

# Preserving Daily Cal history, a half-decade at a time

It was one of the last remnants of the not-daily Daily Cal: more than half a decade of the paper's history left unprotected, sitting in boxes in a room accessible to just about anybody.

When the paper fell on hard times in the early '90s, any expenditure not crucial to the paper's survival was avoided. A luxury like binding back issues

for safe keeping was out of the question. A part-time librarian simply filed away copies of the day's paper, hoping no one would grab them two weeks later when clips were needed for payroll.

When the paper could no longer afford to pay a librarian, it



Carola DeRooy, a graduate student in library science, led the binding effort.

Photo by Lynne McNeill '99

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## Archive

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was left up to the staff to save the issues. The result was an unorganized room full of boxes that often contained a dozen copies of one back issue and none of another.

Finally last spring the paper was confronted with the need to get the internal library, or "morgue," in order, and get the back issues bound, or risk losing years of printed Daily Cal history forever. Coming up with the \$150 or so it cost to have each year's worth of papers bound was no longer the biggest problem. The challenge now was getting the back issues the paper had in order, and tracking down copies of the issues that were missing.

Luckily, the paper found the perfect person to lead the task: Carola DeRooy, a graduate student in the Department of Library Science. Other students in the part-time role had done a decent job keeping clip and subject files in order and filing away copies of each day's edition. But DeRooy came into the job with an interest in library work, and immediately



Photo by Lynne McNeill '99

Klaus Rötzscher handles binding of Daily Cal back issues at Pettingell Book Bindery on Bancroft Way. Daily Cals have been bound there since at least 1980.

tackled the binding project that most others would have found unglamorous if not nerve-racking.

### Hunt for missing editions

Over the course of several months almost every desk in the office was searched for miscellaneous issues that just might complete a year's or semester's set. Juniors and seniors on the staff

brought in missing issues from their own stashes at home. Advertising was asked to give up their last copy of an old special issue or two.

In the end, issues from seven years in the '90s were collected and bound, and added to the paper's internal library of volumes dating back to 1900. The only year that still has holes is 1993 — the year the paper first dropped from daily publication to three and then two days per week. (If you have issues from 1993 that you'd be willing to part with, please contact Carola at (510) 548-8300).

The staff delivered quite a binding order to Klaus Rötzscher at Pettingell Book Bindery on Bancroft Way. Daily Cals have been bound at the small shop since at least 1980.

The paper has also now brought back old traditions of giving a bound volume to every editor in chief at the completion of their term, another casualty of time and money troubles.

Look for details of how you can help us rebind volumes from the years 1900-1930 in the winter Alumni Newsletter.