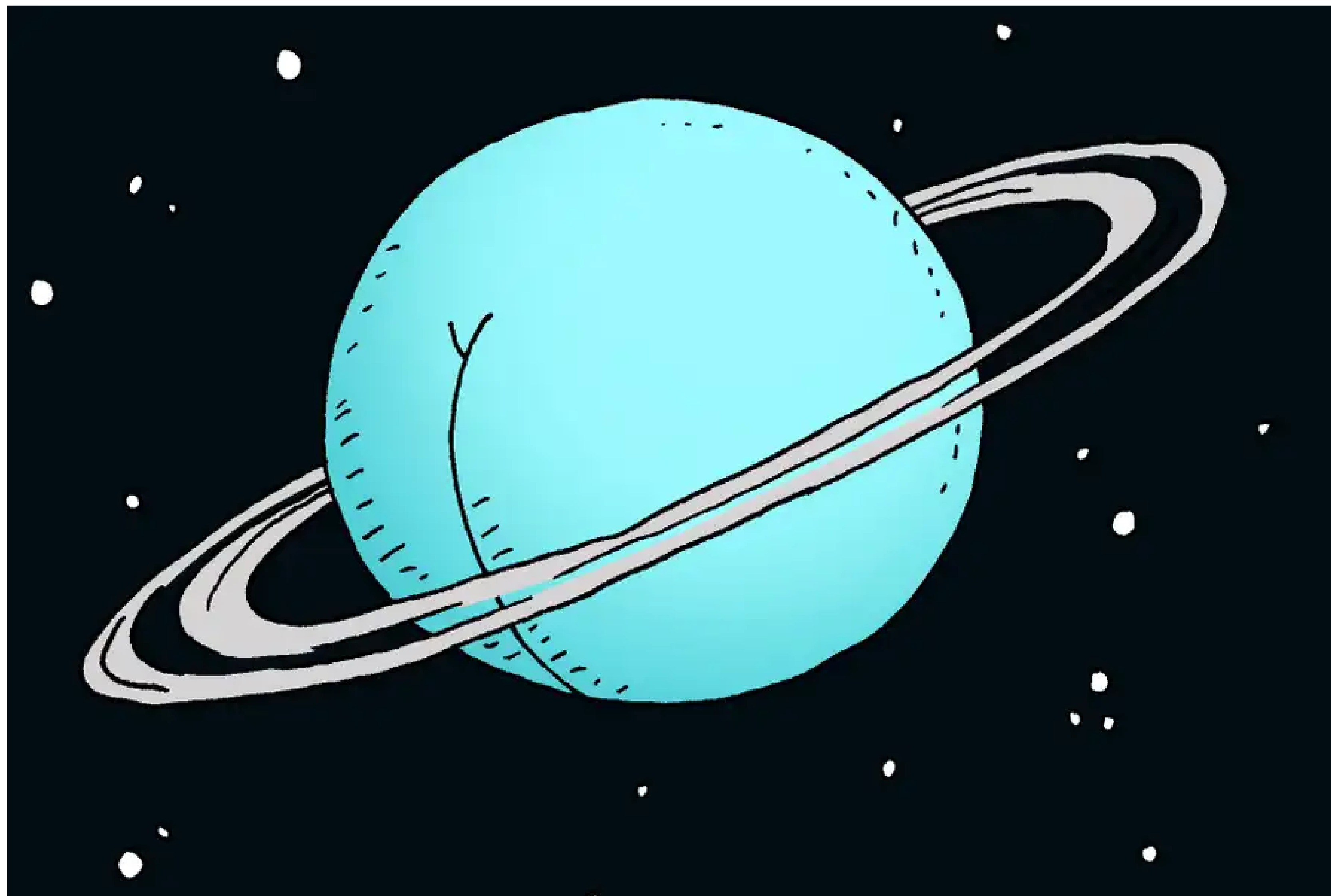


## Feedback: Uranus smells like farts, say astronomers

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📅 9 May 2018 , updated 11 May 2018



▲ Paul McDevitt

### Gas giant

ASTRONOMERS have confirmed that Uranus smells like farts. The seventh planet's odour – or, more precisely, the chemical composition of its atmosphere – has long been the subject of debate among space scientists.

Using the 8-metre Gemini North telescope on Hawaii's Mauna Kea peak, Patrick Irwin at the University of Oxford and his colleagues analysed infrared light reflected by the planet. They found that the upper atmosphere's swirling clouds were rich in hydrogen sulphide, one of the chemicals that gives rotten eggs – and farts – their characteristic pong.

Although it makes up only a small fraction of the gas you expel...

### **Article amended on 18 May 2018**

We corrected where Kiersten Dobson works

### **Article amended on 11 May 2018**

We corrected the location of Uranus