

# What we are STREAMING

With the Summer Solstice on the horizon and graduation season wrapping up, it's time to think about relaxing with a good audiobook, album or streaming TV show.

Let's get real: For most of us Oregonians, summer just means warm weather and less rain, not less work.

But that said, we really like the idea of relaxing — even if relaxing means driving to work listening to an audiobook about white nationalism. You know what they say, relaxation is in the eye of the beholder. From dancing to Billie Eilish and Charli XCX's new albums to rotting in bed with adult animated shows, here's what the folks of *Eugene Weekly* are streaming. Streaming something good? Write us a letter about it to [Letters@EugeneWeekly.com](mailto:Letters@EugeneWeekly.com). — *Camilla Mortensen*

## SPIRITED ALBUM

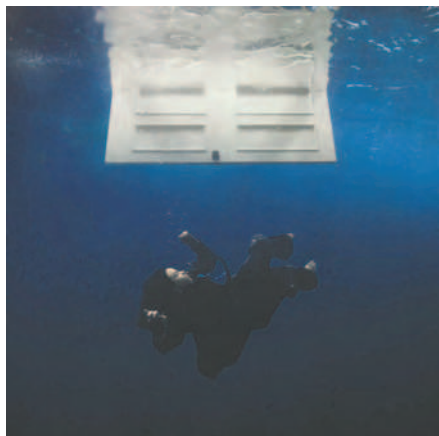
*Billie Eilish's new melodies hit just right*

After three years of silence, Billie Eilish has been feeding her fans well with her new album *Hit Me Hard and Soft*, released May 17. The album's track list quite literally hits you hard and soft with its somber melodies like "Skinny," "The Greatest" and "Blue" and upbeat songs like "Lunch," "L'amour De Ma Vie," and "Birds Of A Feather."

The album shows how far Eilish has come as an artist and a singer, as this is the first album that she has had a large hand in producing, and the first time she has ever fully belted (seriously, check out minute 2:44 of "Birds Of A Feather").

For the Studio Ghibli lovers, Eilish pays homage to the movie *Spirited Away* with her song "Chihiro." *Spirited Away* follows a young girl named Chihiro who has to move with her parents, and while making their way to their new house they inadvertently enter a world of spirits. Throughout her journey in this spirit world Chihiro matures from a fearful child to a strong heroine. Speaking to *Rolling Stone* in an exclusive interview, Eilish said: "The song is loosely based off of that movie, which is one of my favorites. It's kind of from her point of view, mixed with mine."

Chihiro's storyline falls in line with Eilish coming of age. Eilish has been in the music industry since she was 13, and at 22 she is aiming to reintroduce the matured version of herself to the world. This especially can be seen in her song "Lunch," which is an upbeat lesbian anthem that has aided in her coming out to the world. Just in time for the month of June, "Lunch" can be your new Pride month jam. This album is also the perfect soundtrack for those who are in their early 20s and graduating because it's a bittersweet moment that hits you both hard and soft. — *Emily Rogers*



## RAISED A RACIST

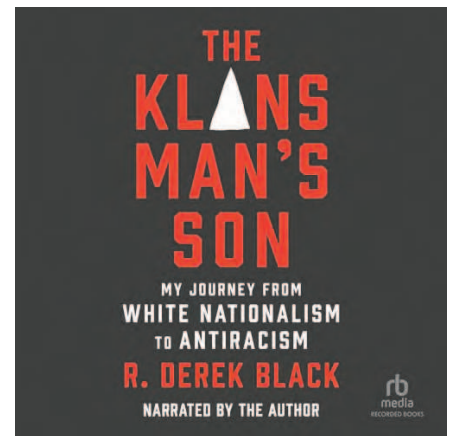
*A narrative of racism, and of redemption*

Some years ago, I read a *Washington Post* story about R. Derek Black's journey from white nationalist wunderkind to antiracist. I was intrigued because first, Black graduated from the same small liberal arts college I had gone to, and that school was key to their transformation and second, because Black and their father had founded and run the racist website, Stormfront, that I used to use as a teaching tool about the insidiousness of racism before it went under sometime in 2018. Black ran the kids page.

Derek Black — who came out as transgender after the book's publication — narrates the audiobook, which I am listening to on Audible, and the simple, almost stoic, narration doesn't over-dramatize the nature of what Black is saying about racism and how hate makes its way through society.

*The Klansman's Son: My Journey from White Nationalism to Antiracism* is as much a book about Black's life growing up groomed to be the heir to white nationalism as it is about how white supremacy takes root and grows and how the media has played into that — something as a journalist I care deeply about.

And that small liberal arts college Black and I went to, New College of Florida, which led Black to renounce and apologize for white nationalism in 2013? It is under attack — and being decimated — by the governor of Florida for being "woke" on issues of over race, gender and education. That, and Donald Trump's race for the presidency, makes Black's wisdom on how we as a society play into racism timely and their tale of redemption gives hope. — *Camilla Mortensen*



## TO STREAM OR NOT TO STREAM — MAKE UP YOUR MIND

*For the streaming curious, there's a maze of options*

It's the Wild West when it comes to streaming, and I confess that I'm a greenhorn at best in this endless tech wilderness.

True, I've always been slow on the uptake when it comes to grasping anything about technology. I'm not quite a technophobe, but I try to keep technology at arm's length.

It was a banner day when I got my first used laptop — a dozen or so years ago. Only three years ago I finally gave up my 3G flip phone, and that was because 3G was set to become obsolete, and I didn't want to be obsolete

quite yet, so I upgraded my phone.

Then there's Comcast, which I have subscribed to forever, yet it hasn't had much that interests me in years. Still, it was there, with all of its channels until early this year when I downgraded to basic cable.

Streaming sounds interesting, but where to begin?

*Forbes* magazine reports that there are more than 200 streaming services worldwide in 2024, many of them focused on special interests, be it culture or sports. There's Hulu, Apple TV, Max, Crackle and Fubo, to name just a few.

While the *Tech Report* notes that cable TV subscriptions were at 72 million at the end of 2023, *Forbes* says close to three dozen streaming services have at least 50 million subscribers, with Netflix leading the way at 247 million subscribers.

A recent study by Deloitte Media and Entertainment reveals that streamers today pay upward of \$61 per month for four services, up 27 percent from \$48 in 2023.

So be patient with me. I'm snail-slow on the uptake when it comes to even touching technology, and this is a jungle. — *Dan Buckwalter*