

Rodney's Bookstore, 698 Massachusetts Ave.

While many bemoan the death of the independent bookstore, Central Square's Rodney's continues to thrive. "We're a general book store. We have a large variety, that's what keeps people coming back," said **SHAW TAYLOR**, owner of Rodney's (Rodney was an old dog of his, never the true owner of the business). "We have a really good art section, photo section and architecture section, but we have plenty of reading books too, plenty of science-fiction, romance, fantasy and regular novels."

"The Internet can only do certain things," Taylor said. "Books are not easy to find on the Internet if you don't know what you're looking for." Also, he said, people enjoy coming to an actual bookstore to browse.

"The internet is boring," interjected a store manager.

Rodney's moved to Cambridge six years ago from Hyannis. This year Rodney's opened its second floor, roughly doubling the store to 6,000 feet of retail space with, besides books, posters, wooden furniture, compact discs and postcards.



PETER MCLAUGHLIN, of Medford, says of Rodney's: "It's a good place to buy furniture books. The books are a lot cheaper here" – building and refinishing furniture being one of Peter's hobbies. In particular, he was looking for a book called "The Not So Big House."

TAKA TOZUKA is visiting Cambridge from Japan. He came to Rodney's in search of an out-of-print book, "The Helga Pictures" by Andrew Wyeth, which he was quite pleased to find. "I used to have this one before, I lost it. I have been looking for this, and today I found it." When in the states, Taka mostly shops for art and design books. He was very impressed the selection at Rodney's.



GERALDINE MCCARTHY is a lifelong Cambridge resident who has been coming to Rodney's since they opened. She mostly comes "to check out the paperbacks," mostly in fiction. Among her favorites are science fiction author Connie Willis and mystery writer Stuart Woods. Geraldine gets hardcover books from the Cambridge Public Library but always comes to Rodney's for paperbacks because of their "price and selection."

