

PERORATION

We are gathered here to celebrate at GoranFest an association, lifelong or some what shorter, with Goran. An association that has deepened our joy in invention, deepened our joy in the construction and fabrication of Physics and, most importantly, deepened our conviction of the human worth and meaning of our common efforts. The light hearted but deep humanity that Goran has always brought to his scientific and personal relationships has been and is important to all of Goran's friends and collaborators and critical to many of us who work in in relatively remote locations where daring to undertake scientific research at the cutting edge has only recently become feasible.

Goran's lightness and depth- which he has consistently maintained in spite of deep sorrows and difficulties he has endured in his personal and societal life-has made it possible for an extraordinary range of people from across the globe to become fast friends with him and each other and then to become productive collaborators with him and each other. This intensely humanistic dynamic has drawn out the best in his friends and in him and resulted in enduring scientific achievements and a treasured residuum of memories. Memories of the successful exercise of joint intelligence and creativity leavened with an invariable quotidian playfulness and joy that justifies the subtitle of this conference to all those who know the man.

- There is a famous Florentine motto : *festina lente* or *make haste slowly*. It is quite apposite to describe Goran's approach to the complex socio-psychological problems involved in constructing a successful and enjoyable scientific collaboration. Before anything else Goran has always prided himself on knowing how to be a good friend and collaborator. This trait emerged early: even as a recent doctorate he effectively mentored a close friend and peer through much of his doctoral thesis related to the decoupling problem in gauge theories. This is evidence not only of the early maturity of his scientific judgement but also of how he has managed to leverage a skill for friendship towards setting up a well functioning common scientific endeavour. His relaxed and modulated approach to building up the tempo of collaborations is well exemplified by the course of our relationship
- My own association with Goran stretches back to the very first day I arrived at International House in New York City to join Graduate school at CCNY, NYC. Goran and Aleksandr Sokorac, then students at the HE Theory Group at CCNY, had been sent to welcome Ashok Das who was joining City College from Stony Brook as a post-doc in the fall of 1977. Mistaking me for him, as I wandered a bit lost and forlorn on my first day in the Big Apple, they extended me a warm welcome that I treasured as a token of possible friendship: even if the error was soon manifest and the welcome regretfully truncated.
- Beginning from his instantaneous friendliness it took us 5 years to become friends and another 8 years of discussions about everything under the sun but

physics, before we began to think about collaborating and another 5 years before we found a problem we were suited to work together on. Two and a half years before our first paper and yet after that a series of results and papers, and more importantly a shared attitude towards scientific truth that I like to think justify the long buildup.....