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GRB 971214

J. Heise and J. in 't Zand, Space Research Organization, Utrecht; G. Spoliti, V. Torroni, and D. Ricci, BeppoSAX, Rome; L. Piro, E. Costa, and M. Feroci, Instituto di Astrophysica Spaziale, Rome; and F. Frontera, Instituto di Tecnologie e Studio delle Radiazoni Extraterrestri, Bologna, report: "The BeppoSAX Gamma Ray Burst Monitor was triggered on Dec. 14.97272 UT. A quick-look analysis shows a structured γ-ray burst lasting $\sim$ 25 s with a peak flux of 650 counts/s. The γ-ray burst was also detected by the Wide Field Camera WFC1 with a peak flux of $\sim$ 1 Crab. The position from a quick-look analysis is $\alpha = 11^{\mathrm{h}}56^{\mathrm{m}}30^{\mathrm{s}}$, $\delta = +65^{\circ}12'.0$ (equinox 2000.0), with an error radius of $3'.9$ (99-percent confidence). A BeppoSAX Narrow Field follow-up observation is in progress. Observations at all wavelengths are urged."

PSR J0633+1746

A. Shearer, A. Golden, and R. M. Redfern, National University of Ireland, Galway; and G. M. Beskin, Special Astrophysical Observatory, write: "We observed PSR J0633+1746 (Geminga) on 1996 Jan. 12–14 with the Russian 6-m telescope (+ TRIFFID camera + MAMA detector) in bands B (29 307 s) and V (6829 s). We found optical pulsations in B with magnitude 26.0 $\pm$ 0.4 and a 3σ upper limit for pulsations in V of $\sim$ 25.5. Enhanced sky brightness limited a detection in V. The significance of the B result using the phase-independent Z statistic is 99.96 percent, using the ephemeris by Mattox *et al.* (1996, *A.Ap. Suppl.* **120**, C77). The corresponding lightcurve shows two peaks in phase with γ-ray and hard-x-ray data, testifying to a dominant non-thermal component in B. Deeper time-resolved exposures in B, V, R, and I should confirm pulsed activity in these other wavebands, and provide important data as regards understanding the thermal and nonthermal components of Geminga's emission."

COMET C/1997 J2 (MEUNIER-DUPOUY)

Visual m_1 estimates: Nov. 17.75 UT, 11.3 (R. J. Bouma, Groningen, The Netherlands, 0.25-m refl.); 27.11, 10.8 (C. E. Spratt, Victoria, BC, 0.20-m refl.); Dec. 2.98, 11.7 (J. Bortle, Stormville, NY, 0.41-m refl.); 14.72, 9.9 (M. Lehký, Hradec Králové, Czech Rep., 25×100 binoculars).

  Daniel W. E. Green