Resume service offers help in job searches

By Bernard Swiecki
For the Daily

For students still looking for that perfect summer job but who fear that time is running out, there may still be hope.

University Opportunity Network, a new online resume service exclusively for University students, will have a promotional event from 5 to 9 p.m. tonight at Java House on South University Avenue. With the help of UON consultants, students can submit their resumes using computers at the cafe.

UON Project Manager Joshua Ginsberg said the service attracts both companies and students because "it taps the full potential of the Internet."

"It's very easy to get the attention of companies, but at the same time it's safe," Ginsberg said. "It's designed to get the most out of the Internet."

Another cafe promotion is planned from 6 to 11 p.m. Sunday at Rendezvous Cafe on South University Avenue.

UON is run by Web Elite, an Ann-Arbor based Web-page design company founded by University graduate Jacques Habra. The service keeps a database of students' resumes and charges companies who wish to peruse resumes of students who fit company criteria

The entire process is done through the World Wide Web and a paper resume is never used, Habra said.

"I like the fact that it's so straightforward," said Engineering sophomore Dan Turnas, who plans to use the service to land a summer job.

Students can submit a plain resume free of charge, but those who wish to

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add a photo, or audio and video clips to their online resume are charged between $15 and $25 for each.

Companies pay a monthly fee to search UON's database for specialized candidates. They enter specific keywords that identify desired candidates. UON then provides them with resumes of the candidates that meet their criteria.

Students can specify desired geographic location, company type, potential salary and other qualities of companies. Then, the companies are allowed to see their resumes.

Ginsberg said because UON uses a binary code to transmit students' personal information such as addresses and grade point averages, the service is safer than security programs used to transmit credit card numbers over the Internet.

Since the service opened, more than 2,400 resumes have been placed in the database and 31 companies have signed on to use the service, resulting in two successful matches.

One of the two candidates who was matched with an employer is Joe, a University student who wished to remain anonymous.

Joe found a match with a computer consulting company. He said employers will pay more attention to a resume from UON than one received in the mail because their company requested it.

"I think it's good for people who already have a job," Joe said.

Joe said that because the service is easy to use, he believes those who already have a job may find better offers.

Business School graduate student Renee Acho said she didn't like that students don't get to pick which companies get to see their resumes.

"I think they have a legal right to pick," Acho said.

Acho said that despite some misgivings, she still plans to submit her resume.

Law first-year student Jonathan Chudler said he liked the idea of the service but would stay away from submitting his resume until more companies join the program.

"It would have to be a good number (of companies)," Chudler said.

Habra said that UON plans to sign on many more companies as it enters its second week of operation.

Students can put a resume on UON's files by visiting http://www.uon.com.