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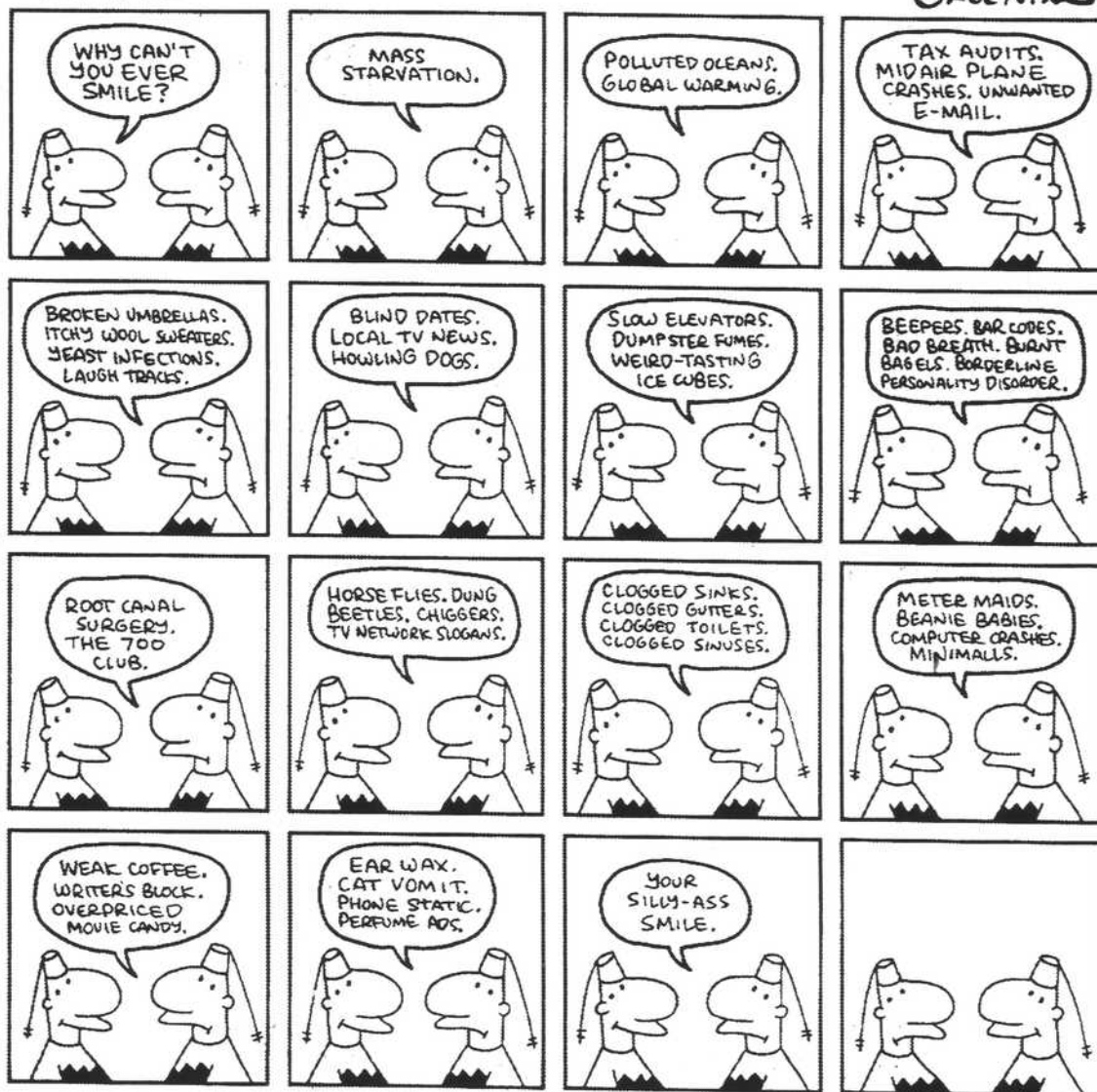
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LIFE IN HELL



'Smoke' sizzles despite fillers

Sublime
"Second-Hand Smoke"
Gasoline Alley/MCA
Grade: B+

Music

To the dismay of fans for decades, tragic deaths have been an intricate part of the rock music. Few stories, though, are as tragic as Sublime's. The band — with only one decent hit in "Date Rape" at the time of frontman Brad Nowell's death May 25, 1996 — wasn't much of a force in the music scene despite a decent following of hard-core fans.

Sublime, however, broke through with its self-titled release in July 1996, and since has dominated the charts with an allegiance of new fans, despite the band's inability to tour. Four singles — "What I Got," "Santeria," "Wrong Way," and "Doin' Time" —

have since earned extensive airplay, as they feature Sublime's unique blend of punk, ska, hip-hop, rock and reggae.

Sublime's latest release, "Second-Hand Smoke," due out Tuesday, features songs that span most of the band's career, from 1988 to 1996. Included are the early demos "Don't Push," "April 29, 1992" and "Garbage Grove." National Organization for Women supporters will be pleased to hear the ska track "Superstar Punani" and "Chick On My Tip," the English version of 1992's "40 Oz. To Freedom" track "Chica Me Tipo."

"Romeo," one of the first Sublime songs ever recorded, was featured on the

"Misfits of Ska" compilation. "New Realization" is one of the trio's best songs ever, featuring Nowell on acoustic guitar singing about changes in his perception of a romantic relationship.

Many of the old songs are the highlights, but the band also offers some new mixes to its classics. The album opens with "Get Out (Remix)," a new version of the track featured on the early pressings of "40 Oz. To Freedom." However, after some legal troubles with samples used, the song was taken off the album. Now, instead of the Jackson 5 interlude, there are some new mixes and scratches added.

The major problem with this record, though, is that it has more fillers than a Sugar Ray album. For example, "Badfish" and "Saw Red" are the same album versions from "40 Oz. To Freedom" and 1994's "Robbin' The Hood." Also, we really don't need two versions of "Doin' Time," with these two tracks encompassing over nine minutes of space that would have done such oldies as "Roots of Creation" and "Ain't No Prophet" more justice.

— Patrick Miner

Grisham's 'Rainmaker' is trite treat

REVIEW from page 9

cash, plays Bruiser Stone, who hires Baylor for a brief period of time. His dialogue was inaudible for the most part. With his usual eloquence, Danny Glover plays Judge Tyrone Kipler. Two stars of bad sci-fi shows, Roy Scheider ("SeaQuest DSV") and Dean Cain ("Quantum Leap"), also give brief, forgettable performances.

With no particularly riveting or memorable scene, "The Rainmaker" comes dangerously close to looking like a made-for-cable movie. Coppola's best works ("The Godfather" trilogy and "Apocalypse Now") evoked dozens of lasting images for the viewer. And though "The Rainmaker" is often an entertaining film, an episode of "Law and Order" has a better chance of staying in your memory the day after watching it.

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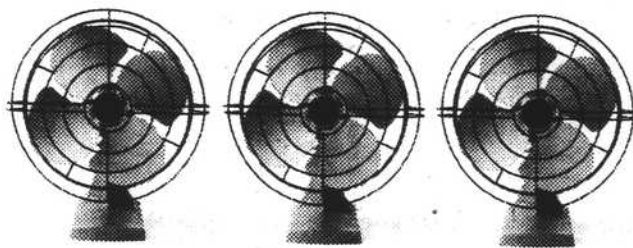


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