



THE WAR OF THE WORLDS VIDEO DISCUSSION

Heat Rays with Jeremy Benson

1. Although nothing would be physically shooting out of the heat ray, i.e. bullets or matter, it would still harm those hit by the heat ray. Why do you believe this is?
2. A lot of common household items use a type of heat ray, from CD readers to checkout machines at your local grocery store. What are some other common places not mentioned in the video that heat rays are being used? If you're not sure make an educated guess and attempt to support your guess.
3. Imagine heat rays like those seen in *The War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells did exist. What weaponry or shielding device do you believe mankind could build to help protect themselves against the vicious heat rays?

Telling Stories with Sound with WNIJ's Jenna Dooley

1. What are some creative ways you could tell an audio story in a location that has no sound like the signing spelling bee mentioned in the video?
2. WNIJ reporter Jenna Dooley expresses that it is important for a broadcaster to respect his/her audience and remember that there are ethics involved in radio broadcasting. Do you believe these ethics were broken when the original radio broadcast of *The War of the Worlds* went on air? Why or why not?
3. Radio broadcasting requires a lot of advanced equipment and sound technology. What are some science fields that you believe are important to consider when working at a radio station?

Finding the Right Sound Bite with WNIJ's Sue Stephens

1. Imagine you had to create a sound bite for an event you were hosting. What would you make your sound bite sound like? Note that it can be anything from dialogue to sound effects.
2. Do you believe that even with the advances of the internet and television, a 'prank' such as the original broadcast of *The War of the Worlds* could still happen? Could media still completely fool people into believing something that is not true?
3. If you had the opportunity to speak to the entire nation like NPR does, what would you talk about? Why?

Acting for Radio with Retro Reactionaries and Director Kara Wilkins

1. Think of all the media you've taken in over the last few years. Can you think of a voice actor that has really made an impression on you? Why do you believe they were able to leave such a lasting impression on you?
2. Director Kara Wilkins believes that radio provides a certain type of media that is valuable to our nation's history. Why might radio-broadcast productions be important to our nation's history?
3. Think of today's modern audio-podcast. Do you believe that the podcast is an extension of the radio-broadcast productions? Why or why not?

The Changing Voices of Radio with WNIJ Reporters

1. In the 1930's radio broadcasting rarely sounded natural. Instead, the radio's voice was often male, booming, and stilted. Now when we listen to the radio broadcasters sound very much like someone you may know. Why do you believe this shift in tone occurred?
2. If you were to pursue becoming a radio personality, what kind of tone and conversation would you take with your listeners? What would you report?
3. What do you look for when selecting a radio station? Credibility? Relatability? Why?

Asking "What if" in H. G. Wells

1. H.G. Wells took important scientific theories and thoughts and morphed them into a piece of literature that is appealing to the public. What is one complex scientific theory that stands out to you? How would you transform it into a piece of literature for the general public?
2. Librarian Thomas discusses many dystopian scenarios, the world running out of water, the world competing for resources, and even aliens coming to our planet and teaching us a better way of life. Of the many potential dystopian scenarios we see in popular fiction, which do you believe is the most realistic? Why?
3. Most knowledge of Mars at the time of *The War of the Worlds* was included in the novel, allowing the general public to become aware of geography on Mars, such as the water transporting canals. What is one shocking, factual thing you have learned from reading fiction novels?

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Seeing the Planets and Beyond with NIU Observatory's Daniel Stange

1. A reflecting telescope uses mirrors to reflect light. A refracting telescope uses lenses to focus light. Knowing this information, which telescope do you believe would be better for viewing things up close? Which do you think would be better from viewing things from afar? Why?
2. Astronomer Stange talks of planet's atmospheres as something we cannot see from a telescope. What do you believe a planet's atmosphere is and why do you believe we cannot view it from a telescope? What kind of atmosphere do you believe Earth has?
3. The Hubble Space Telescope is actually located in space, so we are able to get some of the clearest and most vivid images of space from it. If you were able to take a photo of any one planet, star constellation, or nebula, which would you take a picture of? Why? What do you think we'd see?

NIU's Observatory Highlights

1. Stange talks about how when *The War of the Worlds* was written, the best knowledge we had of space was what we could see through a 72-inch reflecting telescope. What scientific advances have we made since then to allow us to better view space, besides the mission to the moon? How have these scientific advances helped us as a species?
2. Terraform means to change an environment to better reflect Earth's own atmosphere. Mars is the best candidate for this process because the planet already contains iced water. What other elements would Mars need to better suit mankind's population?
3. Imagine you were present when the first unknown objects landed on Earth. How would you have reacted? Do you believe people should rush to understand these objects? Why?
4. Stange recommends physics and astronomy studies in order to better understand and examine space. What other STEM subjects do you believe are important to the understanding of space? Why?

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