

# People Magazine

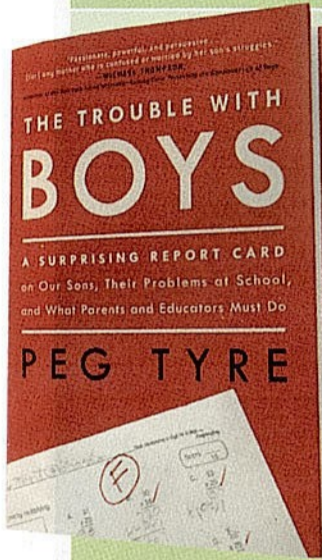
September 22, 2008

## THE ROUGH ROAD TO MANHOOD

● Little boys are struggling with one-fits-all rules in school; big guys waste years making up their own. Two new books address the perils of growing up male and offer help. —BETH PERRY



Part of letting boys be boys, says author Peg Tyre, is just saying yes to *Captain Underpants*.



From preschool on, says journalist Peg Tyre, boys lag behind girls in reading and writing.

At age 9 girls average five points higher on the U.S. reading test. By 17 the gap nearly triples.

Many schools have little tolerance for boys' natural activity levels and learning styles.

Nix the "personal narratives" for boys in writing class—let them write action instead.

### THE PROBLEM

### MOST WORRYING TIDBIT

### WHY IT'S HAPPENING

### TIPS FOR CHANGE

Until about age 26, says sociologist Michael Kimmel, "guys don't want to grow up."

College grads are binge-drinking, living with their parents and engaging in "serial jobogamy."

Parents are "the most involved in history," says Kimmel, so sons don't learn self-reliance.

Parents can "help create a life plan that enables sons to exit 'Guyland,'" says Kimmel.

