

## President Bush gains a new popularity thanks to Trump

**Johnny Mocny**  
Entertainment Editor

President George W. Bush has been making publicity rounds recently to promote his new book, *Portraits of Courage: A Commander-In-Chief's Tributes to American Warriors*. Every show he has appeared on, including *Jimmy Kimmel Live* and *The Today Show* has featured a light and jovial interview with the former president, and he has received much reverence and warmth from those who used to be his critics.

Trevor Noah on *The Daily Show* offered his view of the situation, saying, "If you had a job, and most people thought you were crappy at that job, when would be the best time to make a comeback? Well, it's easy. When Donald Trump gets your job." This seems to imply that the liberal critics of President Bush have now ceased arms against him in favor of President Trump. Eashwar Mohan (12) offered his view on the matter. "[Bush] was kind presidential in a way," said Mohan. "It's like Aziz Ansari said. It's kind of strange to be thinking about Bush as a great man

because he really wasn't, but he was better than what's going on I guess." The implied stigma seems to be, "You don't know what you have until it's gone." Those who once criticized President Bush seem to have acknowledged more of what they liked about his presidency in response to President Trump, who has offered what they see as a much worse alternative. This is apparent in how political comedian Stephen Colbert recently listed "I miss Bush" amongst the things he never thought he would say. Kortney Whitmyer (Social

Studies) provided commentary on the idea. "Bush had critics and Trump has critics. They're probably the same people. Maybe they have come to appreciate that George W. Bush was stylistically different from Donald Trump and then are re-evaluating their dislike for him," Whitmyer said. What is notable about Donald Trump as a candidate is the fact that neither surviving predecessor of his party, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, voted for him. Whitmyer gave his reasoning for this. "Certainly George H.W. Bush

was that old-time East Coast Republican, very moderate in tone, pro-business, moderate on social policies, and stylistically very measured," Whitmyer said. "That would certainly make them have some differences with Trump. Policy-wise, Trump isn't as pure of a Republican as maybe they would have desired. Third is the personal aspect of the treatment of [Jeb Bush] during the campaign." Bush Jr. has become somewhat infamous for his common faux-pas as a speaker, while President Trump has also been criticized greatly for his speak-

ing skills as well. "I think everybody would agree that neither of them could claim their crowning achievement was their eloquence in their speeches," Whitmyer said. "But I think for different reasons. When people are critical of Trump's style, they're not poking fun at grammatical errors. They're offended by his delivery and his style and the words that he chooses, whereas Bush it was more about 'You sound dumb. You're not so great at this American language.' So I think the criticism is at a different level." President Trump's approval ratings currently sit at 38 percent while President Bush left office with a term average of 52 percent.

## NASA discovers seven more earth-size planets orbiting TRAPPIST-1

**Gabe Hales**  
Staff Reporter

There's no place like home. This phrase has been a cliché for years, but now our home planet seems it may have some challengers. Not just one, though. A team of Belgian scientists has found seven planets in a system they named TRAPPIST-1 (after their favorite Belgian beer of course). The team initially discovered three of the seven planets back in May of 2016, but after more in-depth observations and research, that number went up. The scientists say these new planets have a better best possible chance at supporting life than any planets found before, as they're a tad cooler than our home planet, but could be suitable with the right atmosphere and gases.

"I think we've made a crucial step towards finding if there is life out there," Amaury Triaud, one of the study authors and an astronomer at the University of Cambridge, said in a NASA press conference. "I don't think any time before we had the right planets to discover and find out if there was [life]. Here, if life managed to thrive and releases gases similar to what we have on Earth, we will know." What the team has found so far is that the planets are in close enough proximity to each other to fit between Mercury and our sun if placed in our solar system. Although this could seem like a negative aspect, it gives the researchers opportunities to monitor more than just one of the planets. Not only are they closer together, but the average length of each day for the planets is 12 Earth days, and

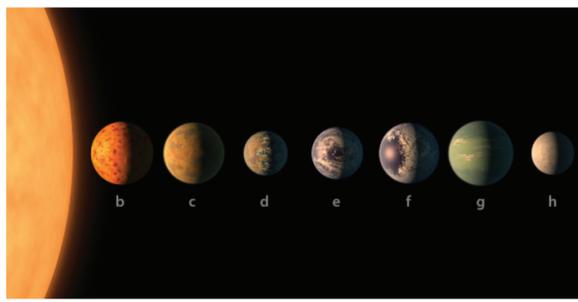


Photo courtesy NASA

if you stood on the closest planet to the star they revolve around, you would receive 200 times less light than that of what we see on Earth, but the same amount of energy. Because of this distance, the star would appear almost three times bigger than what our sun looks like in the sky, and would

apparently add a "salmon hue" to the atmosphere because of its color. All of this was revealed in a press conference conducted by NASA shortly after the discovery. These facts bring with them the excitement and awe that could usually only be seen in movies until now.

"I think what's exciting about this find is that these are earth sized planets, and they're in that sweet spot that allows us to analyze their atmospheres," John Olstad (Science) said. "This of course allows us to try and see if the planets have the right ratios of the gases that support life. There's really no philosophical question bigger than 'is there more life than us?' and the odds are pretty high that these new planets might hold an answer to that question." Although discovering life on these planets would be exciting, the three closest planets appear to be too warm to keep water, and the outermost may be too cold to sustain life. Of course, this is only speculation and further research is always coming in. The team, along with

NASA, says that over the next decade they will be looking at this system very closely, as well as trying to find others like it. "You can just imagine how many worlds are out there that have a shot at becoming a habitable ecosystem," Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of NASA's science mission directorate, said during a NASA news conference. "Are we alone out there? We're making a step forward with this, a leap forward, in fact, towards answering that question." Ultimately, these discoveries bring a whole new outlook on the future of our planet and our species. "The discovery of these planets is not only an advancement of science but also a step forward for our species," Kendra Pefers (12), an avid space enthusiast said. "I believe the universe is always expanding so discoveries like this will probably be pretty common in the near future, and I can't wait to see what else we find."

## Gretchen Whitmer first to submit candidacy for governor of Michigan

**Luis Borrero**  
Staff Reporter

Nearly two years before the next Michigan gubernatorial election, an eager, strong voice has proudly entered the race. Gretchen Whitmer, the first to submit candidacy for governor, has played a number of roles within Michigan's legislative government. Whitmer's Michigan political story began at the State House of Representatives in 2000, where she served until 2006, leading her to run for representative of Michigan's 23rd district in the state's Senate. Whitmer's democratic colleagues eventually unanimously chose her to be the Senate Democratic leader, emerging as the first female to lead a party caucus in the Senate. Whitmer's next chapter in Michigan politics took her as Ingham County Prosecutor. Following the arrest of former prosecutor Stuart Dunning III, Whitmer took the oath of office on June 21, 2016, and served the remaining six months of Dunning's term.

On Jan 3, 2017, Whitmer announced her intent to run for governor, promising a "better Michigan," according to her website. Whitmer's Communications Director Jen Eyer shared the Whitmer campaign's hopes and goals for the state of Michigan. Regarding the promised "better Michigan," Eyer points to a variety of goals to accomplish in order to secure the campaign's commitment. "[An ideal Michigan] really involves four things: education that prepares every kid for their future, good paying jobs that allow people to pay their bills and live a good life, affordable health care you can count on and finally good government that's accountable for the people," Eyer said. Many Lansing residents may remember Whitmer from her speech at the Lansing Women's March on Jan 21. Emma Petroff (11) attended the march and listened Whitmer speak on issues important to her. "I thought her speech was empowering and also very positive,"

Petroff said. "She talked a lot about what we could do to help the situation, not about how much it hurts." Eyer says she appreciates the female feedback, but indicates the support has come from all kinds of people. "Certainly Gretchen heard from a lot of women following the Women's March; they were very uplifted and energized," Eyer said. "But it's not just women we're seeing across the board, it's people from all walks of life who are reaching in and wanting to get involved with the campaign and who really want to be part of something positive going forward, especially in face of all this turmoil and ugliness coming at us from Washington, D.C." Petroff suggests that a strong female leader makes all the difference, acting as an inspiration for women all across the state. "Honestly if you just had someone who stood for women, even if it was a man it wouldn't really matter; I think having a woman

makes people see that women can be in government positions," Petroff said. Whitmer has criticized current Michigan politics, suggesting the corruption has caused enough damage to the state and its people. "I think people are really hungry for a leader with integrity," Eyer said. "In the wake of the situation in Flint and the scandal at the unemployment insurance agency. [Those are] examples of government that's not accountable. It's not helping the people it's supposed to serve. These are big problems that we have in the state and there are a lot of reasons why these things are happening: some of it has to do with our government transparency laws, which need to be fixed, and our emergency manager laws, which also need to be fixed and other things that Gretchen will fight for." Policy is a crucial part of any political campaign, and the Whitmer administration believes the most important issues to initially cover are fundamental human

needs, as well as major state issues that have maybe been prolonged. "[Gretchen] sees a real need right now for Michigan to have a leader who's going to fight for people," Eyer said. "Fight for access to affordable healthcare, good paying jobs, good education for kids and in some cases, [the state] just needs someone who will fight for clean water." Transitioning to the Flint water crisis, Eyer considers the situation as a foremost priority to Whitmer's potential term. "Her number one priority is to fix Flint," Eyer said. "It needs to get done, it's unacceptable how slowly it's moving and that three years later, people are not able to drink the tap that's coming out of their faucet." The Whitmer campaign has also openly criticized the Trump administration and some policies endorsed by the party. Eyer promotes Whitmer's will to fight and protect the people she could potentially represent,

considering possible policies that could be harmful to the people's desires. "It's so critical to have a strong governor who will fight against policies and will fight for the people of Michigan," Eyer said. "Whitmer will be able to provide a check for these Trump policies and protect the Michiganders from a lot of what we are seeing coming out of Washington." Overall, Petroff believes Whitmer would do a fine job as chief of state. "I think she'd do a great job," Petroff said. "She's very positive and willing to work with anyone, not just people who are feminist and have liberal mindsets." The Whitmer campaign has many issues to grasp their hands around, and at a time when a state needs a strong voice to fight for their needs and wishes, Eyer believes Gretchen Whitmer is the one for Michigan. "Gretchen has spent her career fighting for people who don't have a voice," Eyer said. "So Gretchen threw a hat in the ring because she's committed to getting all around the state and visiting all 83 counties and listening and engaging and finding what they need from their next governor."



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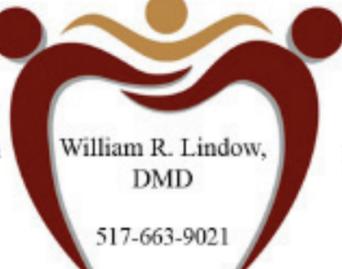


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