

Scientists find new evidence

# Black hole exists in Milky Way

**Associated Press**  
**BERKELEY, Calif.** — Scientists reported strong new evidence Thursday that a massive "black hole" exists in the center of the Milky Way galaxy, surrounded by a cavity 60 trillion miles wide.  
 The finding, discovered by a team from the University of California, may help solve the mystery of a cosmic phenomenon that has been the subject of intense research and discussion by astronomers in recent years.  
 One of the key discoveries of the team led by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Charles H. Townes was that gases at the inner edge of the gaseous ring at the galaxy's nucleus swirl at a faster rate than gases farther away, indicating that the gases surround a single massive object.  
 Calculations by the team showed that the invisible matter in the hole is

compressed so tightly by its gravity that its mass must be 4 million times greater than the sun. So dense is the center of the black hole that neither light nor any other form of radiation can escape.  
 Gases at the inner edge reach speeds of 250,000 mph to 430,000 mph, according to the scientists, and are surrounded by a huge cavity of low-density gas. Inside this cavity — 10 light years, or about 60 trillion miles across — is a cluster of stars. Beyond the cavity is another swirling circle of hotter, glowing gases.  
 Townes said that the orbits of the gases indicate that the hole sucked in enormous quantities of gases within the past million years. This huge collapse of gas, he said, "triggered a supernova-size explosion in the black hole, producing the cavity detected around the galaxy's center."  
 A black hole is a collapsed star so

dense that not even light rays can escape its gravitational pull. Thus it is not visible, and its existence must be inferred from its effect on objects around it.  
 At present, the hole in the center of our 10 billion-year-old galaxy appears to be swallowing up little from the near-empty cavity around it.  
 "It must be a peculiarly starving black hole," said Reinhard Genzel, associate professor of physics at Berkeley, who led the research with Townes.  
 The research, funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, was published Thursday.  
 "In the past, there have been a number of puzzles about this area," Townes said. "The pieces of the puzzle that are finally falling into place are quite impressive."



Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

## For That Tin Grin

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of Interstate Highway 10, near Winnie, Texas.

# Cocaine found in tanker truck: Rio Grande Valley's largest bust

**Associated Press**  
**HEBBRONVILLE** — Federal authorities on Thursday confiscated 846 pounds of cocaine with a wholesale value of \$43 million after stopping a gasoline tanker truck at a border patrol checkpoint, authorities said.  
 The cocaine and 127 pounds of marijuana were in the tank of the truck, which was stopped about 6

a.m. Thursday after U.S. Customs and Drug Enforcement Administration agents received a tip and notified border patrol agents, DEA agent Jack Wagner said.  
 Wagner said the driver of the truck, Manuel Aleman, 36, of New Braunfels, was arrested and charged with possession of cocaine and marijuana. Authorities also arrested four others believed to be involved in a

drug operation at a ranch in El Sauz in Starr County about 15 miles northwest of Rio Grande City.  
 "It shows the trend that traditional smuggling routes are no longer coming through South Florida but are now shifting into Mexico and Texas," Wagner said.  
 He said the cocaine bust was the largest ever by federal authorities in the Rio Grande Valley.

# Doctors say no baby for Dempa

**Associated Press**  
**DALLAS** — Dempa the gorilla has been unable to have a baby, so doctors did some exploratory surgery at Parkland Memorial Hospital

Thursday to find out why.  
 A team of medical specialists spent almost two hours examining the reproductive system of the 14-year-old, 200-pound ape. They confirmed a suspicion that she is unable

to become pregnant because her fallopian tubes are blocked.  
 The diagnosis for the Dallas ape was bad news, zoo spokesman Stewart said.

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