

MJ confident about return

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michael Jordan's need to play basketball again is stronger than his fear of tarnishing his legacy. "When I retired last time, I didn't say I was ready to quit the game," Jordan said Monday at a news conference attended by about 200 media members. "It's a little scratch here, and I don't want it to bother me for the rest of my life." "What I'm trying to do is get that last scratch in." Speaking in calm, measured tones on a stage set up at the Wizards' practice court, Jordan touched on several subjects related to this comeback — the second of his career. He said he is not afraid to fail and does not want to steal the spotlight from the league's younger stars. He also said he considers himself 100 percent fit and plans to play in all 82 of Washington's games. As for his legacy and the sto-

rybook finish to his career with the Chicago Bulls, Jordan said those factors were more important to others than to him.

"If that was my concern, I wouldn't do this. I'm not afraid to take on a challenge," he said.

He said he will try to take things slowly this season, not trying to do too much too soon. He said the Wizards should improve on last season's record of 19-63, but he'd be "surprised" if Washington was able to win 50 games.

The Wizards will open training camp Tuesday in Wilmington, N.C. Their first regular season game is Oct. 30 in New York against the Knicks at Madison Square Garden.

"I have to be patient, let things fall into place and not expect myself to score 40 or 50 points the first night," said Jordan, who strode onstage for his news conference wearing a black and red sweat suit.

Jordan looked older than he

did the last time he found himself in similar surroundings when he retired from the Bulls in January 1999. The bags under his eyes were a little more pronounced, and he sported a goatee.

He sat patiently through about 45 minutes of questioning, his left hand resting atop his right hand as he tried to explain the one question — "Why?" — that has been on everybody's mind ever since it became known earlier this year that he was seriously contemplating a comeback at age 38.

"It's all about challenges and going out and seeing if I can achieve something," Jordan said.

"America is supposed to be free will and choosing what you want to do. That's all I'm doing — I'm just trying to play the game of basketball. If I can do it, great. If I can't, that's great too. But you can't take my six championships away and you can't take away all the things

PRESIDENT

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of Medicine has quadrupled external funds and contains the only school of rural public health in the nation, Dickey said.

"With many nationally and

internationally recognized figures, we want to see how we can best serve the entire state and make the Health Sciences Center stronger than the sum of its parts," Dickey said.

Dickey is the founding program director of the Family Practice Residency of the

Brazos Valley and a professor of Family and Community Medicine. She has been recognized by the Texas Society of Pathologists, the University of Texas Medical School at Houston and Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

FACT

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students an understanding of how willing students, faculty, staff and the administration invest their time in learning about new students experiences," said Susan Speliopoulos, a graduate student in student affairs administration and higher education.

"Once students recognize that no soliciting is involved, then they are open and grateful about getting help."

FACT will be calling until Oct. 11, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday. If interested in volunteering, contact Susan Speliopoulos at 845-5826.

FIRE

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because of the heavy smoke and high level of carbon monoxide in the air.

Classes in the building were canceled for the remainder of the day, and offices were closed, said Ryan Garcia, a communications specialist for University Relations.

"They are assessing damage right now and will continue to assess the damage, but it was a pretty minor incident," Garcia said. "There were no reported injuries."

Bob Wiatt, director of University Police, said that although it was a minor fire, the incident still caused traffic problems.

"We had to keep traffic controlled around the area," Wiatt said. "It was a mess-up of vehicular traffic. We had to make sure no one entered the building."

Humphreys said this fall has been "a little busier than usual" in regard to alarms on campus.

"Annually, we are on campus on average 500 times a year," Humphreys said. "Mostly for alarm malfunctions or accidental alarms."

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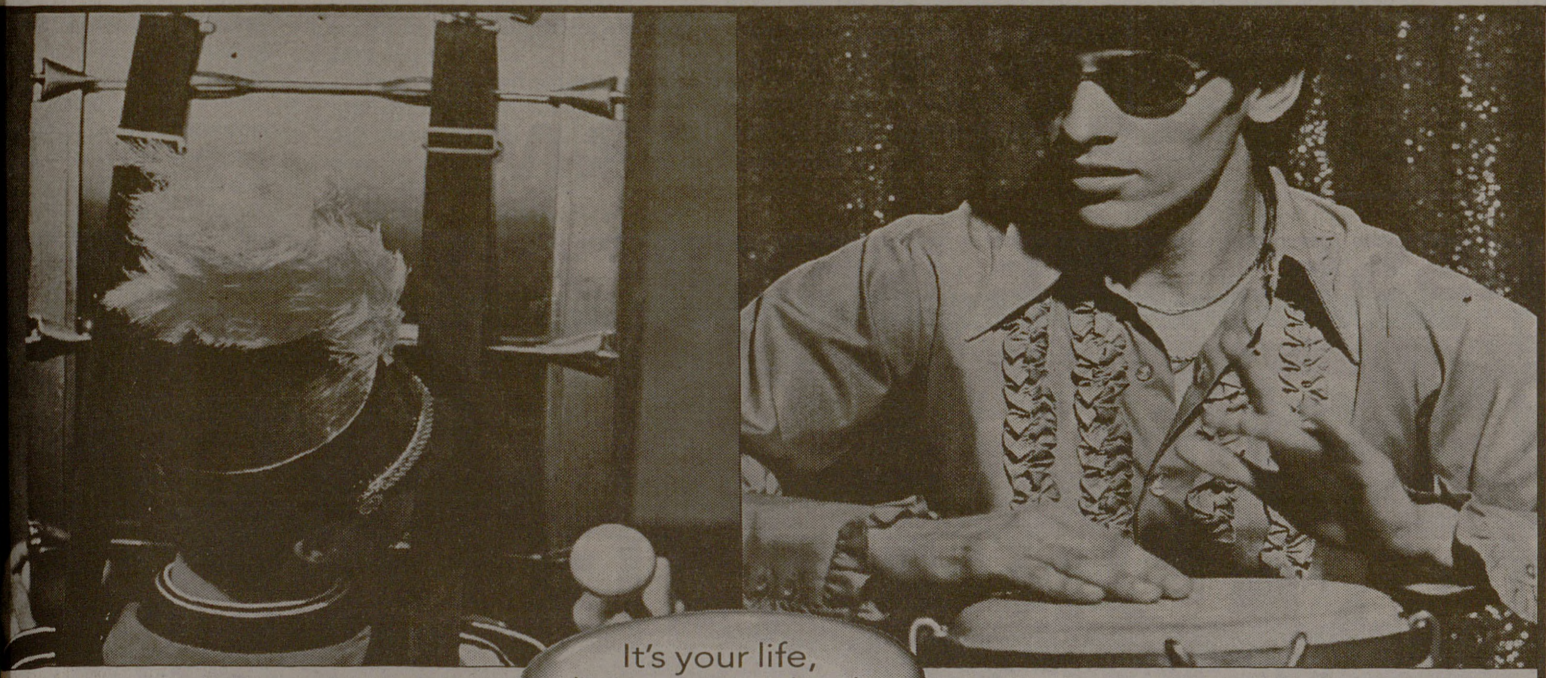
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