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was perfectly OK to vote for that pedophile piece of shit, y'know? So we got a long way to go down there. I feel like I did my time. I worked real hard for Jason Carter (in the 2014 Georgia gubernatorial election), and for a split second, we really thought we had a chance. We ended up moving to Portland about six months after that, and I'm pretty OK being here right now. I felt bad that we weren't able to pull off doing a rally for Doug Jones, but when he runs for re-election, we'll be there.

J.C.: *It's baffling to me that Springsteen or Truckers fans somehow manage to ignore the social commentary and progressive spirit that's embedded in the music, then get surprised or mad when you become explicitly political.*

P.H.: I'm trying to think of the right emotion to pin on that. I have a lot of emotions about it. Because on the one

hand, there's the part of me that's like: anyone who tells me what to do, fuck you. That's part of my constitution from growing up as a punk rocker. But I'm also a more inclusive- than exclusive-type person.

I always loved the Willie Nelson model. He speaks his mind. He always has! And you go to a Willie Nelson show, and you'll see people with their great-grandchildren, all together, dancing, singing along to Willie Nelson songs. Everybody loves Willie. So I guess there's a part of me that thought that maybe we would have a little of that, and it hasn't really been the case.

That said, this record was extremely well-received. It's been our most successful record and it's been an extremely great tour. There's certainly a few places where we've seen or felt a little backlash. But not that much. So we're gonna do what we want to do. At the end of the day, we have to please us. But always prefer it when it pleases other people too.

EVICCTIONS, from page 7

know," Sam said, declining to give a last name. He said he's looking for a new place, but his Social Security income doesn't go far enough for most potential landlords.

"I'm looking hard and trying. Nothing's affordable. I'm like \$400, \$500 short of three times the rent. It's terrible."

His monthly Social Security income has only gone up about \$20 each year, he said. Housing prices, of course, are far outstripping that rate: \$1,330 was the median rent for a one-bedroom in December for the Portland area, according to the real estate website Zumper. Rent Jungle averaged Portland-area one-bedrooms at \$1,471 and two-bedrooms at \$1,776.

"You know how it is," Sam said, as he crossed the threshold of his apartment.

Some of those who live in the building are undocumented immigrants, including Maria. Their lack of legal documentation can present a significant additional barrier to finding a new apartment.

The language and legal barriers also

often lead undocumented families to shun making connections with advocates or unknown organizations. Maria said food stamps are the only help her family receives. Undocumented immigrants only qualify for food stamps if they have a child who was born in the United States.

"Sometimes it makes you afraid, because we don't have papers," Maria said. "Since we're undocumented, we don't often feel inspired to speak up or organize."

She said she's watched many families leave for Gresham, Vancouver or East Portland, which she described, with a flash of gold teeth and a shrug, as "out on 130th and ... I don't know what."

Her family is luckier than Sam's or José Vierra's: they already know where they're headed, and their new apartment is nearby. Maria's kindergarten won't have to switch schools. But that doesn't make it easy.

"The truth is, it affects you," Maria said quietly. "All this time living here and a letter comes saying you have to go. It's unjust."

A week that was ...

by Aileen McPherson

As winter comes, to class I go

This Thursday was the first of the year, yeah

Nine more weeks to go

Friday was nice, Saturday was off to laundry clean

Sunday was lost to memories and random thoughts

Monday business as usual, a voodoo doll had to be made

Time spent helped and hurt alas I'll come and work

Again a nightful of critical thinking and on to literature

Tuesday to work after a morning start, slow

Happy faces rushing to and fro

Hey, a friend having lunch

Waving hi, hello, goodbye, see you soon, friend

With more good journalism by my side.

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