ASIAN J. MATH.
Vol. 3, No. 1, pp. lvii, March 1999

MEMORIES OF SIR MICHAEL ATIYAH

LOUIS NIRENBERG*

I've known Sir Michael Atiyah since about the time he and Iz Singer proved their famous index theorem — a result which has played a fundamental role in geometry and in partial differential equations. I was enormously impressed by the scope and generality of the result.

It's always a real pleasure to meet with Sir Michael — unfortunately we don't do so very often. He has a wonderful knack of making people feel at ease. We talk about everything under the sun: family, politics, history, books, etc.

Over the years he has been a guiding force and an inspiration in the development of mathematics. However, my admiration has grown not only for his mathematical work; but also for his warmth and generosity of spirit.

And what a lecturer he is! For many years he has been my favorite speaker.

Happy birthday, Sir Michael, and many more.

*Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University, 251 Mercer St, New York, NY 10012-1110, U.S.A. (nirenl@cims.nyu.edu).