

*Girls Feminine Adolescence in Popular Culture and Cultural Theory*, by Catherine Driscoll, New York, Colombia University Press, 2002, pp 377, pb, ISBN 0 231 11913 5

This book discusses shifting 20<sup>th</sup> century notions of what it means to be a girl with a focus on how popular culture has depicted "girlhood" and female adolescents. To emphasise her contention that these terms are cultural constructs, Driscoll uses the term "feminine adolescence" to free her arguments from any age specific category. Feminine adolescents are not necessarily teenagers or exclusively young women: rather they are defined as being in transition or in a process relative to the dominant ideas of Womanhood. Utilising a mixture of history and cultural studies methodology, this book traces the emergence and evolution of public discourses on "girlhood" and "feminie adolescence" as markers of cultural identity. Covering a diverse range of issues including the ideal girl in the Victorian era, dealing with problem adolescents in the 1920s, puberty, body image, sex education, becoming a woman, representations of girls in popular culture and girls as consumers, this book will be of interest to those interested in the history of childhood, and gender and cultural studies.

*Manning the Next Millennium Studies in Masculinities*, by Sharyn Pearce & Vivienne Muller (eds.), Bently, WA, Black Swan Press, 2002, pp xiv + 288, ISBN 1 74067 144 9

This book comprises a selection of refereed articles from a conference on masculinity and gender held on Queensland's Gold Coast in December 2000. The title "Manning the Next Millennium" was designed to attract a variety of contexts across all academic disciplines, and this anthology includes contributions from cultural studies, history, education, health management and gender studies. Articles range in scope from the role of the codpiece as a site of erotic display, to the management of prostate cancer, to gender dynamics in Australian Surf Life Saving culture, to the inter-generational transmission of domestic violence and the behaviour of boys