

BARTLEY GORE HOEBEL

1935 - 2011

This Memorial Resolution
prepared by a special committee,
was approved by unanimous rising vote at the meeting
of the Princeton University Faculty
on September 19, 2011 and ordered spread upon the
records of the Faculty.

BARTLEY GORE HOEBEL

(1935 – 2011)

Bartley (Bart) Gore Hoebel was born on May 29, 1935 and spent much of his childhood in Pleasantville, N.Y. and Salt Lake City, Utah. His father was an academic anthropologist who studied legal customs among various Native American Tribes and thus Bart spent several summers on reservations. Bart was an avid Cub and Boy Scout and earned the top rank of Eagle Scout. He loved tinkering and building, which proved invaluable for his career as an experimental scientist.

Bart received his B.A. in psychology at Harvard where he worked under the direction of Dr. Philip Teitelbaum on the role of brain mechanisms in the control of eating and satiety. This subject became his major research interest for the rest of his life. After a few years as a graduate student at the Rockefeller Institute (now University), he moved to the University of Pennsylvania where he completed his Doctorate in 1962 again under the guidance of Philip Teitelbaum. He became an assistant professor in Princeton's Psychology Department in 1963, an associate professor in 1967 and a professor in 1970. He had no intention of retiring and was looking forward to moving into the new Princeton Neuroscience Institute/Psychology building when he developed an ultimately fatal cancer. Bart's wife Cindy, a musician active in the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Princeton, predeceased him. They have two daughters (Valerie and Cary), a son (Brett), and two grandchildren.

Bart's early research was on an area of the brain called the hypothalamus and its control of eating and satiety. Later, he expanded this research to consider the physiology of other types of motivated behavior including addiction and the roles of the neurotransmitter dopamine in motivated behavior. He pioneered the development of techniques for introducing minute amounts of neuroactive chemicals into specific areas of the brain. In the last decade, Bart's research became relevant to the problem of human obesity. He showed that rats allowed to binge on sugar showed characteristics suggesting that they had become addicted to sugar.

Bart's scientific achievements were recognized by his being elected President of the Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association, of the Eastern Psychological Association and of the Society for the Study of Ingestive Behavior. He received an honorary doctorate from the Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium.

Bart was a superb and successful teacher of undergraduates and graduate students. In the laboratory, he gave his students wide freedom to explore on their own but was always available to help them. In large lecture classes he was a bit of a showman. Once he came in with a human brain in his gloved hands. To the horror of the class, he took a big bite out of the brain, which turned out to be made of grey jello.

An old friend described Bart as “a man without guile.” He was never known to utter an unkind or demeaning word about another person. He was committed to his family, his students, and his community, which stretched from Princeton right around the world. He founded the Princeton Peace Center and ran it for its life from 1969 to 1973 and devoted one of his sabbatical leaves to it. The center was an important focus of anti-Vietnam war activity and information. He was active in social issues in the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Princeton. His concern for environmental issues was reflected in his turning over his Christmas tree farm to the New Jersey Greenways program.

Bart had some extraordinary hobbies. He was a commercial licensed hot air balloonist. He built a fire-truck-mounted-steam calliope and his wife played it on various occasions such as Alumni reunions. His last major extra-curricular project was to restore a stern-wheel steamboat, *Splash* that traveled between New Hope and Lambertville and was used to teach “clean-water ecology, physics and U.S. history” to students and adults.

Because of his rapid decline and impending demise, his Festschrift was moved up so he could enjoy the fellowship and appreciation of his colleagues and former students. Throughout this celebration of his life and work, he remained cheerful. When the people around him began to tear up, Bart smiled a big grin and said “Hey, cut it out. I’m not dead yet.”

Madame President: For the Committee I move that this Resolution be spread on the records of the Faculty; that a copy be sent to: Valerie Hoebel, Cary Lane, Brett Hoebel, and to the Archivist of the University.

Respectfully submitted by,

Elizabeth Gould

*Professor of Psychology and the Princeton Neuroscience Institute
Co-Director, Program in Neuroscience*

Michael S. Graziano

Associate Professor of Psychology and the Princeton Neuroscience Institute

Charles G. Gross

Professor of Psychology and the Princeton Neuroscience Institute

Barry L. Jacobs

Professor of Psychology and the Princeton Neuroscience Institute