

Solar Eclipse Told Through Animal Myths



FLICKR: WAIFERX

This dog's owner put solar eclipse glasses on him for safety

By **Jasmine Streeter, DVM**
Special to *The Skanner*
News

In less than 30 days – Aug. 21 to be exact – many of you will witness a once in a lifetime opportunity: the total solar eclipse. The last solar eclipse visible in Oregon occurred in 1979, and the next is expected to occur in 2169.

According to NASA, a solar eclipse occurs when the moon lines up directly between the sun and the earth. This eclipse of the sun causes the moon to cast a shadow onto the earth. The Greek root of the word eclipse is “ekleipsis,” meaning “failing to appear.” To explain the sun’s disappearance, many cultures have

“The Vikings spoke of a Sky Wolf named Skoll capturing the sun for a golden meal

passed stories of this cosmic wonder from generation to generation. My focus for this month is on eclipse mythology that portrays animals at the heart of the story.

Since the beginning of time, animals have played an integral part in our lives. They have woven themselves into stories, both real and mythical, as gods, demons, friends, heroes and guides. Many ancient people described the solar eclipse through animals. Korean eclipse mythology spoke of Fire Dogs tasked with stealing the sun or moon for an unhappy king. They never succeeded, but as they bit down on the glorious orbs, an eclipse occurred.

Swallowing of the sun by demons or gods in the form of various animals was also popular in eclipse mythology. Egyptian mythology speaks of Apep, an ancient spirit of evil and destruction, who appears in the form of a giant serpent inhabiting the Nile River. Apep attempted time and time



Dr. Jasmine Streeter

again to attack the sun god Ra, who traveled by boat during the day. Occasionally Apep was successful in swallowing the boat and Ra, leading to a solar eclipse.

Vietnamese mythology told of an evil spirit in the form of a toad that swallowed the sun, while the Vikings spoke of a Sky Wolf named Skoll capturing the sun

for a golden meal. The indigenous people of Siberia told of a giant bear, Mayan artifacts depict what is believed to be a giant serpent, and Hungarian eclipse mythology points to a giant bird that devoured the sun.

The eclipse is projected to begin at 9:06 a. m, PST, with the total eclipse visible at 10:16 a. m. PST. This striking natural wonder will last less than two minutes, so you definitely don't want to miss it. If you plan on holding your fur babies up to the sun and recreating the Lion King birth scene, make sure you purchase specialized solar eclipse glasses for them as well as yourself. Protecting their eyes and yours should be of the utmost importance. To experience the universe working right before your eyes will be an astonishing sight.

Personally, I can't think of a better way to spend that special day than with your pet. Happy Solar Eclipsing!

Reach Dr. Jasmine at drjasmine@theskanner.com.

NAACP Focuses on Millennials for Future Growth

By **Lauren Poteat, NNPA Newswire**

As Derrick Johnson assumes the role of interim president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), leaders of the nation's oldest Black civil rights organization say that young people must come first.

Youth-led civil rights groups like Color of Change, Black Youth Project 100 and Dream Defenders have effectively used technology and social media to advance their causes online and around the world, while critics of the NAACP question the group's relevancy, as it struggles to connect to a younger generation that doesn't always relate to the battles of Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

During a press conference held on July 21, kicking off the group's national convention in Baltimore, Md., many NAACP officials and affiliates gathered to address a critical need to keep millennials active and engaged within the organization.

“We have a responsibility to lift up the least of us, but most importantly to put our hands on the young people,” said Baltimore's Mayor Catherine Pugh. “We can change the trajectory of our lives. Let's have some real conversations around guns in the community killing our children, because we need [our children] to grow up and be a part of the future of our nation.”

In order to ensure that such goals come into fruition, NAACP D.C. branch President Akosua Ali, formally announced the launch of a national Next Generation Young Professional Leadership Program to train eligible millennials for leadership roles in the NAACP.

The initiative is in line with the NAACP's National Youth and College Division that cultivates young, civil rights leaders.

“This national convention will be

critical in transforming the association,” Ali said. “The Youth and College Division continues to train and cultivate young leaders that are activists within their own community and, because of that, the NAACP will launch a Next Generation Young Professional Leadership Program

“We have a responsibility to lift up the least of us

geared toward training young adults between the ages of 21 and 35,” for positions in the NAACP.

Ali continued: “These positions include, but are not limited to: political action chairs, health chairs, environmental justice chairs and branch leaders. We have been very fortunate to have the support of national and youth board members, who have all given input into what is needed for young people to remain active to remain engaged and to be strong leaders within this organization and we are immensely excited about the future of the NAACP through this program.”

Eager to see the organization grow and move forward, Hiruy Hadgu, an NAACP member from Howard County, Md., shared his views on the organization's plan to ramp up efforts to actively engage and recruit younger members.

“I joined the NAACP after the 2016 election and was responsible for helping my chapter revamp membership efforts, which proved difficult, as we had a hard time keeping up with who was a member or not...a lot of the processes seemed old and outdated and overall didn't really seem to engage people,” said Hadgu. “I'm only 31, but with these challenging times, I think it's very important to really re-engage with the community...especially our youth.”

Film

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Brigsby Bear, a sci-fi series revolving around a crime-fighting superhero full of energy and optimism.

James has a good excuse for his stunted growth. Truth be told, his supposed parents, Ted (Mark Hamill) and April (Jane Adams), are actually kidnappers who abducted him in infancy. And they secretly produce Brigsby, the only program that ever comes on their TV.

Everything changes the day James is rescued by the police and returned to his birth parents (Matt Walsh and Michaela Watkins) in Cedar Hills, Utah. Understandably, the adjustment to real-life proves problematic, since he remains obsessed with Brigsby to the point that he talks about it incessantly to anyone who'll listen.

He's lucky to find a couple of sympathetic souls in an actor-turned-detective (Greg Kinnear) and Spencer (Jorge Lendeborg, Jr.), one of his teenage sister's (Ryan Simpkins) friends. They agree to help make a Brigsby Bear movie which just might enable James to find some closure on the sordid opening chapter of his life.

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