



## Pregnant Man Brings Out Best in Oprah, Worst in Others

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Thomas Beatie, a 34-year-old transman, has caused quite an international stir by going public with the fact that he is having a baby. While his story, about transitioning from woman to man without giving up his female reproductive organs from when he was Tracy, was handled sensitively on Oprah Winfrey's TV show, other commentators have abandoned all pretense of objectivity in reporting the story.

Joe Scarborough, on his MSNBC morning show, said when the story was brought up, "I'm not going to look at this. Tell me when it's over. I'm not looking. We don't want the facts. I can't handle the facts."

NBC reporter Mika Brzezinski, on the same show, said, "I don't want to know the deal. I don't want to hear. I'm gonna be sick. I'm gonna be sick," calling the story "frankly disgusting." She also asked, "Are the McGreeveys involved in any way?"

David Letterman referred to Beatie as "an androgynous freak" to general hilarity on his "Late Night" show.

**Matt Foreman, outgoing executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, issued a statement saying, "The mainstream media and blogosphere reaction is unwarranted and appallingly prurient. The real story is that a family seeking to have children has been terribly mistreated by the media and, it appears, by the medical profession. All families deserve care and respect, period."**

Beatie is legally a man in Oregon and is married to Nancy Beatie, a marriage some right-wing groups are trying to challenge under the Defense of Marriage Act.

Beatie experienced rejection of family and some medical professionals over the pregnancy, which resulted from alternative insemination after he stopped hormone treatments for several months. His doctor, Kimberly James, told Oprah, "This is a normal pregnancy." Beatie lost a previous child he was carrying due to a tubal pregnancy.