voted for a "Watermelon Queen."

The best official (early records are sketchy) record for the splat is 167'4" set in 1974.

Continuing another tradition, after the event the watermelon will be served by the Revelle Programming Board to everyone who participates.

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