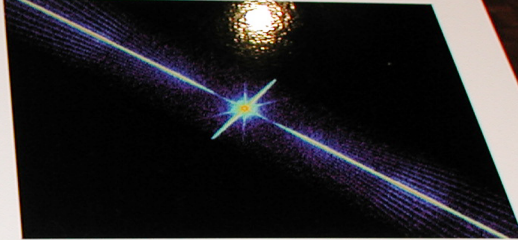


**Artist's Conception of a Black Hole**  
An accretion disk of matter will collect toward the center of a black hole—where time is an artifact's consequence—when particles, powered by friction and other energy, collide until they cross the "event horizon" and disappear into the black hole. The swirling particles form an "accretion disk." The black hole also emits a jet of radiation and particles.



**Observer's Perspective Edge-On Accretion Disk Around Black Hole, April 18, 2005**  
NASA, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, J. McClintock et al.  
**Charles A. Murray, "Black Hole"**  
A black hole, at the center of this image, emits X-rays, as indicated in the color legend. The Earth-orbiting Chandra X-ray Observatory "saw" the X-rays. These rays are dispersed in a color spectrum corresponding to the energy of the rays, highest energies being at the bottom, inside which the black hole resides. This view is in the constellation Ursa Major.

