Jacques Habra

Young entrepreneur influencing the world and the Web

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT: Web Elite

TITLE: president & CEO

LENGTH OF TIME IN THAT POSITION:

five years

PRIMARY JOB RESPONSIBILI-

TIES: "Developing and implement ing the long-term vision of the company. Creating and managing global growth and expansion."

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD: chief technician of Branch Information Services in 1994, and several technical positions at the

University of Michigan

FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE

JOB: "The people that I work with and the culture, I love the style and type of interaction that the people in our company have. I am surrounded by people with a positive attitude."

LEAST FAVORITE ASPECT OF THE JOB: "Not having time to

do more."

BIGGEST CHALLENGE FAC-ING YOUR FIELD:

"Development of strong IT educational programs. Everybody is concerned about the lack of human resources. We have to create the right educational programs and courses for this industry. The catch 22 is that the industry changes so quickly, you almost have to be changing it every month. Director of

Development Michael Cody developed a program called 'we cross train' where every individual on the team is teaching each other, for instance, the fundamentals of programming." GREATEST PERSONAL GOAL REGARDING YOUR

POSITION: "To reach a point in my career where the technology that we develop and continue to enhance can be tied to the greater social good, especially with those less fortunate. IT professionals have had a lot of opportunities. I want to make those opportunities available to those who haven't been as fortunate. One day this company will do something to give back to society."

MOST MEMORABLE EVENT ON THE JOB: "The

day we launched our first corporate-wide intranet for Sun Microsystems and I knew our efforts would resolve communications problems for hundreds of people worldwide."

BEST BUSINESS ADVICE: "Surround

yourself with terrific people who have good talent. They will only make you better."

QUALITY YOU MOST ADMIRE IN A

PERSON: "Selfawareness. You have to be very

honest about your

strengths and weaknesses."

THREE WORDS TO
DESCRIBE YOU: "Creative,
forward-thinking and passion-

ate."

PERSON WHO MOST INFLUENCED YOU: "My

mother's energy and courage influenced me intrinsically on so many levels. I use my father's ability to size up a situation from all sides in seconds just about every day of my life."

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANOTHER JOB: "I would probably be a comedian or a writer for a comedian."

Photo and text by John E. Aho, IBJ

FULL NAME: Jacques Habra

AGE: 26

MARITAL STATUS: single

CHILDREN: none

HOMETOWN: Ann Arbor

HIGH SCHOOL: Kalamazoo Hackett High School

COLLEGE: University of Michigan

HOBBIES: mountain biking, basketball and traveling

MOST RECENT BOOK READ: "100 Years of Solitude" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/ACTIVITIES: Big

Brother/Big Sister, sponsor of the Ann Arbot Art Center, Special Olympics

"I am surrounded by people with a positive attitude."