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03160677 EX-EAGLE DON HENLEY SOARS ON COMMON BOSTON GLOBE (BG) -  
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MEMO: MUSIC REVIEW

DON HENLEY - In concert with Katrina & the Waves on  
Boston Common last night.

TEXT: It took a while, but the leading lights of the '70s  
supergroup the Eagles have finally left their mark as solo artists.  
The dapper Glenn Frey scored this year with the hits "The Heat Is  
On" and "Smuggler's Blues," while the mercurial Don Henley has  
become a frequent guest in the Top Ten with songs from his latest  
album, the witty "Building the Perfect Beast."

Frey was just in town opening for Tina Turner at the Worcester  
Centrum, while Henley had the more prestigious gig last night on the  
Common, serving his laid-back California rock - spiced with  
some state-of-the-art electronics - to 8500 fans.

Another ex-Eagle, Joe Walsh, and another Eagle-related  
cousin, Dan Fogelberg, were backstage last night, but neither got up  
to play. They left the spotlight to Henley, who was making his  
Boston solo debut in cool but effective style.

The evening felt like a "Miami Vice" houseparty, as Henley's  
droll hipster tunes merged with tastefully chosen but  
still-persuasive oldies from the Eagles era.

Where Frey had done only one Eagles song at his show  
("Heartache Tonight"), Henley did four: the alluring "Witchy Woman,"  
the trend-setting "Life in the Fast Lane," the heartbreaking  
"Desperado" and the enduringly caustic "Hotel California," which  
came as a final encore and wove together Henley's past and present as  
a satirical social observer.

Katrina & the Waves, who have generated their own steam this  
summer with "Walking on Sunshine," left a very favorable  
impression as opening act. Their no-frills rock has a dated '60s  
tone, but their spirit infuses it with sincerity. The problem was,  
however, that they played a short, Live Aid-like set - at most only  
30 minutes. And they somehow managed to start 10 minutes before the  
planned 6 p.m. time, causing many fans to grumble as they missed some  
songs.

Henley's subsequent performance made up for the time jumps.  
Well-coiffed in newly teased hair and wearing a baggy, gray-striped  
suit, he spoke very little but let the music say it all.  
There was his swipe at a scandal-hungry media ("Dirty Laundry");  
his savage rap at the schizophrenia of the atomic age ("Them and  
Us"); his reflective over-30 diary song, "The Boys of Summer"; and  
his playful recent hit, "All She Wants to Do is Dance."

His band was another ace in the hole. It included two sneaky-fast guitarists, Kevin Dukes and John Coury; two orchestral synthesizer players, one of them Jai Winding, who was out with the Jacksons' Victory Tour last summer; and two slickly choreographed singers, Debra Dobkin and Mindy Sterling. Rarely are a solo artist and a new band so equally matched. MORSE ;08/08,20:55  
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