

## Rebecca Rants on "Dancing with the Stars"

Rebecca Brodney, Staff Writer



photo via fempop.com

ABC's "Dancing With the Stars" is a guilty Monday night pleasure for many Americans. The premise of the show is that a celebrity is paired up with a professional dancer. They compete against other teams each week, learning new dance steps and choreography to receive points from the judges and votes from viewers. This process continues for weeks until the winning team is chosen. In the past, the show has featured actors, actresses, Playmates, boxers, figure skaters, football players, bachelorettes, gymnasts, and models. These contestants not only come from all walks of life but also come in a variety of shapes and sizes, and all are accepted on the show. This year, however, a controversial contestant is causing some viewers to boycott the show entirely.

The show has had controversial contestants in the past, including a celebrity with a sex tape (Kim Kardashian); a recovering drug addict (Kelly Osborne); a teenager who had a child out of wedlock (Bristol Palin); and even a woman with awful hair who profits from her children while neglecting them (Kate Gosselin). So is a transsexual's presence on the show really that offensive?

This season, Chaz Bono will be competing on the show. He is a divisive contestant because, in 1969, he was born to Cher and Sonny Bono as Chastity Sun Bono. Growing up, Chastity Bono did not feel connected to peers. He stated in a recent Radar Online interview entitled "From Chastity to Chaz - Bono's Transformation Through the Years": "I'd look at other girls

my age and feel perplexed by their obvious interest in the latest fashion, which boy in class was the cutest, and who looked most like cover girl Christie Brinkley. When I was thirteen, I finally found a name for how exactly I was different. I realized I was gay." In 2008, Bono began the process of gender re-assignment. By 2010, he was officially recognized as a man by the State of California and switched from Chastity to Chaz.

Chaz is currently competing on "Dancing with the Stars," much to the chagrin of many conservative parents, as well as Dr. Keith Ablow. In his September 2 Fox News article, "Don't Let Your Kids Watch Chaz Bono On 'Dancing With the Stars'," Ablow argues that some children, particularly tomboyish girls and sensitive boys will be confused by seeing Bono on the show. He believes that children shouldn't witness a massive crowd applauding for "someone whose search for an identity culminated with the removal of her breasts, the injection of steroids, and perhaps, one day soon, the fashioning of a make-shift phallus to replace her vagina."

I believe that if anything, Chaz's appearance is a demonstration of courage and self-confidence, not one that will make any adolescent female who hates menstrual cramps decide that she needs a sex-change operation. And gender dysmorphia, the feeling of being born into the wrong body, is a common condition.

Tune into the show on September 19 at 8 pm. I'll be rooting for Chaz!

## Chocolate Chip Pumpkin Bread

Submitted by Becca Davis

### Ingredients:

- \* 3 cups all-purpose flour
- \* 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- \* 1 teaspoon salt
- \* 1 teaspoon baking soda
- \* 4 eggs
- \* 2 cups sugar
- \* 2 cups canned pumpkin
- \* 1-1/2 cups canola oil
- \* 1-1/2 cups (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips

### Directions:

\* In a large bowl, combine the flour, cinnamon, salt and baking soda. In another bowl, beat the eggs, sugar, pumpkin and oil. Stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in chocolate chips.

\* Pour into two greased 8-in. x 4-in. loaf pans. Bake at 350° for 60-70 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks.

### Yield:

2 loaves (16 slices each)



image via tasteofhome.com

## Advertise Here!

**contact:**

[herald@email.meredith.edu](mailto:herald@email.meredith.edu)