



**Berne's English-language theatre group**  
in conjunction with the University of Berne  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
and Arts Council of the English Department  
**proudly presents a reading of**

# SHOULD'VE

by Nobel laureate Roald Hoffmann

A play about the social responsibility of scientists and artists, *Should've* is also about three people trying to resist the transforming power of death. They are unable to do so, sundered as they are by memories and a past that emerges from that death. Eventually the consequences shape a different bond among the three. A fast-paced, evocative portrayal of modern moral and ethical issues.

Kuppelraum, top floor of  
main University building  
Hochschulstrasse 4, Berne

**Tuesday, 23 January, 2007 at 19.30h**

*Entrance free, collection at the door*

Roald Hoffmann was born in Poland in 1937. Since 1965 he has been a professor at Cornell University. He has received many of the honors of his profession, including the 1981 Nobel Prize in chemistry. As a writer, Hoffmann has carved out a land between science, poetry, and philosophy through many essays and books. *Should've* had its initial workshop production in Edmonton, Canada in 2006.

**Universität Bern**  
Berner Chemische Gesellschaft und Institut für Philosophie

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**PROF. ROALD HOFFMANN**

(Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1981)

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

*Story Telling in Science:  
Honesty, Imagination and Ethics*

**Koreferat: Prof. Gerd Grasshoff, University of Bern**

**Apéro after the lecture (Mediziner-Mensa)**

sponsored by the Alumni of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

*Abstract:* The question I eventually want to address in this lecture is whether any ethics comes out naturally from science. I'll begin by looking at storytelling in science, more important for doing good science than usually 'fessed up to. The moral implications of any narrative will take me to another place, to consider what lessons if any, might emerge from normative science. The very qualified and constrained "yes" that will emerge will come out not from fear and reproducibility, but from the implicit inner ethical dialogue in reporting and citing, from telling first time narratives, and from the bond of honesty of poets and scientists to the objects they study so intensively.

**Mittwoch, 24. Januar 2007, 16.30 Uhr,  
Gemeinschaftshörsaal, Gertrud-Woker-Strasse 5, 3012  
Bern**

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UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN

Seminar in Anorganischer, Analytischer und Physikalischer Chemie

Einladung zum Vortrag von

**Prof. Roald Hoffmann**

(Nobel Prize in Chemistry 1981)  
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

## **All the Ways to Have a Bond**

### **Abstract**

Any rigorous definition of a chemical bond is bound to be impoverishing, leaving one with the comfortable feeling “yes (no), I have (do not have) a bond,” but little else. And yet the concept of a chemical bond, so essential to chemistry, and with a venerable history, has life, generating controversy and incredible interest. Even if we can’t reduce it to physics. I will discuss some of the common criteria: length, energy, force constants, magnetism, energy splittings and other spectroscopic criteria, bond orders, population analyses, and bond critical points. My advice is likely to be: Push the concept to its limits, accept that (at the limits) a bond will be a bond by some criteria, maybe not others, respect chemical tradition, have fun with the richness of something that cannot be defined clearly, and spare us the hype.

**Donnerstag, 25. Januar 2007, 11.15 Uhr**  
Hörsaal 481