

# the egg

Crack it open and see what runs out!

**September 2005**

## ODYSSEY 2005: GREAT NEW STUDENTS, MANY FAMILIAR COSTUMES



### **In this issue:**

- Research: Replicating the Earth for global warming experiments
- Opinion: Ecological communities are regulated middle-out
- Layout: *Six different fonts on the front page alone!*

## Editor's Corner

Fall is a fun time to be in Davis. The heat of the summer is (mostly) over, your friends who were in the field are back, and there's another new group of students to get to know. On the downside, there's still some hot weather ahead, your friends who were in the field are now too busy entering data to hang out, and all the new students are too busy with classes. But no, really, I swear, Fall is a fun time to be in Davis!

Plus, you hold in your hands the first EGG of the 2005-2006 school year. We put this thing out every so often as an outlet for students' and professors' creative sides and as a source of non-time-sensitive information. We hope you will contribute often and consider joining the editorial staff. You will be harassed repeatedly by e-mail until you submit. (Get it? Submit? Just one example of the quality humor here at the EGG.)

Thanks to this issue's three contributors\*: Erin Espeland (artist, musician, writer, damn fine ecologist—people this talented tick me off) who drew sketches of the poster session at ESA; Denise Piechnik, whose tightly wadded tips will save you some hard-earned grad student bucks; and Truman Young, who refused to reveal the source of the quote at the end of his piece. Anyone?

And now, alas, a poem... →



Send submissions to  
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NOTE TO OUR LOYAL READER (thank you, sir):  
Because of the rise of electronic communication in today's world, the EGG no longer serves any sort of useful purpose. It is certainly not a conduit for important graduate group news—see the GGE listserv for that stuff. The EGG provides an outlet for anything else related to the GGE or written by its members, which is why its title has the same letters as GGE, only backwards, because it's easier to pronounce.

### If I Were a First-Year

(Ideally a not-too-condescending  
welcome to the new students)

If I were a first-year  
As I surely once was  
I'd freak out about papers  
Like a good first-year does.

And as a good first-year  
In my khaki shorts  
I'd try really hard to  
Suck up to Mark Schwartz.

And then as a first-year  
In 200A  
I'd try harder to grasp  
Lotka-Volterray.

And next as a first-year  
I'd relish the chance  
To win for best cleavage  
At the masquerade dance.

But if these things don't happen,  
Don't worry 'bout bein' late  
There's more than year one  
You'll have two, or eight!

So welcome to the grad group  
Of e-col-o-gy  
So sorry you read this  
Dumb poem by me.

- Matt

\*Having only three contributors means, of course, that I had to put a bunch of stupid stuff in here too, and the EGG is world-renowned for its usual aversion to stupidity. We need more contributors! Especially ones who wish to write something useful. Like you! And you! How about you?

# The Tightwad's Guide to Davis, California

by Denise Piechnik

Now, just because you read this doesn't necessarily mean you're "cheap." Most everyone likes to spend less than necessary to have more \$\$ for fun things. And I've found that Davis merchants are typical of college town businesses – gouging unsuspecting students and targeting those with *real* jobs (gasp!). So I've developed this modest list for the "cheap," I mean, for the spend-thrift, but I've tried to not take the fun out of hunting down your own tight-wad gems. This list will get you started.

## ENTERTAINMENT:

-*Tightwad Tuesday:*

**Signature Theaters** (F & G Streets) movies at reduced prices. Excludes no pass movies. They have daily matinee prices on shows before 6pm.

-*Wednesday & Saturdays:*

**Davis Farmer's Market:** Live music On Wed. (4:30-8:30pm thru Oct).

-*Thursdays and Friday evenings:*

**Delta of Venus** (1<sup>st</sup> and B streets) Live Jams (or sometimes DJ).

## FOOD:

**Guadalajara:** Great Mexican Food, cheap and filling. (Covell and Anderson shopping mall)

**Sunrise Restaurant:** Great Vietnamese entrees and sandwiches (they have veggie entrees too!) (G St btw. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>).

**Hunan:** Good Chinese food. Maybe you've already eaten dinner there, but they have a kick-butt lunch special that will leave most full. (2<sup>nd</sup> and D Streets)

## GROCERIES:

Now, I've spent a lot of time searching and shopping, and the sales do pay off, but surprisingly, the Davis Food Co-op (G Street, at 6<sup>th</sup>) has most reasonable and consistent prices around for most things. Of course it has the largest selection of organic produce and the only full-service meat counter/butcher in Davis. The Davis Food Co-op also features a hot lunch line, and beer and wine tasting events too!

**Produce:** Pedrick's (Pedrick Rd Exit, I-80, Dixon) and Food 4 Less (Pioneer St. and Main, Woodland) have the cheapest produce (of course, not organic).

## OTHER GEMS:

- Yolo County Library (14<sup>th</sup> and B Streets)
- UCD Activities and Recreation Center (the ARC) exercise machines, aerobics, intramural sport clubs, and more!
- Hibbert Lumber (5<sup>th</sup> & G, no housewares)
- SPCA Thrift Store (3<sup>rd</sup> & I St.)
- Davis Wiki ([www.daviswiki.org](http://www.daviswiki.org)) consumer reviews and more
- UCD TAPS Transit Pool Program: \$13/mo gets you a UNITRANS PASS (unlimited rides), and 2 free parking passes in C Lots on campus.

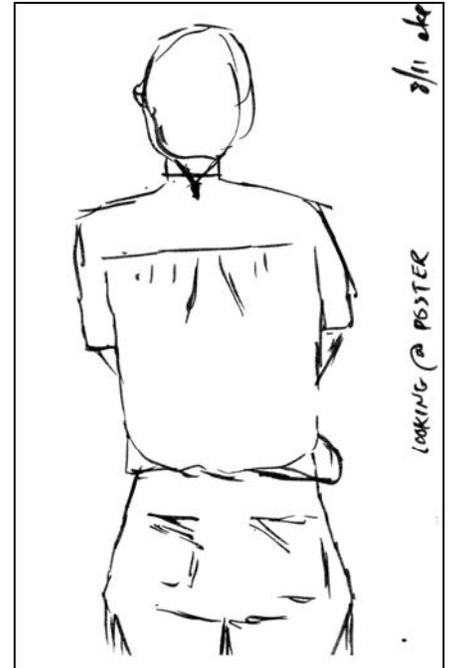
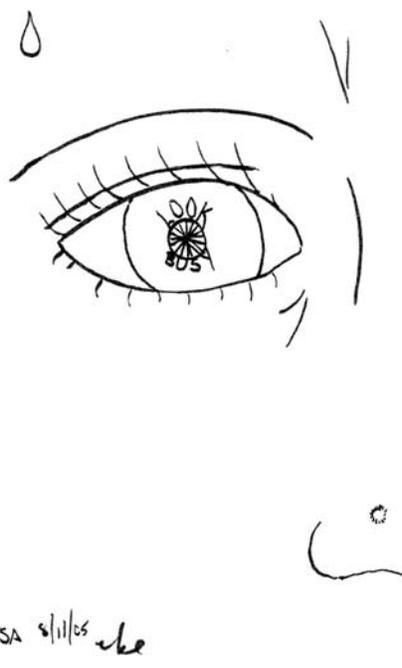
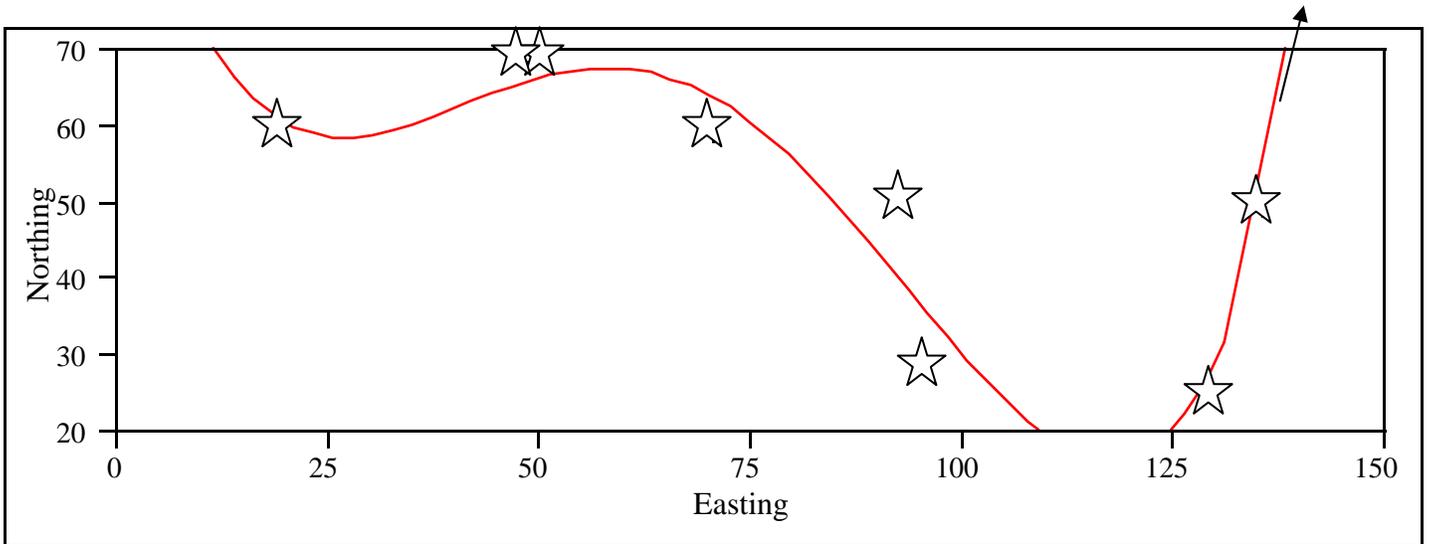


# Large bear navigational patterns

Truman Young



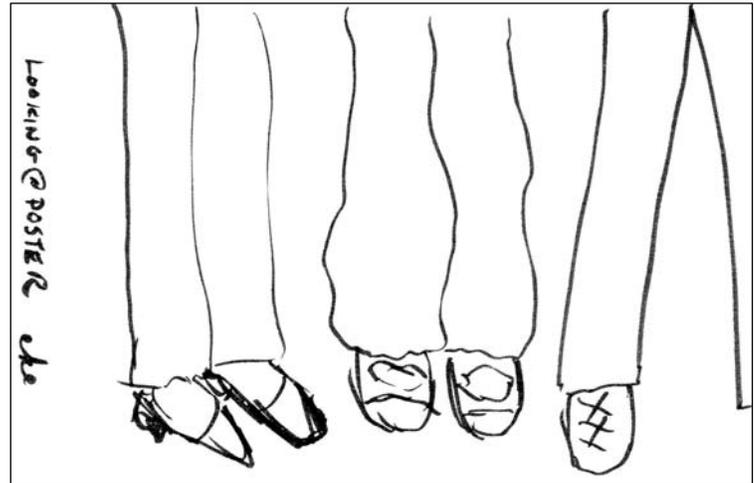
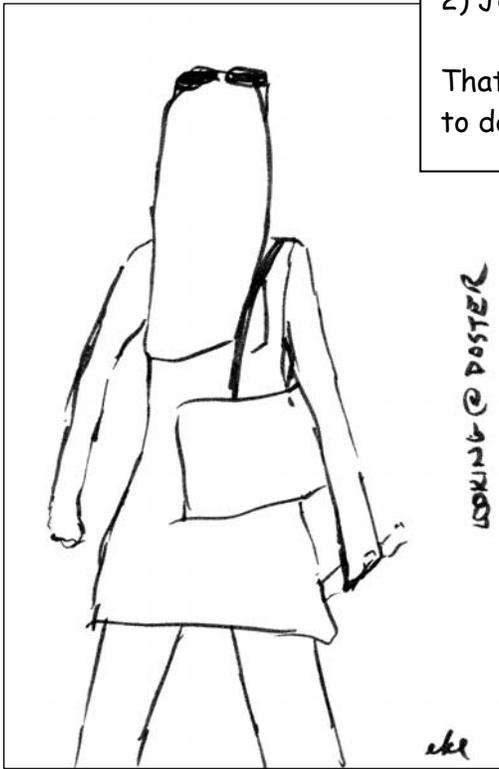
I recently received from a regular correspondent the data represented below, with the request that I assist in the interpretation of the rather remarkable fit to the data of this quadric equation ( $r^2=0.86$ , JMP software). It appears that extrapolating this curve (I know, this is risky business), the result is North. There is also a chance of pseudo-replication in the pair of close points, which some argue are but a single observation. ("How many do you see, centurion?")



**Top 10 ways to make your grad school experience pay off:**

- 1) Contribute to the EGG
- 2) Join the EGG's editorial staff

That's all I can think of. Contact Matt ([mdschlesinger@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mdschlesinger@ucdavis.edu)) to do any of the above 10 things.



# Disacknowledgements?

Matt Schlesinger



In grade school we had a game called “Strokes and Pull-ups” in which each kid in the class got to speak their mind about their classmates, either to thank or praise them (a “stroke”) or express why they were mad at them (a “pull-up” – don’t ask me why it was called that). How often do we get to do this in our professional lives? There is a long tradition in both science and the arts of thanking those who have facilitated or improved one’s work (e.g., “I’d like to thank the Academy...”). Equally important, I believe, is the identification of individuals and organizations that made the work more difficult to accomplish. How else will other researchers know of whom to steer clear? Thus, I suggest that the “Acknowledgements” section of scientific papers be expanded, as in the following examples with different suggestions for formatting:

## Example #1: stand-alone sections

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to my field assistant Waldo (surname unknown) for putting in such long hours and to two anonymous reviewers for their comments. The Ecology Department at P.U. eventually provided financial support.

### **Reproach**

It’s a royal pain in the ass to actually get money out of the Ecology Department at P.U. even when they’ve promised it to you in a signed letter, which I even brought with me to the cashier’s office but that evil guy with the mole still made the process hellish. I would have completed this paper months and months ago were it not for the supreme anal retentiveness of my advisor, R. Coccix. Plus, my girlfriend was kind of impatient sometimes, which didn’t really help. And I really didn’t appreciate how long it took the library to get hold of that Iranian Master’s thesis on squid-algae interactions.

## Example #2: single section

### **Acknowledgements and Invectives**

Thanks to V. Stilton and F. Hubert for tireless assistance in the field, and to M. and E. Papoose for comments on the manuscript and their tasty pork muffins. This work would have been much easier to perform without the incompetence of D. Wormblatt, who lost 8 data sheets and blamed it on his dachshund. No thanks at all to NSF, who rejected our proposal outright, probably without reading it, nor to the Yertle County Water District, who denied access to their land (we could have easily hopped their pathetic little fence, but we didn’t). This study was funded by my Bank of Wichita savings account, pretty much screwing my grocery budget for 2006.

## Example #3: single section

### **Acknowledgements, Diatribes, and General Bitching**

J. Loungebottom thought she deserved authorship, but I think I’ll just thank her. S. Merde will not even be thanked, since he didn’t thank me on his *Ecology* paper. Genuine thanks go to the Farquars for opossum-proofing the field housing this year, and to my Mom for the case of Jaegermeister. I’m still pissed off at the butterflies that a) evaded my net; b) were too difficult to identify, and c) didn’t show the abundance patterns that would have gotten this paper into a better journal.

