



Christmas in the Civil War

Critic: Sadie McMurrin or you may call her Skippy McPearl

This movie takes place during a year of the Civil War. During this time, many families in the South were having crises. These included, men in the family dying, being attacked by the Yankees, and having to give up their homes, livestock and food.

Most of the shots that are taken in the movie, are of Southern families. That is not to say that the Northerners weren't important.

There are also some interesting facts in this movie. One is that the modern Santa Claus was created during a Christmas of the Civil War. Thomas Nast was the official creator of the Santa Claus that Christians know and love today. As said, our Santa Claus wasn't created by Coca-Cola. In the movie, there are many sad and romantic things that happen, so if you're watching this movie, make sure you have a box of Kleenex in your hand! Even though you may think that watching a movie about the Civil War and Christmas is boring, it is not just that. This movie is not only about these two topics, but it's also about the sacrifices that the Northerners and Southerners alike had to make to live. For example, since the father was away fighting for his side's rights, the mother had to do the hunting. That meant walking through the freezing, wet snow, with only a dress and a petticoat, and chapped hands. This also meant that the children had to take care of themselves, and sometimes they didn't even get to eat meals. But, even though this must have been hard enough, there was more. The worst thing that could happen to a family, was a death. Actually, this was a lie, that is not the very worst thing that could happen, there is something that nothing can top. What this thing is, is stolen farm animals, burned down houses and barns, and much more.

Even though these horrible things happened, there was still a bright side, for us anyway. We won the war, and, even though we are still fighting for part of our freedom, that was a huge step. But, as all bright things have a dark side, this one does, too. The Southerners obviously lost the war big time, and their land was torn apart. This is because we

fought more in their territory. This movie is good for anyone who lives in the South or the North. They can learn much about their history.



Snail Mail No More

By Paula Danziger & Ann M. Martin

Critic: Allison Tilles

Snail Mail No More is the sequel to *P.S. Longer Letter Later*. It is a very good book. The people switch from letters to email and they face more issues - some a little bigger

than before, such as a new baby and an alcoholic father. You will discover all the rest of the issues when you read the book. It is a good book for girls ages 10 -13.



Fooly Cooly (FLCL/Furi Curi)

Critic: -L-

Fooly Cooly is probably the best anime show that you'll ever see in your life. It's funny, extremely entertaining, and best of all, it's anime! Plus, you don't have to enjoy anime to love it. *Fooly Cooly* is about a boy named Takum whose brother is a famous baseball player in America. His brother's old girlfriend hangs out with Takum a lot and likes to skip school. Takum secretly has a crush on her though. As Takum says himself, nothing ever amazing happens in their small little town, at least, not until the strange Vespa woman appears and leaves her mark on Takum. As soon as she comes, Takum starts growing strange horns and robots start appearing out of nowhere. Luckily the Vespa woman, who just happens to be Takum's new nanny, comes to stop the robots. Well, that's what Takum thinks that she's here for. The only advice I can give you, is to watch *Fooly Cooly*. It is on DVD right now, and is also on Adult Swim at 2:00 am. Anime has never been so good.

