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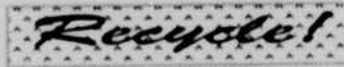
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PREDATOR

Continued from Page 5

is a sample from an interview with Cube in which he is asked about the riots. His response is that if anyone (particularly whites) had listened to his earlier songs, they would have heard how "I've given so many warnings on what's gonna happen if we don't get these things straight in our lives — the flashes that Armageddon is near."

Another line from "We had to Tear This — Up" may not be as prophetic, but it still carries a clear message of how many people felt following the verdict.

"Go to Simi Valley and surely somebody knows the address of the jury/ Pay a little visit/ Who is it?/ Can I talk to the Grand Wizard/ Then Boom!/ Make 'em eat the barrel," he says.

The thing to remember about Ice Cube is that though he can be deadly serious in his music, he can also be sarcastic. Nonetheless, it is almost always based on what he views as the problems in society — particu-

larly relations and crime.

Which is why "It was a Good Day" is *Predator's* most pleasant surprise. As the cliché goes, there's always a first time, and this song can actually be called a "nice" song (at least by Ice Cube's standards).

Listening to it, one can almost imagine Cube kicking back in a rocking chair with a piece of wheat sticking out of his mouth. In "Good Day," Ice Cube is in disbelief that with the problems the world has today, there seems to be nothing wrong on this day.

"Today was like one of those fly dreams. ... Today I didn't even have to use my AK/ I have to say it was a good day," he says. "Today seems kind of odd/ No barkin' from the dog/ No smog."

With *Predator*, Ice Cube — if he didn't do it before — has firmly established himself as a voice as important to rap as Public Enemy and Ice-T. And to those who enjoy Cube for his patented songs about sex and drive-by shootings, there are still a few of those on here, too.

MUDHONEY

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Although the term "alternative" has been applied to Mudhoney's music and other bands like them, Arm said that he doesn't like to be labeled in that way.

"Who wants to be called alternative?" Arm asked. "That's like wanting to be called insane."

Arm's point seemed to be that his band defies categories

and that labels destroy a band's integrity. He also said that the whole concept of the "Seattle scene" is "a bunch of hocus. No matter what city you go to there is a different style of music."

Mudhoney's future plans include a tour in Australia and a "quintuple live album." Arm said that during their current tour they are "trying to stay as far away as possible from Florida."

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