

The Biden loan forgiveness plan and who it's meant to help

President Biden announced a plan to forgive up to \$20,000 in student debt, but what does that mean for current students, and who qualifies?

By **DESTINY VALENCIA**
NEWS EDITOR

On August 24, President Biden announced a three part plan that would aid individuals who have student loan debt. This plan includes forgiving up to \$20,000 in student loans, but who qualifies for this aid?

This plan is designed to help middle and low income households. Individuals who make less than \$125,000, and those in households that make less than \$250,000 can qualify for \$10,000 in federal loan forgiveness. Individuals who have received Pell Grants can qualify for an additional \$10,000 in student loan forgiveness.

What is a Pell Grant? According to the Federal Student Aid Website, Pell Grants are given to undergraduate students who “display exceptional financial need and have not earned a bachelor’s, graduate, or professional degree.” The Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships states that 57% of students attending The University of Washington Tacoma receive Pell Grants.

This can be a relief for students who have accrued loans, but leaves some wondering what has taken the administration so long to enact a plan. Originally, while on the cam-

paign trail in 2020, Biden backed some fellow politicians’ plans to cancel or wipe out some student debt. While Biden backed some of these ideas, he never specifically agreed to more progressive figures such as wiping out all student debt or even \$50,000. He has stated in the past his desire to cancel \$10,000 in federal student loans.

For some students such as Mia Robbins, a junior studying Biomedical Sciences, this information can be a little overwhelming. “I guess it’s a little disappointing, a lot of students have a lot more than \$10,000 of student debt,” Robbins said.

There still are a lot of questions students may have, such as if they are a dependent or current student, will they qualify for this aid? Luckily, the answer is yes, but it can be confusing to locate this information or even know when to take the next steps to receive this aid.

Students like Robbins believe that it could be beneficial for schools to help their students locate information that could help them understand this loan forgiveness process. “I feel it would be helpful for a lot of students because a lot of students like me know nothing to very little about what is going on with this loan forgiveness plan,” Robbins said.

The main appeal of this plan is the student loan forgiveness, but loan borrowers can also expect a longer halt to their repayments and as of now, will not have to make a payment until January of 2023. There are also plans towards making repayments more manageable with repayments towards loans only being 5% of an individual’s income vs. the standard 10%.

Along with this, includes a plan to forgive loans after 10 years for individuals who owe \$12,000 or less and have made payments for the past 10 years, which used to be forgiven after 20 years. Nearly 8 million people can expect to be automatically enrolled to receive this aid relief but when students can expect to see this relief is unclear.

More information:

For more information and facts visit:

<https://studentaid.gov/debt-relief-announcement/>



PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE

A photo of the Student Financial Aid office here on the UW Tacoma Campus.

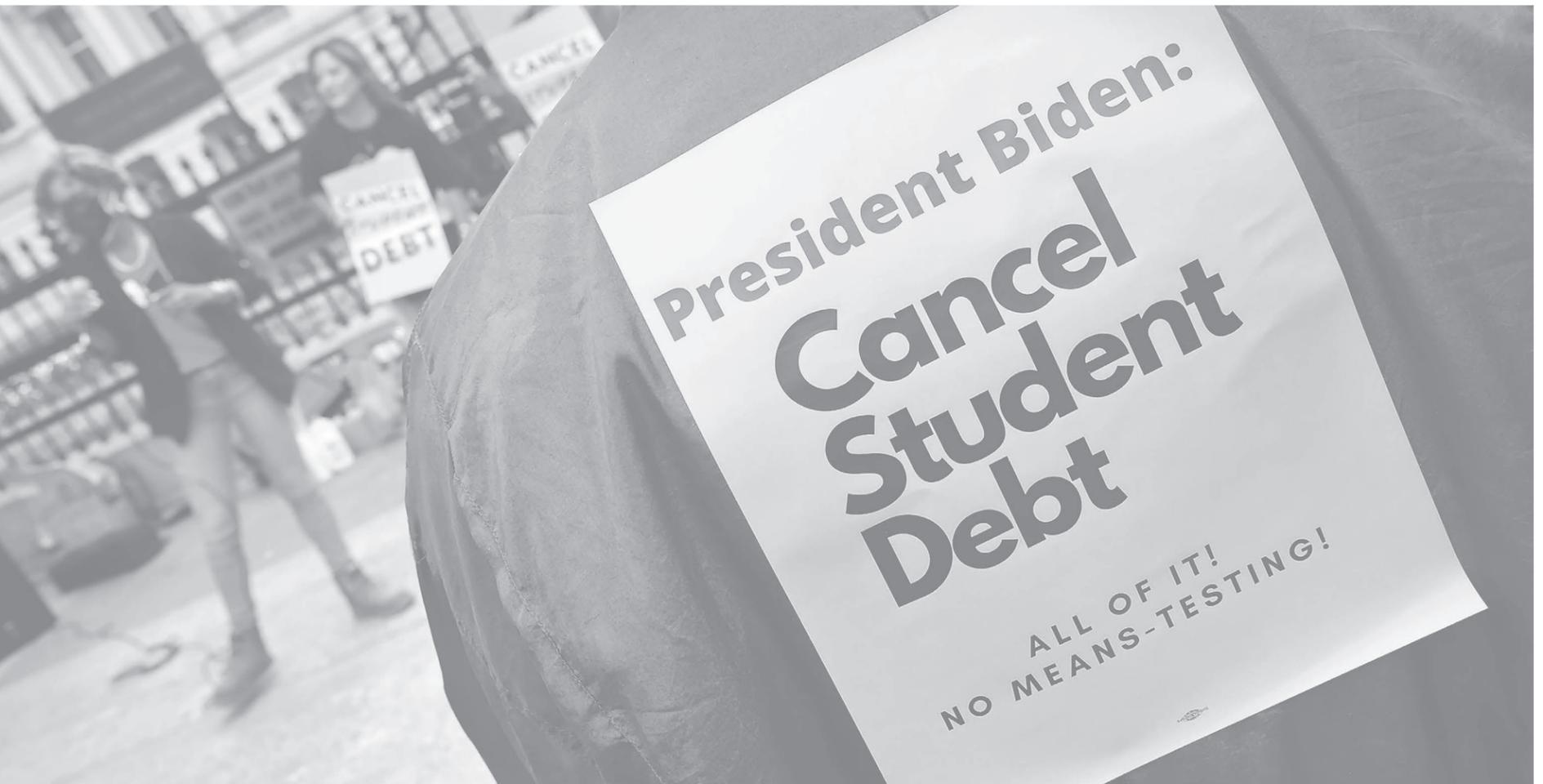


PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL MORIGI/GETTY IMAGES FOR WE, THE 45 MILL

Demonstrator wears a sign calling for the cancellation of student debt

Cultural and educational opportunities abroad

Study abroad with four of UW partners and immerse into a new world of language, culture and studies in the Americas or Europe



PHOTO BY LESLIE GONZALEZ CRUZ

La Ciutadella Park located in Barcelona, Spain is one of the joys students abroad like to spend time at.

By LESLIE GONZALEZ CRUZ
STAFF REPORTER

Studying abroad while in college is an opportunity to participate in a foreign culture while continuing and broadening your education. UW partners with four programs abroad: Arcadia, China Educational Tours (CET), the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) and the Institute for International Education for Students (IES). These programs have options in both the Americas, Asia and Europe that administer programs within their universities.

Arcadia Abroad is a program that provides internships, semesters and summer programs in Chile, Argentina and Spain. Liz Esparza, a recent graduate majoring in the Spanish language, spent her last quarter in Barcelona, Spain where she got to enjoy instruction outdoors in the heart of the capital and partake in siestas in-between classes.

“Studying abroad has been a crazy experience in the best way possible. You meet so many new people while exploring a beautiful country,” Esparza said.

For Spanish majors, looking to broaden their horizons, they have plenty of options from Santiago, Chile to Barcelona, Spain.

“Out of my four years in school, this has by far been my favorite quarter. There’s so much life to the city and you learn so much not just from textbooks but from everything surrounding you. Every building has a story,” Esparza said.

CIEE, another partner program with UW, offers opportu-

nities abroad not centered on the Spanish language. They offer areas of study from business management in London to journalism in Seville, Spain to teacher education in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Funding studying abroad experiences can be a challenge. To financially participate in study abroad students must pay the program tuition as well as the administrative fee, neither of which are not paid to UW. The program tuition and the administrative fee go to different places. Program tuition is determined by the partner organization which includes housing, instruction and in-country field trips. The administrative fee supports staff salaries, communications, advising, applications, student enrollment and credit transfer.

There are scholarship opportunities for all students across the three campuses. This gives as many students as possible the chance to explore their degree while exploring another country.

More information:

Program Fees: <https://www.washington.edu/study-abroad/students/resources/finances/study-abroad-fee/>

UW Partner Pngton.edu/studyabroad/spanish/

Arcadia Abroad: <https://studyabroad.arcadia.edu/>

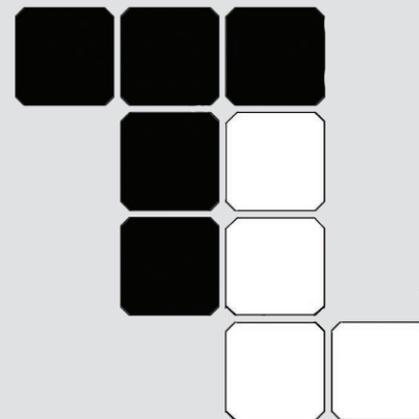
CIEE: <https://www.ciee.org/go-abroad/college-study-abroad/programs>

IES: <https://www.iesabroad.org/study-abroad>

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A group of students on the stairs of UW Tacoma campus on the day of Convocation.

PHOTO BY ANDREW ANDERSON

Welcome Days Events

Mon, Oct. 3, 2022- Husky Hangout at 11am-2pm [Prairie Line Trail]

Mon, Oct. 3, 2022- Knitting Club at 12pm-1pm [Makerspace - Snoqualmie First Floor]

Tues, Oct. 4, 2022- Teaching & Learning Center Treasure Hunt at 9am-5pm [Snoqualmie 260 & Tioga Library Building 2]

Tues, Oct. 4, 2022- Laser Club at 12pm-1pm [Makerspace - Snoqualmie First Floor]

Weds, Oct. 5, 2022- Teaching & Learning Center Treasure Hunt at 9am-5pm [Snoqualmie 260 & Tioga Library Building 2]

Weds, Oct. 5, 2022- Washington Wednesdays at 11am-2pm [Commerce Plaza]

Weds, Oct. 5, 2022- 3D Print Club at 12pm-1pm [Makerspace - Snoqualmie First Floor]

Weds, Oct. 5, 2022- UWTea Time at 12:30pm-1:15pm [Garretson Woodruff Pratt 101]

Thurs, Oct. 6, 2022- Teaching & Learning Center Treasure Hunt at 9am-5pm [Snoqualmie 260 & Tioga Library Building 2]

Thurs, Oct. 6, 2022- Sewing Club at 12pm-1pm [Makerspace - Snoqualmie First Floor]

Fri, Oct. 7, 2022- Teaching & Learning Center Treasure Hunt at 9am-5pm [Snoqualmie 260 & Tioga Library Building 2]

Fri, Oct. 7, 2022- Super Smash with Tacoma Smash Bros. at 12pm-4 [Dawg House Student Lounge]

The full list of events can be found at: <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/involvement/welcome>

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Then we invite you to write a Letter to the Editor.
Letters submitted to the Ledger may be published through both TheTacomaLedger.com and our print edition.



Tacoma's main source of electricity decimates salmon populations

Hydroelectric power is better than coal, but it is still ecologically damaging



Salmon are culturally and biologically important in the Pacific Northwest.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVIE ESTEBAN

By **RUTH OGDEN**
OPINION COLUMNIST

It seems that we are forced to choose between keeping hydroelectric dams running and protecting the salmon population.

Hydroelectric power is generated through the movement of water. Moving water turns a turbine attached to an electric generator which produces electricity. To make a hydroelectric dam, a large barrier is built across a river to create an artificial lake. This is so the amount of water that pours through the turbine can be controlled to meet increased energy needs or to prevent flooding. Hydropower is praised for its reliability as well as the fact that it does not generate any air pollution. In an age of climate disaster, avoiding greenhouse gas output is important to both humanity and nature's continued survival.

However, hydropower dams have one large drawback here in the Pacific Northwest: salmon migration. Many of the rivers

that are used to generate hydropower are also the rivers that salmon must swim up in order to reach their spawning grounds.

Since the arrival of white settler-colonists in the Washington area in the early 1800's, salmon populations have steadily decreased. This is due to settlers violating Native American fishing treaties, habitat destruction, overfishing, water pollutants and hydroelectric dams. Nowadays, Washington state lists 19 major species of salmon as endangered, and 40% of historical salmon runs are now salmonless.

Salmon are known as a 'keystone species' in Washington.

This means that salmon are so important to the ecosystem that their absence could cause the food web to collapse. In egg form, salmon feed birds and small scavenger predators. Salmon also eat bugs and keep

the insect population in check. Salmon are also important to the ocean's ecosystem. Salmon are the only food source for the extremely endangered Southern Resident orcas that live in Puget Sound and as of July 22 2022, there are only 75 Southern Resident orcas left. When salmon return to their spawning grounds during the end of their life cycle, their bodies feed large predators like bears and eagles. What is uneaten decomposes into the soil, feeding rich sea minerals and nitrogen to beautiful Washington forests. There is no way for human beings to artificially replicate the environmental services salmon produce.

Hydroelectric dams block the flow of a river and prevent salmon from completing their migrations both upstream and downstream. Although adaptive measures such as fish ladders exist, they are still imperfect compared to free passage through the river. Damming up a river also creates artificial lakes. These lakes are not good habitats for salmon due to high-

er water temperatures and increased amounts of sediment. These lakes can also confuse the salmon and expose them to more predators than normal. In sum, dams are extremely damaging to salmon populations.

Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) sources electricity from four major hydroelectric projects: The Cowlitz River project, the Nisqually River project, the Cushman Hydro project and the Wynoochee River project. All of these hydroelectric projects have dams built on at least one salmon run. According to TPU's 2020 Fuel Mix Market Summary, a majority of electricity in Tacoma (54.77%) comes from hydroelectric sources. The next largest category was natural gas, coming in at 12.94%. If all hydroelectric dams ceased operation, Tacoma would require a massive financial investment in alternative energy sources. It is clear that changing Tacoma's power sources can't happen overnight.

A diversified energy grid is

But that doesn't mean we shouldn't start working towards change now.

less likely to fail. Increasing the number of wind, solar, and geothermal power sources in Washington state would allow some of the more ecologically damaging dams to be dismantled. Taking down dams and increasing salmon populations in the Pacific Northwest would mean healthier forests, richer soil, and more food for Southern Resident orcas. It would also mean the continuation of numerous spiritual and cultural practices, and would keep thousands employed in local recreation and fishing industries.

Humans are important, but so is the ecosystem we live in. We should never lose track of how much we still depend on nature in order for our survival as a species. We live in a world worth saving.

The Ban on Books

A conservative way to control the narrative of diversity and representation

By CELIA WILLIAMS
OPINION EDITOR

Literature has been the way we've preserved much of our history and traditions over millions of years. While the presentation of the literature may have changed from culture to culture and evolved as time has progressed, it has never ceased to transport one to another world or see something in a new light.

In recent years, literature has been used to bring awareness to the darkness in our history and present-day issues. As a result of this, many who don't share the same views and are in a position to do so have been banning books from schools and many libraries.

The list includes "To Kill a Mockingbird," a heart-wrenching story about the true horrors of "sun-down" towns in the South, and "Lord of the Flies," a dark story which exposes the true nature of humanity when society is no longer watching. Even "Harry Potter" has been up for debate in schools due to religious conflicts involving witchcraft. But should these books be banned?

There's no question that the U.S. has a very dark history of racism, homophobia and genocide. These books are sharing the stories and experiences of many and bringing awareness to the crimes committed by white

supremacists in the U.S. "To Kill a Mockingbird" highlights the injustice of the U.S. justice system. According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (B.O.P.), 38.4% of inmates currently incarcerated in the U.S. right now are African-American. It's also been shown time and time again that P.O.C. receive harsher punishments for their crimes if convicted. This dark truth of the U.S. justice system is dissected in "To Kill a Mockingbird," showing the injustice many P.O.C. have faced.

Another novel that does a great job discussing the growing issue of police brutality in the U.S., "The Hate U Give" written by Angie Thomas, was banned shortly after it had been released in 2017. It was banned in a Texas school district due to the strong language Thomas uses and the message about racism and police brutality. Thomas took to Twitter saying that she was "saddened that a school district in Texas banned #TheHateUGive." "The Hate U Give" followed the story of a young African-American girl who witnessed her friend be killed by the police after they mistook his hairbrush as a weapon and her experience grieving and trying to find peace with the trauma she's been through.

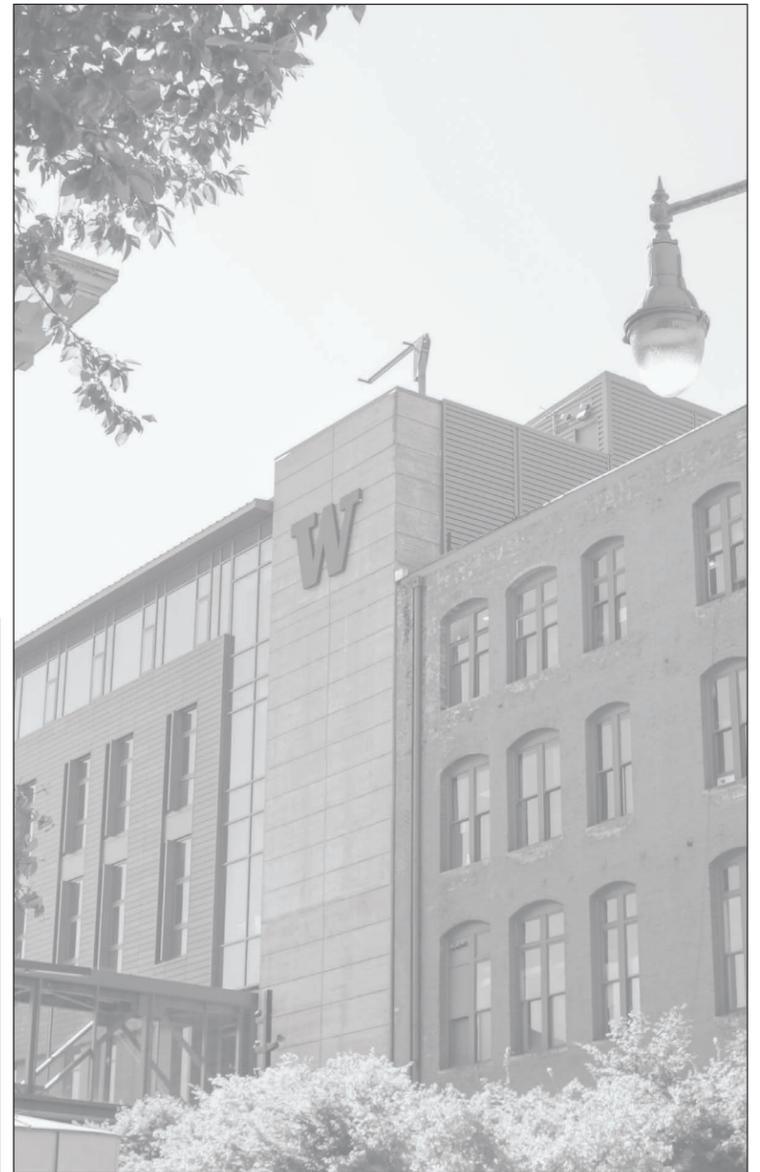
The ban on books has been heavily influenced and driven by conservative ideology. Many of

the books being banned promote LGBTQ+ representation, discussions about racism and homophobia in the U.S., and so much more. It's important to be having the discussions and representation to be able to build a world of diversity and acceptance.

Banning something based on one's personal ideologies is an issue that is very present in the U.S. Policies that govern our education and access to certain things should not be influenced by the beliefs of a few. When it's been normalized for this to occur in our education system and in our government, we no longer have democracy. We no longer have freedom.

Federal Bureau of Prisons. BOP Statistics: Inmate Race. (n.d.). Retrieved September 26, 2022, from https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics_inmate_race.jsp

Krug, N. (2021, April 6). 2020's most challenged books include 'The hate u give' and others about race. The Washington Post. Retrieved September 25, 2022, from https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/2021-most-challenged-books/2021/04/06/34f89260-96ed-11eb-b28d-bfa7bb5cb2a5_story.html



The UW Tacoma Library

PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE



UWT's Antiracist Library for Kids

PHOTO BY ALEXA CHRISTIE

“Don’t Worry Darling” deserves a chance

Despite the controversy surrounding the production, “Don’t Worry Darling” isn’t as bad as you might think

By **EMILIA BELL**
FILM CRITIC

“Don’t Worry Darling” follows Alice (Florence Pugh) and Jack (Harry Styles), a blissfully married couple in a seemingly perfect 1950s-era town called Victory. Victory is an experimental place with a mysterious leader named Frank (Chris Pine), who is working on a top secret project. However, Alice soon begins to notice strange and sinister occurrences.

As exciting as these moments were on-screen, those off-screen were involved in drama of their own.

Director Olivia Wilde has received a lot of backlash for lying about firing Shia LaBeouf because he made leading lady Florence Pugh uncomfortable. The truth came out when LaBeouf released proof that he quit, and Wilde had attempted to make him stay, despite Pugh’s feelings. It seems that Pugh did not want much to do with the press surrounding the film. She avoided press conferences and only attended the premiere at the Venice International Film Festival. There were claims that Pugh was frustrated with Wilde and Harry Styles’ relationship as it seemed to hinder filming, causing Pugh to have to step in and direct a lot of the film. It’s unclear how much is gossip and how much is true, but it seems that Pugh was underappreciated during filming, which feels ironic when paired with a film that boasted a strong female lead. Whether or not Wilde deserves the hate for her choices regarding the production and the drama with Pugh, the bad reviews seem unfair.

It appears some critics are allowing this to influence their opinions on the quality of the film.

Aside from the controversies, the choice to cast Harry Styles became a much discussed subject. Styles, a well-known pop star, was not the obvious option for a co-lead in a serious thriller/horror film, having only acted twice before in smaller roles.

Styles gives it his all, but opposite seasoned actors, it still comes off as unnatural. It’s not easy for viewers to take him seriously—not that he’s a bad actor per se, but rather that his pop star image is so ingrained that it seems quite obvious he’s acting no matter what he does.

Florence Pugh is good in any movie she does, and this is no different. While the film itself may come up short for some,

her acting certainly does not. Pugh is a likable and compelling protagonist and her captivating performance is strong enough to make audiences forget about the controversy and lose themselves in the movie. Chris Pine charms as a suave and uncanny antagonist while the supporting cast fill out their roles convincingly enough.

The costumes, sets and visuals are the best part of the film. The landscapes were striking and supported the plot well. However, the aesthetic is nothing new or original; the 1950s look paired with the psychological horror genre has been overdone already, and this film doesn’t do quite enough to set itself apart.

The score was primarily made up of chilling vocalizations which made it unique, but it felt heavy-handed at times.

Often, it felt as though the audience was being instructed how to react. The cheery perfect visuals paired with the unsettling score succeeded in creating a very unnerving experience to make up for it.

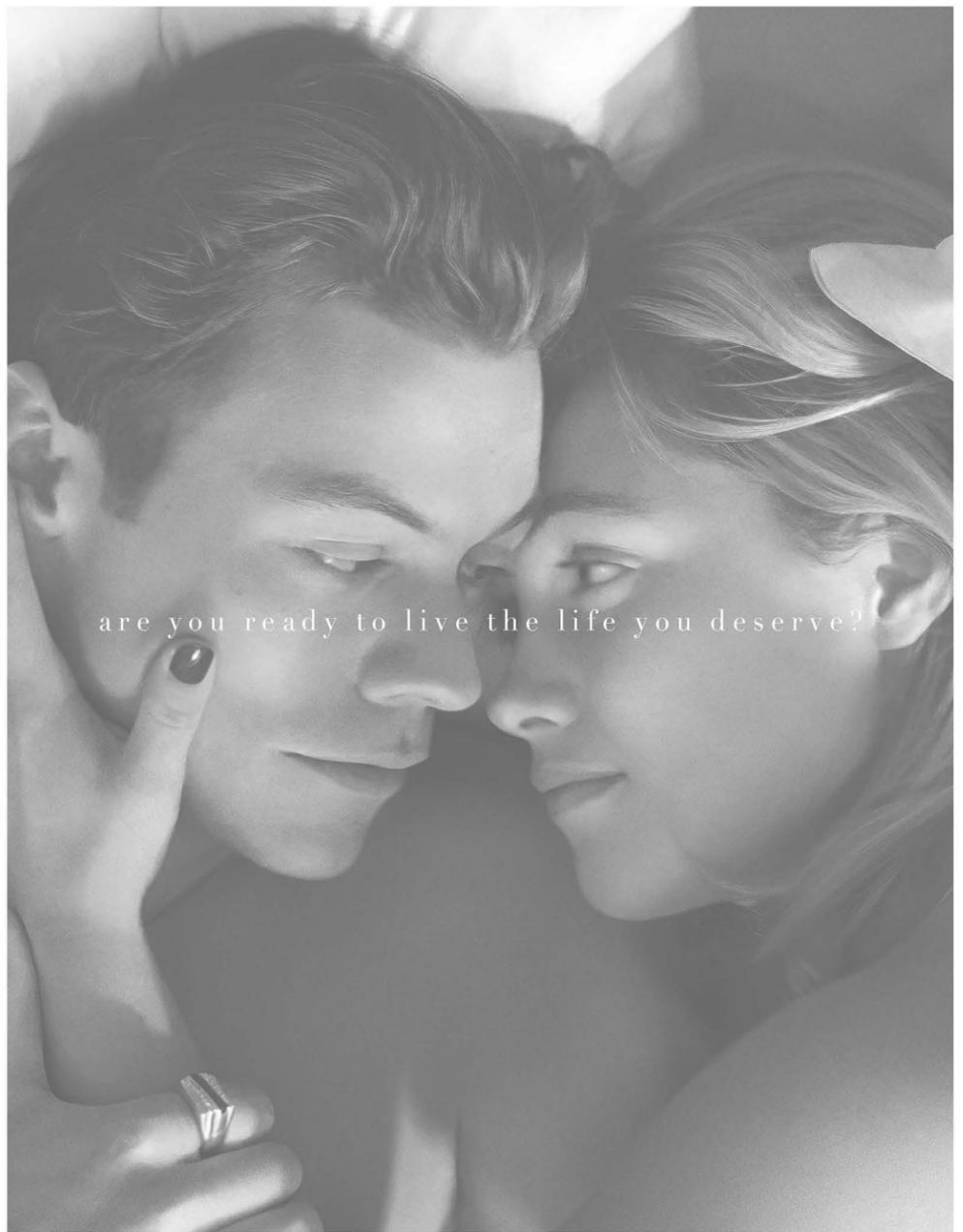
The film is definitely focused on making a statement about autonomy, consent and gaslighting from a woman’s perspective, but it doesn’t dive as deep as it could have. Additionally, it would have benefited by adding more shock value; some scenes fall flat as the film is meant to incorporate the horror genre.

The mystery that drives the plot is compelling throughout the first quarter of the film, with a strange plane crash and disturbing behaviors from Frank, but unfortunately it drags somewhat in the middle. The ending somewhat pulls itself together but ends up feeling shallow. While the ending felt satisfying, once it sits with you for a while you start to ask more questions. For Wilde’s first attempt at a thriller after her success with the comedy “Booksmart,” it’s a solid film. Those who enjoy the psychological thriller genre should like this as well. It is not a must-see, but if you are a fan of psychological and mysterious films or greatly enjoy Florence Pugh’s work, it is worth seeing in the theater.

3/5



FLORENCE PUGH HARRY STYLES OLIVIA WILDE GEMMA CHAN KIKI LAYNE NICK KROLL AND CHRIS PINE



Don't Worry Darling

only in theaters
SEPTEMBER 23

Dolby Cinema

NEW LINE CINEMA R PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SUGGESTED ONLY FOR SEVERELY SENSITIVE AUDIENCES STORY BY CAREY VAN DYKE & SHANE VAN DYKE AND KATIE SILBERMAN SCREENPLAY BY KATIE SILBERMAN DIRECTED BY OLIVIA WILDE WATERBURY WARNER BROS.

Theatrical release poster

PHOTO BY WARNER BROS. PICTURES



Promotional poster for *Don't Worry Darling*

PHOTO BY WARNER BROS. PICTURES

“Sad Girl Music” by Kito (feat. BANKS)

With experimental sounds that will help liven up your day, just in time for the rainy weather.

By **KIARRA BLAKELY-RUSSELL**
A&E EDITOR

A new tune called “Sad Girl Music,” was released on September 21 by producer Kito featuring BANKS, this being their second collaboration together. This piece is an upbeat dance song to say the least, and ironically also about heartbreak. However, this could be your next quick addition to your randomized autumn playlists.

It’s never a bad time to put out a good new dance record; especially one that is able to make you get up and move around your living room and dance like no one is looking. Now that summer has ended it’s certainly necessary to keep the energy going and to get you through this fall quarter.

Kito brings exactly that, with producers such as M-Phazes and Rory Noble on the track. The song has a slow buildup into harmonious rhythm and intense beats, all accompanied by BANKS’ voice in the mix. This song is about heartbreak; a story of infidelity and broken loyalty. The listener gets to hear BANKS singing to her partner about getting caught with another man.

Sampled humming and muffling sounds introduce the song in a distorted style. Now, with an isolated vocal the listener can hear the chorus “This be that sad

girl music I ain’t trying to see nobody I’m just dying, feeling sorry tonight,” BANKS sings, “I’ve been a bad girl/ My baby just saw me with somebody last night,” with the same sampled vocals of what appears to be BANKS humming throughout the song.

Post-chorus lets the listener feel the pity that BANKS feels for herself and how she doesn’t desire to lose the man she loves. She continues to wallow while listening to “Sad Girl Music” that feeds her soul. As the beat builds, trickles and drops after the lyrics “I ain’t tryna lose my baby tonight/ my baby tonight,” Her voice phases in and out; which could sound as if BANKS were trying to put the listener into a trance.

The first verse picks up the pace with “Everybody probably thinks my heart is froze/ melancholy vibes, that’s probably why,” sings BANKS. This could represent her brain scrambling from all the thoughts she’s having about her mistakes.

With sounds on synth strings and a violin playing, she continues, “Cause it’s really bad this time because I made my baby cry/ Now he’s over being mine,” sings BANKS, backed up by distorted vocals. As the song continues, it becomes apparent that the relationship is over; he shows no pity for her no matter how hard she wishes for some.



Sad Girl Music OUT NOW

PHOTO FROM @KITO ON INSTAGRAM

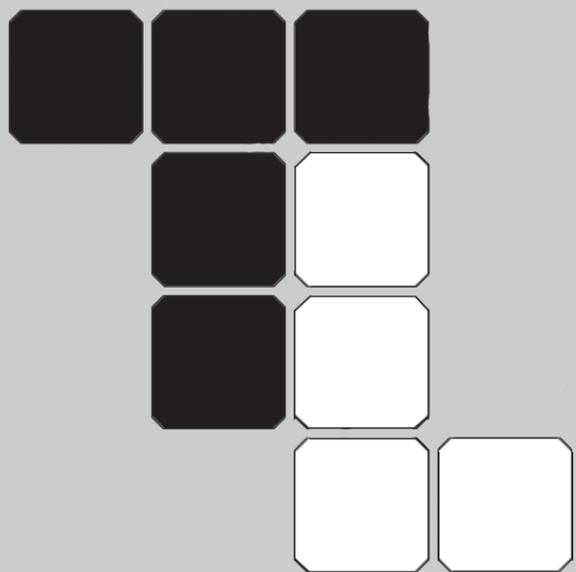
There are colorful ad-libs in the background, a signature in BANKS’ music, and a catchy beat. The bridge follows with, “Tears on my pillow/Drunk off this vino/ Heavy in my mind like kilos/ Sucker for a man with steelo,” sings Banks, “My weakness really got the best of me.”

It’s pretty clear that BANKS had a lot of creative freedom while collaborating on this song with Kito. Her essence carried throughout the song, her lyrical style told a story that was not drowned out by the fun and playfulness of the beats. So, although a listener can easily break down this

song, it’s best not to.

But if you’re willing to have “Sad Girl Music” playing on your way to your next class, then this song can be found on streaming platforms such as: Apple Music, iTunes, YouTube, Spotify, and SoundCloud.

The Ledger is **HIRING!**



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A cropped photo of the promotional tour photo for Elton John's farewell tour.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TACOMADOME.ORG

Elton John is performing at the Tacoma Dome!

Elton John's final tour, "Farewell Yellow Brick Road The Final Tour" has been going on for the past five years

By ANGELO ALEGRE
A&E COLUMNIST

As one of the most iconic music stars, Elton John is finally ending his music touring career by going on tour one last time. Ever since the late '60s when he started his career, he has released over 30 studio albums and has performed over 4,000 concerts worldwide. In his six decades of being a musician, he has amassed a great deal of fans as his music contains a variety of genres like pop, rock n' roll and the blues.

Although he is retiring from his touring days, Elton John still has plans for the future. While recently on Hits Radio, a collection of radio stations in the United Kingdom, Elton John has said that "I won't release anything next year, but who knows?" This gives his fans something to look forward

to as his retirement does not mean the end of his era.

His final tour titled "Farewell Yellow Brick Road The Final Tour" is coming to the Tacoma Dome on October 16 and 17. This tour began in 2018 and is still going on, but that is because the show was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Elton John's guitarist, Davey Johnstone, told ABC Audio that the band will be "tested every two days to make sure everybody on the tour stays safe." The original runtime of the final tour was supposed to be from 2018 to 2021, but due to delays, Elton John has postponed his retirement to 2023. Instead of stopping the tour outright, he has decided to continue the tour in order to give his fans one last chance to see his live performance.

The 19 songs Elton John

performs on this tour come from a variety of his albums, with multiple songs coming from his seventh studio album "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road," which is the main theme for his final tour. Some songs to look forward to are "Bennie and the Jets" from his seventh studio album and "I Guess That's Why They Call It the Blues" from his 17th studio album. In addition to the songs from the original setlist, there are a total of three encore songs that Elton John will perform, with the concluding song being "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road."

Going through the entire setlist, with the chance of having an encore or two, Elton John's performance will run for about three hours. If you are planning to go, act quickly as tickets are going fast and be prepared for a long concert.



PHOTO COURTESY OF INTERSCOPE

Cover art for the "Lockdown Sessions" album by Elton John



PHOTO BY ELTON JOHN

Cover of Elton John's Farewell album

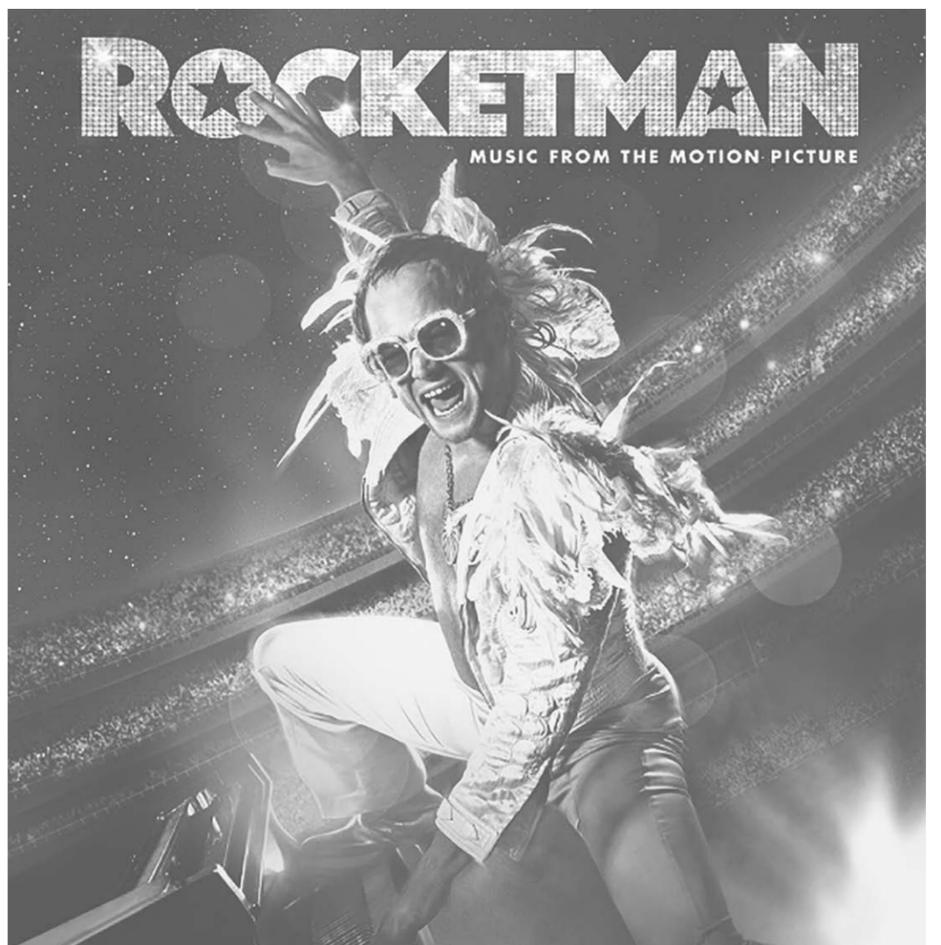


PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

A cover of the official soundtrack album for "Rocketman"