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WRITER'S BLOCK

Fast Movers
John Sherwood
Published by Free Press

Members of the Corps of Cadets unite. This book is sure to be a hit among military buffs due to its descriptions of combat scenes and reverence for the men who fought in the Vietnam War.

Fast Movers is a historical account of the air war over Vietnam from the point of view of American pilots who fought it. While the book is a useful historical tool as it takes the reader inside the minds of the men who flew combat missions in the war, it is also absurdly testosterone-charged.

Unfortunately, the book details the lives of only the most decorated pilots and leaders. While this will likely stir the patriotic blood of any Michigan militiaman, it leaves a

large part of the story untold. The stories of men who left their wives and families and endured countless hardships so they could feel the "rush" of battle one more time are fit for a John Woo movie, but they lack realism. This book concentrates on the brilliant exploits of the pilots flying the missions every day, but after reading the book, a reader might be left with the impression that the United States won the war.

Still, there are poignant moments in the book, and interviews with former pilots lend the book an insider's point of view. One portion of the book in particular brings home the reality of the life of a combat pilot when a former pilot describes leaving his friend, who had been shot down, behind to die in a Vietnamese prison camp. His descriptions of how this event haunted him for the next 25 years are moving, indeed.

For anyone who is devoted to military history, this is a must, but it is passable entertainment at best.

(Grade: C+)

— Jason Berry



Thus Spoke Zarathustra
Friedrich Nietzsche
Published by Modern Library

Thus Spoke Zarathustra is one of the most influential books ever written. It is also one of the most difficult to read.

This book is known mostly because it was the work in which Nietzsche first posed the idea of the Overman — a new human being who is intelligent enough and powerful enough to move beyond such restrictions as religion and morality. In this book, Nietzsche uses Zarathustra, who has been called an autobiographical character, as the herald of the coming of the Overman.

The book follows Zarathustra on his quest to educate people about the Overman.

In Nietzsche's theory, man is a link between the and the Overman. However, man must consciously come Overman, which is what Zarathustra spends the book convincing people to do.

Much of the book is written parallel to the story of the Bible, which is a brilliant innovation, but like the Bible, it takes dedication to read and comprehend. Many people may find Nietzsche's views of religion and morality deplorable, but there is no denying that much can be learned from his discourses on those subjects. (Grade: B+)

— Jason Berry

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| A = Literary classic | D = Don't buy it |
| B = A cut above | F = Waste of paper |
| C = Passable reading | |

CHARLEY'S

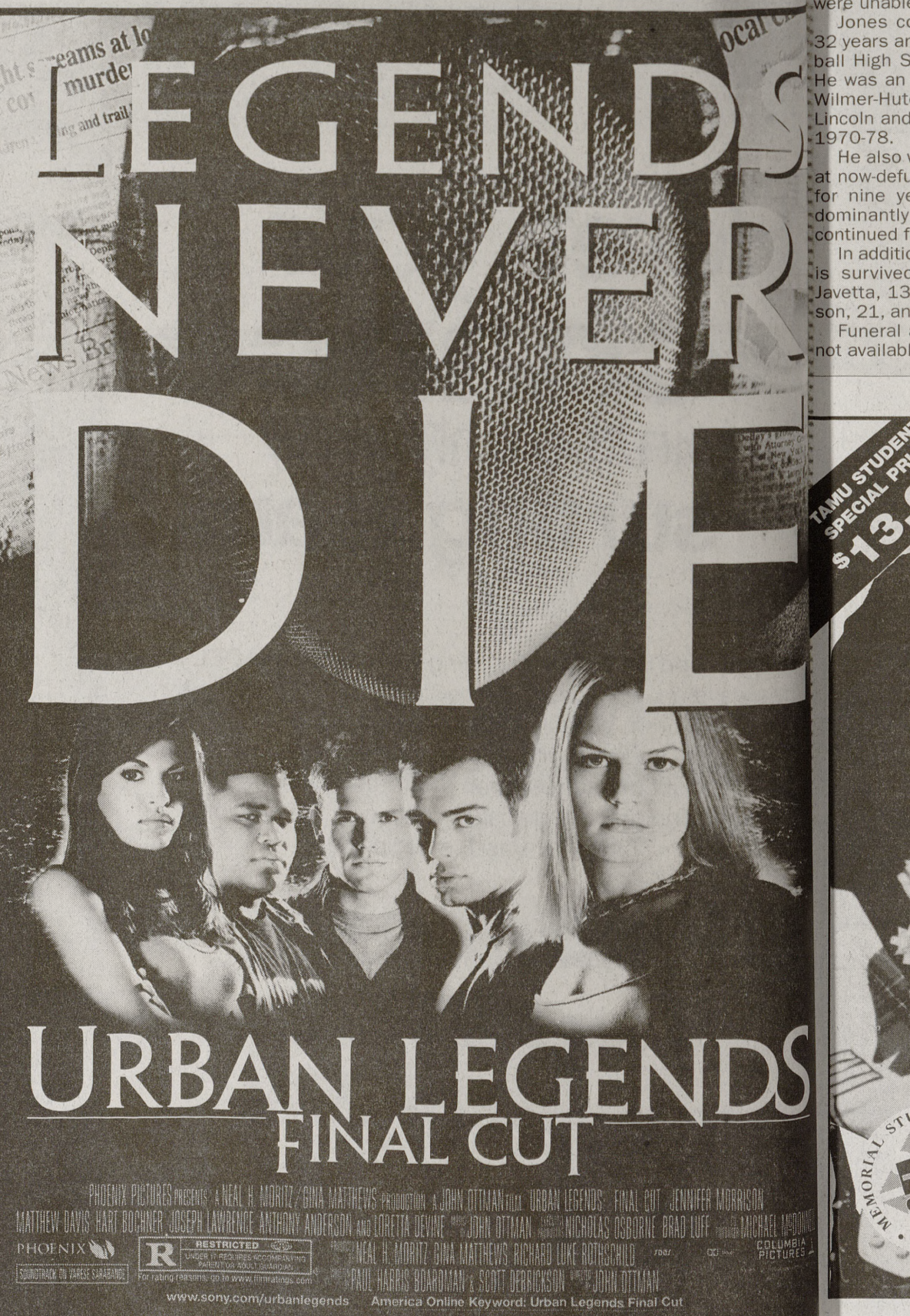
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