



*The North Texas*

Skeptic

Volume 16

December 2002

Number 12

<http://www.ntskeptics.org>

## The Breatharians

by John Blanton

**F**inished with Thanksgiving dinner? Good. Now take a deep breath.

That's all.

If you are a Breatharian you know you could have skipped the dinner and gotten by on the deep breath. You know eating and drinking is a cultural addiction passed down from generation to generation. Your parents got you hooked on food and drink early on by force feeding you until you have no choice but to continue this absurd ritual just to keep the rotting foodstuffs moving on through your body.

American Wiley Brooks seems to be leading the Breatharian cult in this country, but the idea of forsaking food and drink for life and health is not a new one. A search of the Internet turned up several notable instances of the practice:<sup>1</sup>

- Judah Mehler, Grand Rabbi, 1660-1751, ate and drank sparingly one day a week (Ripley's Believe It or Not).
- In the 19th century Marie Frutner, a Bavarian girl, lived on water without food for 40 years (Hilton Hotema of Health Research).
- Teresa Avila, a Bavarian peasant, born 1898, took no food or water and did not sleep since 1926 (described by "Aberee 1960").
- Caribala Dassi lived for 40 years without taking any food or water (India's Message, 1932).
- Yand Mel, age 20, did not eat for nine years (Dr. T.Y. Gan, according to Jones H. B. et al, Am. J. Cancer, 40:243-50, 1940).
- Therese Neumann, a German nun, who passed away in 1952, did not eat for 40 years, no food, no water.
- Danalak Shumi of Marcara, India, age 18, for over one year took no food or water (the *Bombay Press* August 1953).

### EVENTS CALENDAR

#### NTS Holiday Party / The Weakest Skeptic

December 14, 2002

2:00pm - ???

Center for Non Profit Management  
2900 Live Oak Street in Dallas

Bring some good holiday food and drinks if you like. If you want to participate in the "**Secret Skeptic**" program, bring a wrapped gift of interest to skeptics (no gifts from previous years, please).

Also, *The Weakest Skeptic* is coming back! If you want a chance to play in our very own game show, just show up at the party and register. It's easy, and it's free! But beware - Anne Robinson may be gone, but *Weakest Skeptic* host Laura Ainsworth is not! Hell, no! And she's not about to let up on the skeptical trivia or the social Darwinism just because it's the holidays...

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