HARRIS, from page 10

into comedy.

So for the first anniversary (of Midnight Mass), she asked me if I wanted to perform. And I was like, "Do what?" And she said, you could play a song or you could do stand-up. And I was like, Oh my God! I can't do stand-up.

I started getting involved in the comedy scene. I had wanted to do stand-up for a long time; I was just scared to do it. I finally did it. My first show was November 2014 at Midnight Mass.

S.Z.: *A year or so later, you are making waves and getting gigs.*

H.H.: Comedy really makes me happy. I really enjoy it. I like writing and performing. It feels so different. It's really exciting, after doing music for so long, to have a new area of performance.

S.Z.: *Writing and performing music and comedy. Are they similar processes or unique?*

H.H.: For me, they are very different. To write a song, I will sit down with a guitar and I'll just kind of start playing and see what I come up with.

Comedy I get from the world around me. A lot of times I just go to an open mic and kind of work it out on stage. Obviously, a lot of comedians do that. It's really exciting. That part is so different from music because you never take half a song and take it to an audience and see what they think. Whereas comedy is so different than music, too, because you are constantly rewriting stuff based on audiences' reactions. With music, I write a song, and when the song is done, it's done. People like it or don't like it; that's fine. But I don't go back and rewrite a song based on an audience's reaction.

S.Z.: *What impression do you want your comedic audience to walk away with?*

H.H.: It's hard for me to talk about my comedy because I'm so fresh at it. I have no idea. I do not call myself a comedian. I am someone who is working on comedy and doing stand-up. Really right now I'm just trying to figure out how it works. I try to go to shows as much as I can.

Like anything, when you're starting out. You learn something new every day. For me, that is part of the fun.

S.Z.: *You sell your own merch, but I can go to iTunes and buy an album there, too?*

H.H.: Yes. You can get our stuff from iTunes, or from the label or from us.

S.Z.: *Of course, it's most productive for you if people buy directly from you.*

H.H.: Definitely, we make more money when we sell it directly. And people enjoy getting it from us because they know they're supporting us. There is a personal touch when it's coming right from us.

S.Z.: *What about fans who download your music through alternative methods, circumnavigating iTunes, you and your label?*

H.H.: The effect that has on me is, well, I'm never going to feel bad about downloading someone else's record because no one ever felt bad about downloading mine. (laughter)

Yeah. It was weird at first. But with streaming, it's kind of (a moot point). We're getting to the end of ownership of music at all. Or of any media. It's OK with me. I almost exclusively just stream stuff.

Sometimes, when people send me their record, email me the files, I'm like, what am I gonna do with this? Give me a link I can click on. I listen to more music than I ever have. I have always listened to music, but more than ever now because it's all just at my fingertips.

S.Z.: *What kinds of things are you listening to?*

H.H.: I've been getting up super early lately, and I put on The Ramones right away! I've been listening to this band, Beach Slang.

S.Z.: *Beach Slang?*

H.H.: Yeah. They're from Philly. They have a couple singles, and then their first record comes out this month. There are a ton of good bands from Philadelphia right now.

Then just before you called I was listening to Screaming Trees. I grew up in the '90s, and all my favorite bands are still – like Nirvana and Pearl Jam and The Breeders – mostly '90s bands.

S.Z.: *How has Portland changed in the time that you've been here?*

H.H.: Oh God. So much.

S.Z.: *For the better? Or worse?*

H.H.: Um. Both. Mostly better. I moved here in 1998, so it's almost 20 years.

I lived at 13th and Failing for the first couple of months. Alberta and Mississippi are so different. Killingsworth. The major changes have happened in the last 10 years, maybe seven. A lot happened really fast.

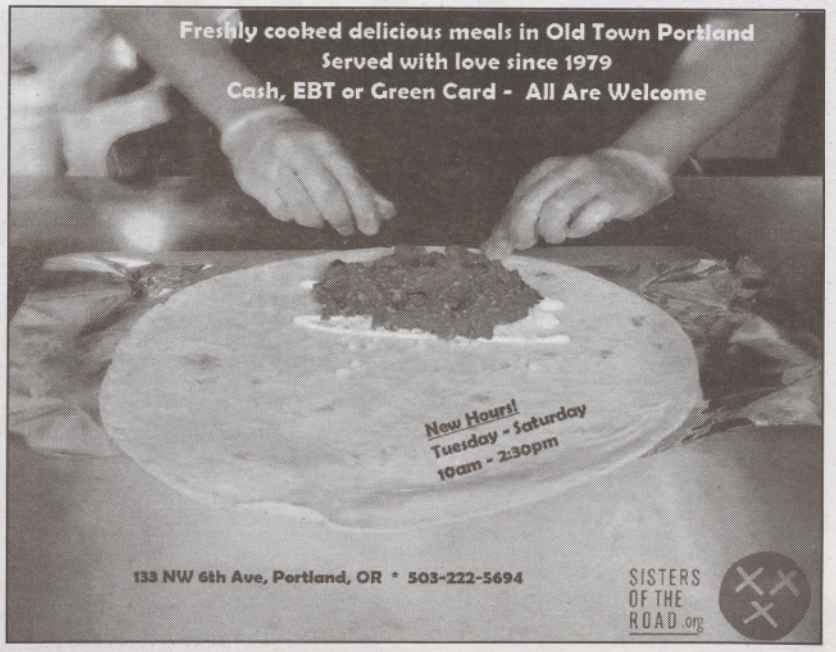
I like complain and joke about Portland a lot.

S.Z.: *It's easy to do, isn't it?*

H.H.: It's incredibly easy. There are so many things. I would have never predicted that Portland would become a "foodie" town. Because there was like nowhere to eat when I lived here.

People were already moving here in normal amounts, but I wouldn't have guessed that it would become as trendy as it is.

The Train Ride

by Michone Nettles

As we ride along the tracks
crossing rivers and not looking back,
faces appear in all that's black, white
dancing with naked eyes.
Wishful thinking throughout our lives.
Visions of joy and happiness, long love life
it has its own path.
Before we were even thought about
our lives were mapped,
every move throughout.
Still looking through a child's eyes
my recipe for understanding
getting back to the heart of a train ride
never ending.
Hillside stops in the Andes
small villages above the rim
the train rides through life
taking scenic routes the distance of the way
looking into the clouds
I see David's face appear
getting the message that we're here
for those who've so called passed.
Keep love in the air everywhere.