THE MEANING OF
THE ÖCSI BÁCSI AWARD

Around May every year research in Theoretical Astrophysics
bogs down slightly as people ponder the question: What is the
meaning of the Öcsi Bácsi award? Though no one actually
has asked this question, it is important that it be answered
and that the myth of Öcsi Bácsi be set down.

Legend has it that many years ago in the place that we now
call Caltech there lived a tribe called the Cohenim. The legend
would have it that there dwell with this tribe for some time a
warrior who called himself Öcsi Bácsi. The linguistic
background of this name is clouded; it is certainly not from
the language of the Cohenim. A strong case has been made
that it originates in an isolated language group spoken by a
very singular people. In this language, we are told, the name
Öcsi Bácsi means, as nearly as we can express it in English:
fear of the covariant derivative.

According to the oral tradition passed down to us, young
warriors would come in their late adolescence to dwell with
the Cohenim, and to pass through a lengthy and painful rite,
in order to attain the honor of being called Cheiftain, so that
they could go off into the world to gain honor, some even to become Chiefs and to collect tribute called 'grants' from the Council of the Tribes. This rite was to take four years, although many young warriors would dwell longer, some much longer.

During the ritual the young warrior would be guided by an older and, in some ways, wiser Chief of the Tribe who would protect him from all worldly concerns while the warrior honed his skills. Örsi Bárcsi himself in this manner became the charge of Hip Ess meaning 'face of the red hair' who was later known as Kenan, after the chair he sat in.

To become a cheiftain the warrior would study the ways of the chief and help him with his hunts. The warrior would in this manner prepare himself. To complete the ritual he would need to make a kill on his own. Often the kill would require a few crucial arrows from the warrior's guiding chief, but it was traditional for the elders to turn their eyes from this.

The myth of Örsi Bárcsi tells us that his path was not an easy one. His hunt required many years and the preparation of many intricate traps $. With undiminished fervour Örsi Bárcsi pushed on. But the gods must have wanted to test Örsi
Bársi. When his hunt was well under way they sent to attack him the dreaded Buick which would smite him a mighty blow.

Many months would pass before Ösö Bársi could again hunt. But hunt he did, and through the strength of his spirit became a Cheiflain, and later a medicine man in the land by the great river.

We are gather here today to remember the depth of his dedication and to celebrate the spirit which drives a young warrior to shun worldly pleasures, to accept a life of poverty and chastity in the perfection of his skills and in the pusuit of the hunt.

§A fragment of the legend refers additionally to the dietary laws followed by Ösö Bársi, and in particular to abuse of paprika and steroids.

§One authoritative source relates that the gods sent an Oldsmobile instead of a Buick.