

Student uses Internet to launch business

By Anita Chik
Daily Staff Reporter

Unlike other students who play on computers for fun, LSA senior Jacques Habra has extended his interest in creating web pages to set up his own business.

Web Elite — a collaboration with Habra, two partners and 12 other contractors who help design and create web pages for companies and organizations — has been online for more than four weeks.

Habra said Web Elite is an "advertising tool" and its main function is to "provide an extension of the companies or business organizations to reach a much broader audience."

"The company does all web development, graphics, programming, design and layouts," he added.

He said his main role within the company is to consult clients and consumers on how to develop web pages, where to put their pages and how to design graphics that are "pleasing to the eye" and "hit customers."

Habra, who is double concentrating

in English and philosophy, said he came up with the idea of Web Elite after discovering that most web design publishing companies have "generic" and "overpriced" web pages for clients.

Instead, Habra said he wanted Web Elite to have "something that is high quality, creative, different and download fast."

"The advantage of having the web page is to allow you to express anything you want. It's something very individual," he said.

Habra said a web page is a form of artistic expression.

"The idea of starting my own business, having contractors and clients, doing all on my own is exciting. It's something that I want to be a catalyst and self-starter," Habra said as he clicked on his Web Elite page at the School of Education on Sunday.

Habra said he has been developing his interest in computers and technology since he was about 14 years old. His positions as a Computer Informa-

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tion Systems teaching assistant, a computer consultant and a programming analyst at the University have provided opportunities to work with web pages and sites, he said.

But many other students find setting up their own businesses a difficult task.

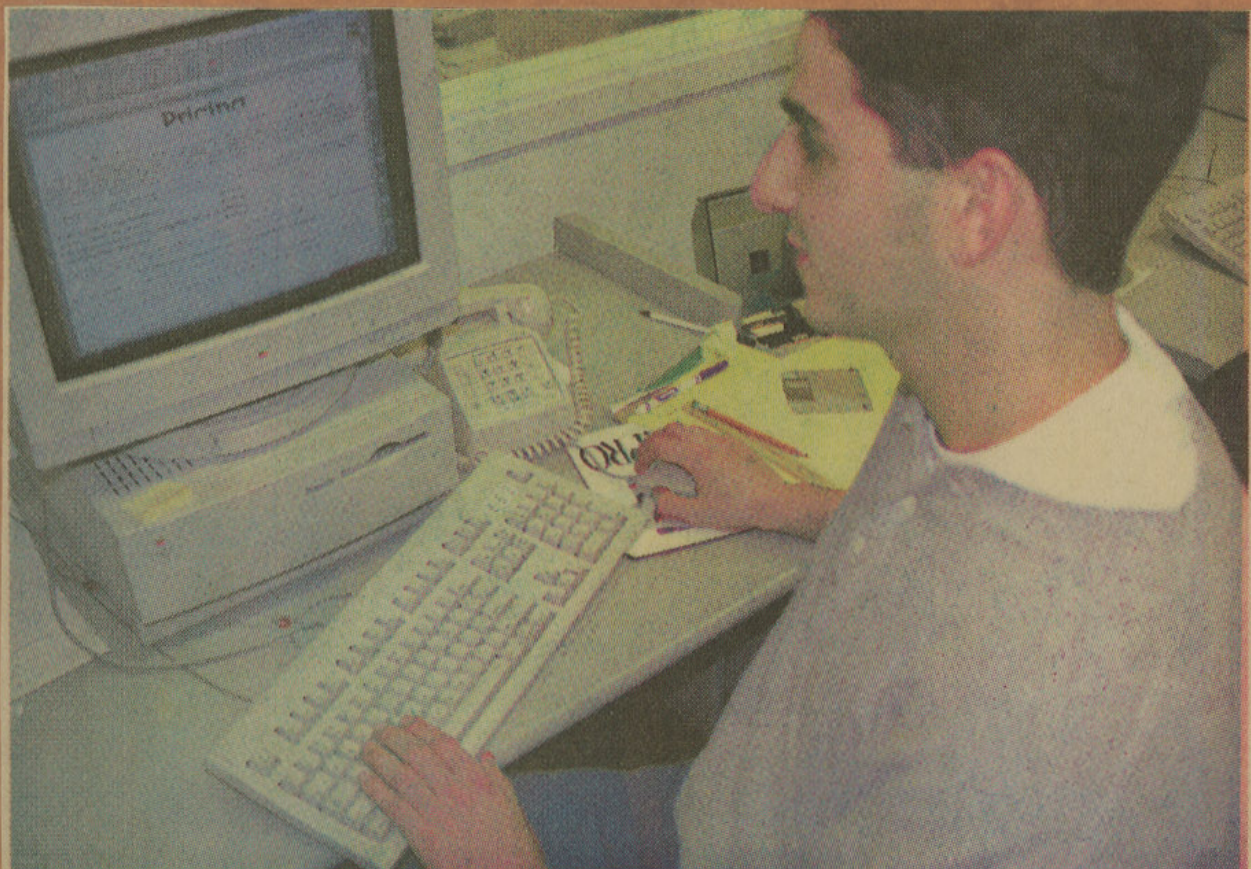
Engineering senior Diganta Saha worked for Web Elite as a graphic designer and said he feels more comfortable working for a service.

"You need to have a lot of initiation to try to start your own company," Saha said. "I wouldn't go out and do it myself because it has a lot of legal hassle. You need an idea. You need a drive. You need to contact a lot of people."

LSA junior Matthew Wright, Habra's partner and a student at Colorado University, said he was happy that Habra took care of contacting the clients and all other tax and business issues because he did not like to talk to people and work with the financial aspects.

Saha said Habra picked home pages he liked and recruited those students to work for him. Wright said Habra invited him to become part of his team through e-mail and introduced him to the business idea of Web Elite.

While most students learn theories from classes, many do not gain hands-on experience or opportunities to apply what they have learned into practice, Habra said.



MARGARET MYERS/Daily

LSA senior Jacques Habra checks out a page on the World Wide Web. Habra is part of a business collaboration called "Web Elite," a business that provides companies with an outlet on the Internet.