

Don Henley Bids Sad Farewell to Innocence

by Robb Frederick

Five years have passed since Don Henley last presented the music world with a sample of his artistic genius. During that hiatus, the 42-year-old ex-eagle has continued to age and mature, with obvious effect on his music. Throughout "The End of the Innocence," his latest release, Henley successfully transfers his emotional passions and peevish into appreciative ballads and eye-opening domestic commentaries.

"The End of the Innocence" touches upon an impressive array of issues ranging from greed, suicide and rebellion to corrupt evangelists and Elvis sightings. To adequately deal with these issues, Henley has recruited an all-star line-up of contributing musicians including Axl Rose, Edie Brickell, Patty Smyth and Bruce Hornsby.

Each artist donates their characteristic style to this release, but only Hornsby is allowed to steal the spotlight. From the opening piano chords of the title track, Hornsby's presence dominates Henley's vocals. Although the song succeeds in establishing the somber, mature sound that governs "The End of the Innocence," it would be equally appropriate if found on a Bruce Hornsby release.

On "I Will Not Go Quietly," a surprisingly tamed backing

vocal by Axl Rose and a searing solo by guitarist Danny Kortchmar drive Henley to his fiercest work in years. His lyrics are delivered with a raw intensity that signals his discontent, and listeners are left eager for more complaints.

The topic of greed repeatedly appears as a subject of Henley's frustration. The song "How Bad Do You Want It" illustrates a frightening level of desperation through the lines "You're leaving tongue marks on the carpet / And I know what you're looking at / You would walk on your lips

through busted glass / If you could get next to that." On "Gimme What You Got," Henley depicts a world of financial frustration and describes the immense gap between classes through the use of references to Donald Trump and "A nation of noses pressed up against the glass."

Henley returns to this model of Wall Street urgency during the song "New York Minute," which portrays the frustration of an investor who eventually commits suicide, leaving behind a family which lacks any faith in the future.

Perhaps the finest track on "The End of the Innocence" is "If Dirt Were Dollars," a biting assault on everything from Jesus freaks to Elvis sightings ("I was flyin' back from Lubbock / I saw

Jesus on the plane / Or maybe it was Elvis / You know, they kinda look the same") to Fawn Hall ("She should've had the Oscar / She must have been miscast / Her fifteen minutes went by so fast.") Through his unrestricted attacks, Henley recaptures the hard-hitting spirit that molded his previous hit "Dirty Laundry" into a successful single.

Although this release focuses around subjects that irk Henley, enough positive material is present to stop "The Innocence" from becoming a depressing work along the lines of Lou Reed's "New York." This positive spirit can be seen on "The Last Wothless Evening," a moving ballad about the prospect of rekindling a past relationship, and "The Heart of the Matter," which celebrates the human capacity for forgiveness. This track, which closes "The End of the Innocence," encourages listeners to maintain hope regardless of the present circumstances.

This release may have been long in the making, but at least Henley used the time to create a work of this respectable caliber.

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Summer Sequels Snub Original Film Releases

by Michael Gettleman
Collegian Staff Writer

The summer movie season has finally passed. With big bucks at stake, Hollywood decided to go with the ever-popular sequel in an attempt to capture the American audience.

The summer started with Harrison Ford's return to the screen in the role of Dr. Indiana Jones. This action-packed thriller also starred Sean Connery as Dr. Daddy Jones, Indiana's father.

The two set off in pursuit of the Holy Grail. The relationship between these two added an interesting yet comical twist to the thrills which lurked around every corner. The Jones boys went up against old rivals, the Nazis.

"The Last Crusade" satisfied the young adventurer existing within most of us, but as it was with the second Indy outing, this wasn't as good as the original.

The original cast of "Ghostbusters" returned to try and recapture that old black magic. Well, they missed. I know that their first effort set very high standards by being largest grossing comedy in movie history, but this one lacked a lot of the wit which made the first installment as successful as it was.

Besides, not even the Stay Puffed Marshmallow Man could make me believe that the lovely Sigourney Weaver could possibly fall for the likes of Bill Murray. Still, seeing Rick Moranis get horny and then try to be brave did provide a good bit of comic relief, as did the idea of slime flowing freely beneath the city of New York as a result of un-nice feelings.

I didn't even pay to see this movie, and I still didn't enjoy it. It's a shame because Bill, Dan and the rest of the guys would usually crack me up, but not this time.

Our old friend Freddy took some time off from his TV show to make yet another film in his "Nightmare on Elm Street" series. This time, he took Jason to Manhattan where they took over.

No wait, they invaded the dreams of Ed Koch and bought the Yankees from George Steinbrenner.

No wait, that would be a good dream. I'm sorry folks, I didn't see either film and from what I understand, I didn't miss too much. Then again, if you've invested in the previous eleven films that these two stars have between them, then you must go

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