Study of meteoroid impacts to be conducted here

materials will be conducted here inder a \$20,000 National Aeronautics and Space Administra- to meteoroid impact. tion grant.

Conducting the NASA research will be Dr. James L. Rand, assistant professor in the Aerospace Engineering Department. The grant is effective Sept. 1 for one year.

Rand said the research will be

MARE.

Employing prediction tech-

Study of meteoroid impacts in niques used in the Apollo proelation to different structural gram, the engineer and two graduate students to be named will relate dynamic material properties

> In the second phase, hypervelocity impact data accumulated by NASA will be reduced. They will work with "target" craters produced in the laboratory by impacting materials with particles - or man-made "meteoroids" - of known size and veloc-

"With knowledge of the crater-

ticles, we will try to predict the damage caused by a natural meteoroid of any size traveling at any velocity," Rand explained.

Consisting of undefined matter that orbits in the solar system, Meteoroids range in size from dust-like particles to bits the size of a grain of sand and larger. They can become visible to the human eye when the meteoroid collides with the earth's atmosphere, at which point they become meteors.

heating of their plunge - averaging 25 miles per second — into the atmosphere. Fragments that survive the fiery passage and showers. reach the earth are called meteor-

analysis has shown "that there is little chance of irreparable damage" to spacecraft struck by meteoroids.

The Apollo 12 lunar landing mission of 1969 was carried out last spring.

of light through the incandescent meteor shower, one of the heavier annual showers. Five previous Apollo flights - 7 through 11 coincided with less active meteor

Rand is a University of Maryland graduate, six-year research Rand noted that statistical engineer with the U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory and recipient of the General Dynamics "Excellence in Engineering Teaching" award at Texas A&M

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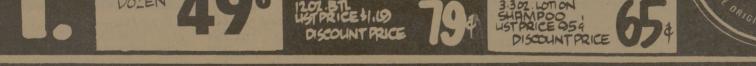
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