

UCSD's 10th annual water-melon drop to be held at Urey Hall, Revelle Campus

June 3, 1974

The University of California, San Diego's 10th annual watermelon drop will be held at noon Friday, June 7, at Urey Hall on the Revelle College Campus.

In the event, a large watermelon will be tossed from the top-floor balcony of the seven-story building to the pavement below Urey Hall.

Purpose of the toss, UCSD's one true tradition, is to see how far the various pieces of watermelon will fly following impact. The distance is measured between the farthest flung pieces to the north and the south.

Following the toss, spectators will be served some 1,000 portions of watermelon during a giant watermelon feast.

The toss will be made by the campus Watermelon Queen who will be chosen at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, in the Revelle Cafeteria by a panel of faculty and administrators. Competition for the title is open to Revelle freshmen, both male and female.

Before throwing the watermelon, the queen is required to carry it up the outside stairwell of Urey Hall forsaking the nearby elevator and allowing the crowd to follow the progress.

The watermelon is supposed to be the biggest available in the supply brought in for the feast to follow. Watermelons used in past years have usually weighed more than 20 pounds.

The event 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.

Over the years, the object of each toss has been to see if the old record can be broken. The current unofficial record is 204 feet, 9 inches.

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