

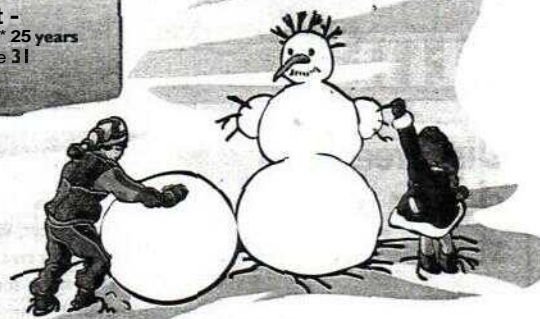
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# STAR

NORTHEAST PORTLAND | January 2006  
Neighborhood News | Volume 23, No. 4



## Grant student's interest in science reflects her vision

Pat MacAodha

Evan Pulvers was out on a babysitting job when the *Star* called - not an Unusual thing for the average teenager 10 do, but Pulvers is anything but your average teenager. The Grant High School senior has already made a mark in the scientific world, presenting a paper she second-authored at the American Heart Association's Annual Scientific Sessions held in November in Dallas, Texas.

The paper, co-authored by Oregon Health & Science University pediatric cardiologist David Sahn, has a title long enough to be an eye-crosser. It discusses the Tor-

rent-Gausp Theory, which maintains that [the heart is a single band of muscle wrapped around itself. A committee whose members had no idea Pulvers is in high school selected the paper's abstract for conference presentation.

How did all those cardiologists and heart surgeons react to being educated by a high school senior?

"One guy actually came up to me and said he had gone to Grant, so that was really cool," says Pulvers. "People told me I did a good job and were receptive and thought I was a novelty, I think." Conference security, she says, "kept pulling me over to check if I had my badge. I think they thought I'd snuck in or something."

The program that connected Pulvers with Sahn's mentoring is Saturday Academy, which offers classes throughout the Portland area. One of Saturday Academy's programs, called Apprenticeships in Science and



Skiing is just one of the many activities Grant High School senior Evan Pulvers takes part in. She recently co-authored a paper read at the American Heart Association's Annual Scientific Session. Pulv

Engineering, matches high school students with scientists and engineers for an 8-week summer apprenticeship. During Pulvers's apprenticeship with Sahn, she says, they "ultrasounded heart models and determined that you can distinguish muscle layers by measuring strain with a relatively new method called 'second-strain method.'"

Does Pulvers see biomedical research as a career choice? She likes research, but "if I

were to go into science," she says, "I think I'd like to do something that has a human touch aspect, like medicine and being a doctor." She's applying to Tel Aviv University and is especially interested in its kibbutz-based program that "emphasizes sustainability as ; method of world peace. It's a really selective program," she says, "so I hope to get in. I'd really like to be a farmer, and I'd really like to be a doctor. Hopefully those two can mesh." ★