

Media Advisory, Annual "Watermelon Drop" at UCSD Revelle College June 7

May 28, 1991

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 or King and court will proceed from the Commuter Lounge to Urey Hall. The queen will then drop a watermelon from the top (7th) floor of Urey Hall, trying to break velocity and splat records. Hundreds of UCSD students gather to witness this annual ritual.

DATE/TIMES: Noon, Friday, June 7.

LOCATION: Optimal viewing is from the sidewalk in front of Urey Hall, Revelle Campus. (Photographers can accompany the Queen/King to the Urey Hall balcony drop site.)

BACKGROUND: The Watermelon Drop (or splat) originated with UCSD's first undergraduate class in 1965. All Revelle freshman 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." (This year the Queen/King will be selected during a pageant at 8 p.m. June 5 in the Revelle College cafeteria. The pageant is listed as an equal opportunity contest, with both men and women competing for the honor.)

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

Continuing a later day tradition, watermelon will be served by the Revelle Programming Board to everyone who participates.

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