



**Chandra X-ray  
Observatory Center**

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**IC 2497:** A galaxy and a cloud of cool gas located about 680 million light years from Earth.  
(Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/ETH Zurich/L.Sartori et al, Optical: NASA/STScI)

**Caption:** New data from Chandra and other telescopes of a cosmic 'blob' and a gas bubble could be a new way to probe the past activity of a giant black hole and its effect on its host galaxy. Hanny's Voorwerp, first discovered by a citizen scientist, is a gas cloud located next to the galaxy IC 2497. Astronomers think the giant black hole in IC 2497 used to power a quasar, generating radiation that illuminated Hanny's Voorwerp. Within the last 200,000 years the quasar has faded. The Chandra data suggest that jets powered by the black hole have blown a bubble in surrounding gas.

**Scale:** Image is 51 arcsec across (about 160,000 light years)

*Chandra X-ray Observatory ACIS Image*

*CXC operated for NASA by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory*

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