

BY GARY JOLSON-COLBURN

...like Eagle

Henley should soar at year's Grammys

decade with the '70s super-group
es, and nearly another decade of
olo, rock musician and environ-
activist Don Henley sits in the pole
for this week's Grammy race. Yet
e has the most major nominations
cluding Best Album for his latest,
nd of the Innocence," he's not en-
favor of the awards.

ally I don't believe there is any
ng as best singer or best song," he
m his Southern California hilltop
Attempting to discern what is best
ching as subjective as art and mu-
lubious task. However, I still think
Grammys are the most legitimate
music awards, because one is cho-
ne's peers."

y has won five Grammys to date,
h the Eagles and one for his solo
Back when the Eagles were togeth-
ays, "we considered ourselves to be
and too anti-establishment to par-
n the Grammys. Most young bands
ad-mouth any kind of award, even
they are dying to get one. As the
ve gone by, I've learned to look at
ings more good-naturedly. It's a
t, you know? It's a damn good ex-
a party. Besides, it makes my moth-
, and that's good enough for me."



Henley's four nominations follow a re-
cent trend to give the Grammy nod to so-
cially-conscious rockers. Judging by the
popular and critical acclaim Henley's solo
albums have received, his brand of social
commentary has struck the right chord.
"The End of Innocence," a current hit he
co-wrote with Bruce Hornsby, is a good
example. "One of the major themes on this
album," he says, "is that this is a world of
appearances, a world of media, of style
over substance and form over content. And
that can be a major mistake."

Brought up in east Texas, Henley found-
ed the Eagles with Glenn Frey in 1971.
After gaining superstar status with songs
like "Desperado," "Hotel California" and
"Life in the Fast Lane," they suffered an
acrimonious breakup in 1981. Since then,
Henley's done three albums, but it was his
first solo hit, 1982's "Dirty Laundry," that
established him as a popular social com-
mentator. That song sharply criticized lo-
cal TV journalism for exploitation and
vacuousness. Henley argues that things
haven't changed much since then.

"Nowadays I see a proliferation of these



The Eagles were "too cool and too anti-es-
tablishment" to attend the Grammys, says Henley
(above), but now "it makes my mother happy"

tabloid shows, sort of video versions of the
National Enquirer. Sometimes they're good,
sometimes they're trash. People seem to
have a great hunger for this sort of thing,
which is a rather sad state of affairs. What
worries me is that we're becoming a na-
tion of spectators, of voyeurs, rather than a
nation of individuals taking action."

When he's not on the road, Henley
spends most of his time taking action on
one front or another. "I'm involved in a
great many causes," he says. "That's what
I do all day, generally. I think I belong to
every major environmental organization in
the United States."

Which is barely an exaggeration. On the
Sunday he was interviewed, he spent his
time calling rocker John Cougar Mellen-
camp to discuss details of the upcoming
Farm Aid benefit and writing letters to a
dozen other rock stars to enlist their help in
his latest cause: to prevent magazine pub-
lisher Morton Zuckerman from building
an office park in Walden Woods, where

Henry David Thoreau wrote his
says on nature.

Besides the public controversi-
about, Henley has lived through
of personal ones—the well-publ-
bles breakup, a drug arrest 10
the New Year's Day party at his
Aspen, Colo., where Gary Hart
Rice met. But while he's often
living in the fast lane describ-
songs, Henley says, "My lifestyle
much exaggerated. I actually le-
tively sane existence."

Perhaps most important to his
fact that Henley is now talking
Eagles reunion. He has patched
ences with band cofounder Frey
to revive the songwriting team t
as the Lennon-McCartney of th
They may write two new songs
in a boxed set of the Eagles' gre
An Eagles tour is also not out of
tion. "There is an incredible dem-
to get back together," Henley say
ever I go and whoever I talk to, it
question on everybody's lips."

Why did he and Frey finally st-
ing a reunion? "I think men star-
up when we reach 40, so may
grown up a bit. Some of our d
seem rather petty in retrospect.
proven to myself that I can be a s
solo artist, so that's not someth
compelled to accomplish. And s
I get lonesome for the give-and
occurs in a group situation. I hate
loved it. When it was good, it was

"And to be brutally honest, the
of money to be made" [upwards
million in ticket sales, merchand
album sales from a tour]. Money
tor, but if I didn't think we coul
creative and productive and that
together could be fairly pleas
there is simply not enough mon
world to get us back together again