

Other local reporters chased the Goldschmidt and Adams stories, but Jaquiss landed them. "There is about Nigel a doggedness and a fearlessness," says *Willamette Week* editor Mark Zusman. "He won't quit just because he's been deterred once or twice or three times."

Jaquiss spent eighteen months working on the Sam Adams story. At each dead end, he returned to the fat folder on his desk and reexamined every note, every scrap, looking for the next link. For instance, when he learned that a source known only as "John" once lived in a Pearl District apartment overlooking a piano store, he canvassed the neighborhood until he found the building; using public records, he called tenants until he found the source. "The truth never really goes away," Jaquiss says. "To some degree, [getting the story] is just a matter of accumulating information and waiting."

It would be inaccurate, though, to cast Jaquiss as a muckraker looking for the next sex scandal, although that's how some of his detractors and competitors choose to see him. ("Nigel has built quite a reputation with sex-scandal stories, and deservedly so. He is dogged and very good at that genre," *Oregonian* editor Sandy Rowe recently sniped to *Newsweek* in a story about how Jaquiss scooped his nationally lauded and far more heavily financed competitor.

The stories that Jaquiss is proudest of include a 2001 piece on dangerous radon levels at Whitaker Middle School—a piece that led to the school's immediate closure; and the one about the questionable investment practices of former Lewis & Clark College president Michael Mooney. "In my view, the press's job is to scrutinize institutions and individuals in power and ensure they're upholding the public trust," Jaquiss says.

His is a critically important worldview at a time when newspapers are shuttering investigative units and hemorrhaging staff; the trend threatens democracy itself given the press's historical role as a watchdog that keeps power in check and the electorate informed. In some newsrooms and at magazines (including this one; see "Becoming Sam Adams," January 2009), it's entirely possible for writers to be fazed by promise and power, to overlook the obligation to scrutinize. As journalist and *Portland Confidential* author Phil Stanford says of Jaquiss, "Unlike so many reporters, he's not overly impressed with people in power."

Which puts Jaquiss in a unique position to answer the following question:

Is there such thing as an honest politician? Jaquiss starts to speak, then stops. "Sure, I think there are... I remain aware that there's a lot that's good out there," he finally says. "It's just not what I report on." Lucky for us all.

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BY KAITLIN JOHNSON

3.71 Average March rainfall, in inches

30 Number of hot chocolates sold at Coffeehouse Northwest on a typical rainy day

8 Brands of waterproof shoes available at Imelda's & Louie's Shoes on SE Hawthorne Boulevard

6 Kinds of defrizzing hair products sold at Bishops Barbershop

12 Styles of canine raincoats available at Hip Hound on NW Westover Road

4 Number of Seasonal Affective Disorder light-therapy methods available through Sunlan Lighting Inc ("The Light Bulb Lady")

\$400 Average cost of roof repair due to leaks, as estimated for 2009 by Northwest Roof Maintenance

\$3.50 Price of Guinness Irish Stew during happy hour at the Leaky Roof on SW Jefferson Street

112 Days until summer

How To ... Live the High Life for Less

DURING THIS economic downturn, you can still live well. We suggest four ways to indulge even as you nurture the next wave of Portland-grown talent. By taking a chance on practitioners who are still learning their trades, you'll be banking karma as a kind of one-person WPA program. BY KRISTEN HALL-GEISLER

Così fan tutte at PSU Opera



ENJOY The **Portland State University Opera**, whose production of *Così fan tutte* took second place at a 2007 National Opera Association competition, puts on full-scale productions at the Clark Family Auditorium of St. Mary's Academy (the Lincoln Performance Hall is closed for renovation). This spring, catch Verdi's *Falstaff*, a comedy based on the Shakespearean character of the same name, to be performed April 13, 15, 17, and 19. Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$25. 1615 SW Fifth Ave; 503-725-3307; pdx.edu/music/opera.html

COOK Graduates of the Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Arts Program at the **Western Culinary Institute** have gone on to work the stoves at the Pebble Beach Resort and in Bravo TV's *Top Chef* competition, but here you can catch them while their talents are fresh—and cheap. A five-course dinner at the school's restaurant, Bleu—that includes, say, rabbit pâté with prosciutto and pork loin in sweet potato purée—will set you back a skinny \$24.95. 600 SW 10th Ave; 503-294-9970; wci.edu

PRIMP Just because your bank balance doesn't look pretty doesn't mean you can't. While most Aveda salons charge \$25 to \$65 for a cut, students at **Aveda Institute Portland** will shear your locks for \$10 to \$16. If money woes have left you snacking on your nails, manis and pedis go for \$10 and \$15, respectively. And lest you worry about walking out looking like Britney Spears post-clipper incident, rest assured that instructors supervise all services. 325 NW 13th Ave; 503-294-6000; avedapdx.com

HEAL If financial stress has settled into your shoulders, find some release in Chinese acupuncture. **Oregon College of Oriental Medicine** offers group acupuncture, where several clients get their chi realigned in one room. Students provide the service for a mere \$12. 10541 SE Cherry Blossom Dr; 503-253-3443 x550; ocom.edu