



Gay 2006

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LIKE A BIG PILE of gifts under the tree, there is so much to unwrap and examine during the final month of this difficult year. Where to begin?

- Well, congratulations to Mary Cheney and her partner of 15 years, Heather Poe. They are expecting a baby next spring. I disliked the way Cheney rejected overtures to join the gay-rights movement, but the way the right-wing extremists have excoriated her is a disgrace. As Victor Laszlo told Rick Blaine, "Welcome back to the fight. This time, I know our side will win."
- Congratulations, too, to all of the new couples in my home state of New Jersey (where Cheney and Poe are more than welcome to live). The legislature took the easy way out, avoided the term marriage, and gave same-sex couples the separate-but-equal status of "civil union partners." That's CUP for short.
- **Meanwhile, about 42 percent of the homeless or runaway youths in the U.S. are lesbian, gay or transgender, according to a new report, "An Epidemic of Homelessness." That's probably half a million kids. Shameful. See the full report at www.nglhf.org, the site of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Then do something about it.**
- Colorado now has as many disgraced gay evangelical pastors as it does Super Bowl champions — two. Did you notice that Ted Haggard, the first one, 'fessed up about illicit drugs before gay sex?
- Speaking of gays and religion, will someone please get me off the Exodus mailing list?
- We made it all the way until December for an NFL player to make a jackass of himself. Steelers linebacker Joey Porter questioned the sexual orientation of Cleveland's Kellen Winslow after a late hit. "That's what bleeps do," Porter whined. "He's soft. He wants to be tough, but he's really soft." Thank God, women's basketball is in season.
- On the science front, I'm sure you've heard that soy, which is jam-packed with estrogen, turns kids gay. I'm no scientist, but apparently girly estrogen interferes with manly testosterone and makes boys homosexual. Left unanswered: how lesbians become gay. Oh, and tofu never passed my lips until I was well into my 30s, long after I came out.
- My new year's resolution is to go beyond this monthly column and get into the blogosphere here at the Daily News. Ideas for a name are welcome, send an e-mail. In the meantime, enjoy the holidays, and I'll see you in the New Year. *