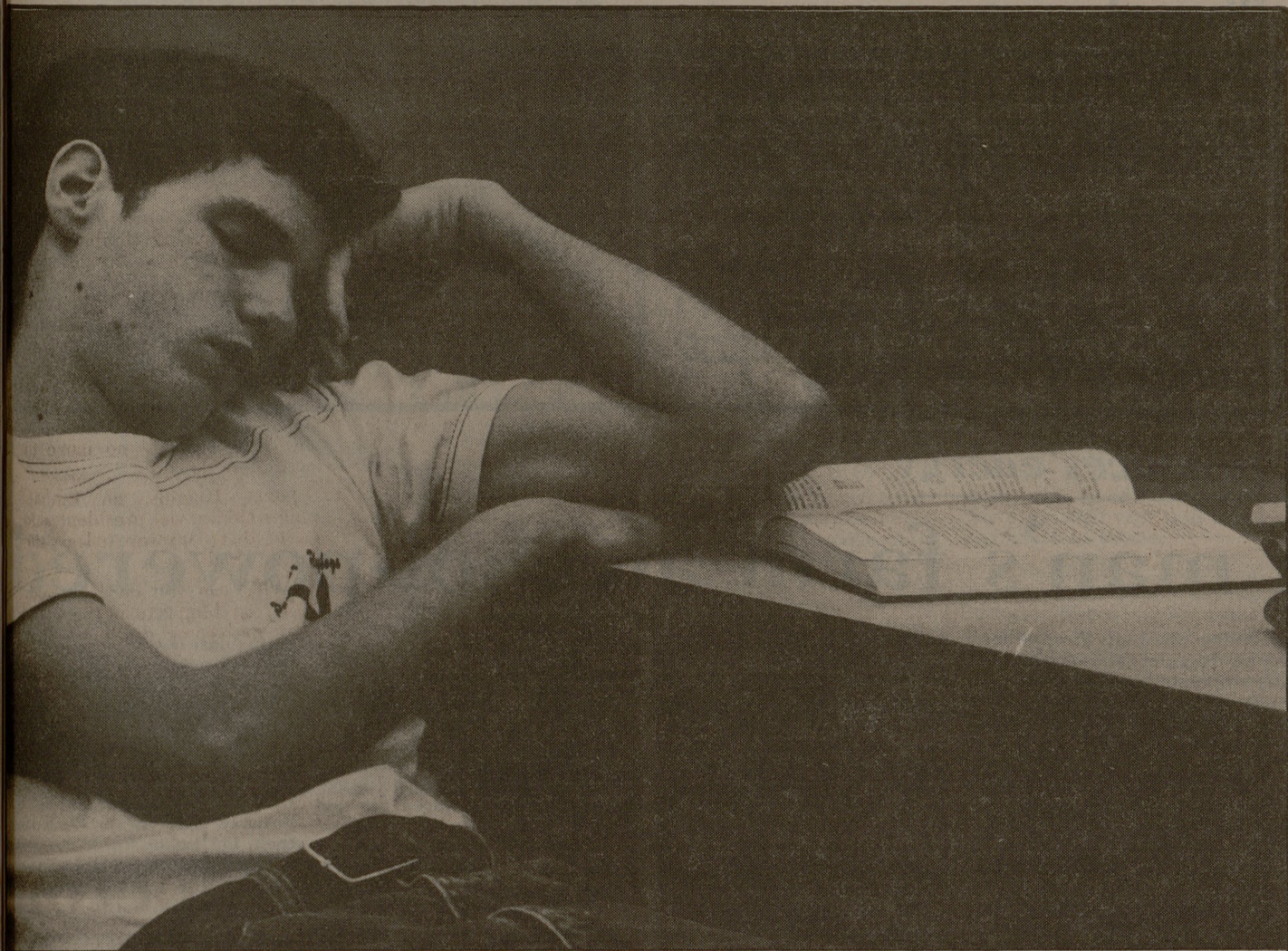


National



Studying hard?

Staff photo by Dave Einsel

Studying finance seems to be the last thing on Michael Bradley's mind as he takes a short snooze while reading in

the library. Bradley is a sophomore accounting major from Corpus Christi.

Judge's ruling looks good for U.S. Steel

United Press International
COLUMBUS, Ohio — A federal judge's ruling may allow U.S. Steel to take control of Marathon Oil next Monday, apparently defeating Mobil Oil in a bitterly opposed takeover bid.

In U.S. District Court Monday, Judge Joseph P. Kinneary dissolved a temporary restraining order that blocked the nation's largest steelmaker from acquiring Marathon, the country's 16th largest oil company, based in Findlay, Ohio.

Rival bidder Mobil is still banned from buying Marathon shares by an antitrust injunction in Cleveland.

Under the ruling, U.S. Steel must wait five business days before going ahead with its \$6.3 billion purchase of Marathon shares. By next Monday, however, U.S. Steel may well have acquired effective control of Marathon.

The steelmaking giant announced in Pittsburgh Sunday the successful completion of its tender offer to buy 30 million shares, or 51 percent, of Marathon for \$125 a share.

Mobil, which has offered \$6.5 billion for Marathon shares, contends the U.S. Steel and

Marathon agreement violates state and federal law.

Ohio officials had feared a takeover by Mobil would result in Marathon's corporate offices leaving the state. U.S. Steel has said it would keep Marathon based in Ohio.

"We are delighted that Judge Kinneary ruled in our favor," a spokesman for Marathon said. "We believe U.S. Steel's offer is in the best interest of our customers, employees and shareholders."

Kinneary had issued a temporary restraining order against U.S. Steel to consider Mobil's arguments that Marathon and U.S. Steel had arranged "a sweetheart deal" to derail Mobil's merger

plans. However, Kinneary ruled Monday: "The record supports the defendants' view that the Marathon directors desired to enter into a negotiated transaction which would result in a fairer return to Marathon stockholders."

To circumvent its own antitrust obstacles, Mobil said Monday it would sell to Amerada Hess Corp. all marketing, refining and transportation properties of Marathon if it succeeded in its bid to acquire Marathon.

Mobil also argued that U.S. Steel's acquisition of Marathon's lucrative Yates oil field in Texas for \$2.8 billion was aimed at blocking Mobil's bid.

Shortened flight scientific success

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Scientists say the second space shuttle flight was a success scientifically — despite the fact it was cut short by three days.

The Columbia gathered almost all the Earth-watching information anticipated for the planned five-day mission, scientists said Tuesday.

The ship's \$11.6 million assembly of scientific experiments, including a 30-foot radar antenna, was designed to prove that the shuttle can serve as a stable instrument platform for Earth resources observations.

The only big disappointment was an attempt to photograph lightning in storms far below to see if space observations can be used to provide an early warning of severe weather situations.

"I'm not sure we have very much (on storm detections)," Dr. Bernard Vonnegut of the State University of New York at Albany said, adding that the limited amount of data obtained by astronauts Joe Engle and Richard Truly was of low quality.

The experimental radar system, which the space agency said was the first side-looking system flown in space, obtained eight hours of radar pictures over North and South America, Africa, Europe and Asia.

NASA said its ability to penetrate clouds and vegetation makes it extremely attractive for mineral resource exploration.

"All of the objectives of this experiment were met during the STS-2 flight, despite the shortened mission time," the agency said in a summary report. "The radar equipment worked perfectly."

Another instrument designed to analyze infrared radiation from the sun as it is reflected from the

ground also was reported to be completely successful. NASA said 108 minutes of cloud-free observations were recorded.

Scientists hope to be able to use such information to determine the location of iron oxide and clay minerals to help spot other mineral deposits.

"While not yet analyzed, extremely good data are believed to have been acquired over Mexico and Spain," the report said.

An ocean color experiment, designed to detect chlorophyll produced by algae by looking for green shades in ocean water, acquired 78 minutes of unobstructed information — nearly twice the minimum mission requirement.

Such information is expected eventually to help locate commercial fisheries.

The report said an air pollution monitoring experiment acquired 32 hours of data, including excellent sightings over Virginia, Florida and California. The instrument uses a carbon monoxide detector to measure the amount of that pollutant in the atmosphere below.

The report said an experiment to test a sensor designed to identify certain types of features acquired 32 hours of data, but some of the information may have been lost due to marginal performance of the experiment's triggering device.

A sunflower seed growth experiment was not in orbit long enough to allow the seeds to grow in the weightless environment of orbital flight, the report said.

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