

Watermelon Queen to be selected, splat to follow

June 7, 1965

The age-old question of how big a splat of a large watermelon will make when dropped from the top of a seven-story building has been answered by the members of the Associated Student Body of the University of California, San Diego.

With the help of Miss Elizabeth Heller, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Heller of Pasadena, the students were able to determine that pieces of a watermelon dropped from a seven-story height will travel at least 91 feet. The measurement, taken and verified by members of the student judiciary council, went from the center of the splat to the farthest seed found.

It just so happens that the watermelon drop followed the heels of a three-hour physics test that the entire undergraduate student body of UCSD had to take. Probably the watermelon drop could be considered a physics experiment or perhaps even a study in the problems of aerodynamics. More likely, however, it should come under the heading of a psychology which would include the study of student frustrations.

Miss Heller was elected Watermelon Queen of this year's "first of a kind" melon drop which is supposed to turn into a tradition. It is hoped that the freshman class of each succeeding year will continue the drop in an attempt to produce a bigger splat. A loving cup might even be introduced with each year's splat recorded for posterity.

Miss Heller was selected by a vote of the student body on ballots printed on the last page of the physics test. Some students expressed a doubt that many of the students ever made it to the last page of the test but apparently enough did to select Miss Heller to toss "the biggest melon available." She did a superb job, sending a 20.6 pound melon in a graceful arch to the cement plaza below amid cheers from the assembled students and spectators. With a dull "pop" the watermelon exploded like a red sunburst, the pulp and juice shooting in every direction.

Although the melon toss finished the physics test it was just the start of the festivities. Following the official recording of the measurement, there was a huge watermelon feed for the students (no silverware allowed) using a fresh supply of melons.

(6/7/65)