

NCES survey found.*

Indeed, more than one-third of the "straight A" high school students the NCES surveyed majored in science, and this group made up close to half the college science majors. Only about 8% of science majors had less than a B average in high school.

Another marker of science seekers: although few of the high school seniors NCES surveyed took advanced courses such as calculus in high school, 45.6% of the science majors had done so, suggesting that "interest in science, engineering, or mathematics may already be well developed in high school."

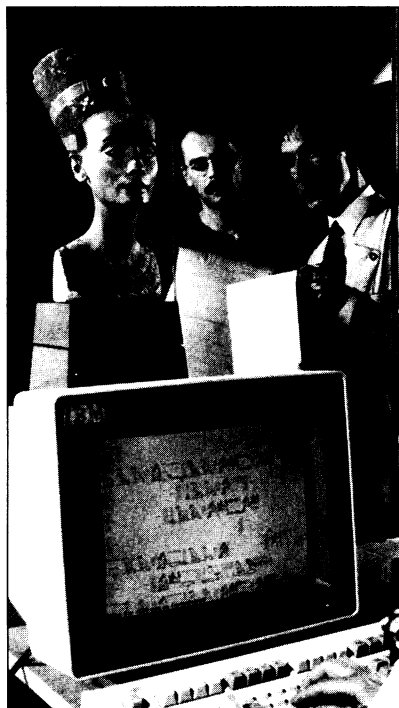
The NCES collected these data from a representative sample of some 10,500 1980 high school graduates who also graduated from college. It reports that about 24% had majored in science, engineering, or math.

*Who majors in science? From the U.S. Department of Education Office of Educational Research and Improvement.

New Life for German Egyptology

Among the consequences of the 45-year political isolation of East Germany was the isolation of untold numbers of cultural artifacts, including much of the world-renowned Egyptology collection previously housed in the Neues Museum in Berlin. That repository was destroyed during World War II, its contents hidden in salt domes. After the war, the collection remained separated—the bust of Nefertiti, for example, went to the Egyptian Museum in West Berlin, while that of her husband King

Nefertiti observes
while Germans at
museums in East and
West Berlin reunify the
nation's Egyptology.



The news from England keeps getting bleaker. Last summer came the news that British inventiveness was in a slough (*Science*, 17 August, p. 737), and now a survey published by the Association of University Teachers (AUT)* reports that nobody in English academia seems to like his or her job. The AUT, which represents 31,000 faculty and staff members at British universities, ought to know. When asked "If you were starting your career now, would you find a university career in Great Britain attractive?", only 6.5% said they would, according to the survey.

Almost two-thirds (62.5%) were considering a job change, and of those, 95% said they liked the idea of leaving the country altogether. Almost half reported that their jobs had become less satisfying in recent years. Why? "The key problem," says the AUT, "is uncompetitive pay." But conflicting job demands, lack of public recognition, and "new

Ikhnoton, their daughters, and information on the excavations ended up entombed in East Berlin's Bodemuseum, sealed off from Western eyes for more than four decades.

Now, in a project funded by IBM Germany, scientists from six German institutions are pulling the information from these collections together into a new Egyptology database, to

be housed in the Egyptian Museum. The project, coordinated by the museum's director Dietrich Wildung, will take 2 years and will include the computerization and analysis of tens of thousands of hand-drawn cards containing hieroglyphic samples from East Berlin's Academy of Sciences and other institutions. Scientists intend to construct a modern "dictionary" of ancient Egyptian from which they hope to gain new insights into the meanings and grammar of the language.

Umbilical Blood as Marrow Substitute

Doctors at the Johns Hopkins University Medical Center have pulled off an unprecedented, and apparently successful, "cord blood transplant" on a 4-year-old boy, Michael Sancilio, victim of a rare and deadly form of leukemia.

Three months ago, in a procedure similar to marrow transplants, surgeon John Wagner destroyed Michael's cancerous bone marrow with chemotherapy. He then injected 90 milliliters of blood taken from the umbilical cord and placenta

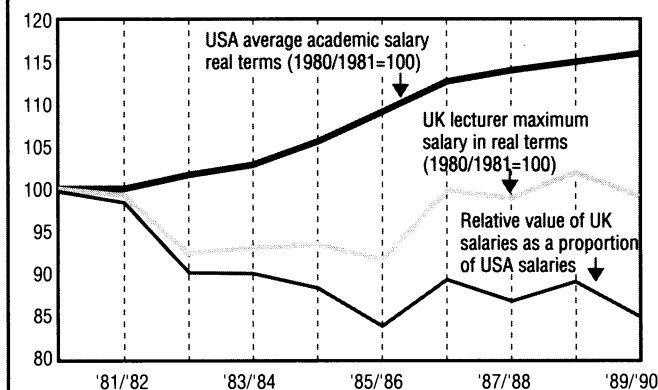
of Michael's infant sister, who was born a month after he was diagnosed with juvenile myelogenous leukemia. The Wagner team's theory was that, because cord blood is rich in the stem cells that generate bone marrow, the transplanted cells would act as they do in a newborn, heading straight for the bone to produce noncancerous marrow.

Michael's doctors decided to take the plunge with the unproven operation—rather than wait 6 months until his sister was old enough to donate bone marrow—because his disease is usually fatal within a year. They appear now to be vindicated: the leukemia is in remission.

The operation was not only the first such procedure to treat leukemia, but only the fourth cord blood transplant ever attempted (the second in the United States), according to Wagner. It can only be done with young children because there is not enough blood in an umbilical cord to treat an adult. But the apparent success of the Hopkins transplant has doctors talking about the possibility of a national cord blood bank for child leukemia victims who cannot find bone marrow donors.

Dreary Days for British Brains

COMPARISON OF UK AND US ACADEMIC SALARIES



management styles" are also adding to unhappiness. Indeed, close to half the respondents found their jobs stressful, and 77.2% of these said job stress is on the increase.

*Goodwill under stress: morale in UK universities, published by the AUT, United House, 1 Pembridge Road, London W11 3JY.