Hacks flourish at Caltech

By Kenneth Hamilton

How do our counterparts at the Caltech residence halls and Science and Technology (Caltech) manage to retain a semblance of sanity? One release from the pressure of academics is Senior Ditch Day. This year, with the arrival of the Pasadena campus finds un

dergraduates breaking into seniors' rooms, creatively devoting it to improving one or two of the seniors remaining on campus; trees with rope, garden hose, or a length of chain.

Senior Ditch Day occurs sometime in the third quarter.

None of the underclassmen know exactly when the seniors will bolt the campus, although the day has been secretly set by the senior class for months. The seniors go to great lengths to protect their rooms; they ensure that no one is科研 in on Senior Ditch Day in Page House, in one of the seven senior dormitories. Every year seniors in Page House, one of the seven senior dormitories, come up with a brute-force stack that is, according to Mike Cohn, a former Caltech under-graduate, "at least 9 feet of structural engineering." The Page House stack generally uses successive layers of rebar, concrete, wood blocks, steel plating, fiberglass, and railroad ties to guard against entry by "anything short of a bomb." To gain access to the stacks students must use a brute-force stack that is typically broken into two parts.

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