

# DAILY PLANET

ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS

Friday, April 4

1997

## Shuttle Columbia Poised for 16 Days of Microgravity Science

Launch of the Marshall-managed Microgravity Science Laboratory mission is set for 1 p.m. CST Friday. Once in orbit, the crew's first item of business will be to set up the Spacelab laboratory, the astronauts' work place for the next 16 days. Throughout the mission the crew and science teams on the ground will conduct microgravity research in the areas of biotechnology, fluid physics, materials science and combustion science.

## Friday's NASA TV Schedule

1:00 p.m.	Launch
2:00 p.m.	Post Launch Press Conference
3:16 p.m.	Spacelab Activation
4:30 p.m.	Mission Update
6:00 p.m.	Flight Day Highlights

## Hubble Observation Sheds Light On Gamma Ray Burst Mystery

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has made an important contribution toward solving one of astronomy's greatest mysteries -- the origins of gamma ray bursts. A Hubble observation of a gamma ray burst first detected on Feb. 28 clearly shows the source has two components: a point-like object and an extended feature. "With more of these, we should be able to narrow the models of what could be causing these gigantic outbursts," said Marshall scientist Dr. Gerald Fishman, a principal investigator for Marshall's Burst and Transient Source Experiment.