

# New Registration System Passes Test

**STEPHANIE UJHELYI**  
Staff Reporter

The new SOLAR (Student OnLine Advisement and Registration) system scheduled to be implemented during summer and fall registration at YSU has been deemed a "shooting star" after a test session on Thursday, Feb. 10.

The system was tested from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in YSU's Meshel Hall.

SOLAR, a student-operated registration system, was tested with students selected randomly by their advisors in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Business Administration.

The new YSU registration system will feature a direct access mode that allows students to use the phone through any YSU network terminal or personal computer on campus. PC terminals in the Bytes and Pieces Room in Kilcawley Center and those in Meshel Hall's Computer Center are all equipped to use the SOLAR

system.

Student Information Directory terminals scattered throughout the YSU campus are not accessible to the SOLAR system.

In addition to registering for class on the SOLAR system, a student can do the following:

- \* Change their demographics (street address, city, state, zip code and phone number) if they need to.

- \* Enter and hold his or her requested course selections 24 hours before he or she is advised. Advising is mandatory for students not in good standing or with fewer than 48 quarter hours. This option is only available to students on their pre-established registration dates.

- \* Review their class schedule online with time conflicts noted, and make adjustments before finalizing the schedule.

- \* Be informed about optional course codes that are available for a particular class closed to him or her.

- \* Be automatically billed for tuition, fees and other charges, which are automatically calculated and displayed online to allow the student to adjust his or her schedule to fit their budget.

- \* Apply for a YSU parking permit.

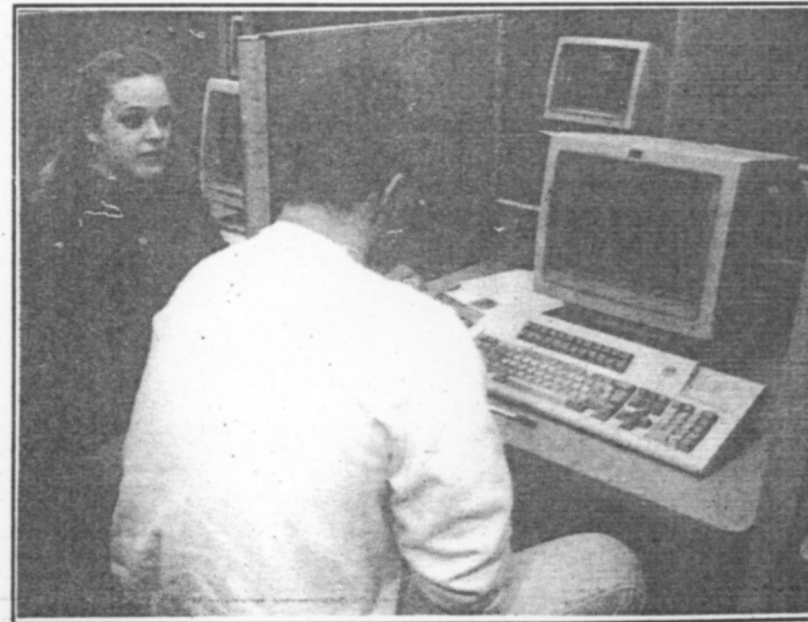
- \* Participate in surveys, which will be routinely available during the SOLAR registration periods to monitor the system's success.

- \* Solve unique scheduling, permit and financial aid problems while on campus at a SOLAR system terminal.

- \* Obtain a printed copy of their class schedule which will be available at the registrar's office and included on the student's bill.

Thomas W. Doctor, director of YSU's Meshel Hall Computer Center, said the University is considering the implementation of a touch-tone access mode to the SOLAR system.

"Implementing a touch-tone mode is planned for the spring or summer of 1995, but the touch-



*David Caleris*

**Kelly Rider, freshman, F & PA, and Mark Mraz, junior, Business, test the new SOLAR registration system in Meshel Hall Thursday.**

tone aspect would be quite expensive," Doctor said. "President Leslie Cochran and the Board of Trustees are very interested in adding this mode to the SOLAR system for the convenience of our students."

"Reaction to the SOLAR system so far has been good", said Bill Countryman, YSU's associate registrar. "There are a few problems that need to be worked out - but so far, so good."

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# Solar

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Countryman said that before Thursday's test, graduate students were invited to send their "permit to register" forms to the Registrar's office, where the information was entered for them on the new SOLAR system. Their schedules and bills will be mailed to them.

Alise Ellison, of Youngstown, a marketing major, was the first SOLAR registrant.

Most of the other selected students reacted favorably to the new system.

"It is a lot easier and quicker than registering through Jones Hall," said Shannon Solon of Youngstown, a business major. "For students that have to work it eliminates the conflict between registration times and work in their schedules."

Dee Daubenville, a business major from Warren, said the accessibility of the SOLAR system will be the biggest benefit to YSU students.

Ellen Vasko of Youngstown, a freshmen liberal arts major, said the SOLAR system is "excellent." "I don't have to wait forever. Before, everything would be when I got into the registration area," she stated. "I would have to wait for adds and drops to get the classes that I would need."

Scott Schulick, YSU's Student Government president, also registered for spring quarter during the SOLAR registration tryout, said, "It makes registration much better," Schulick said. "In fact, there is a terminal in the Student Government office which make it really convenient to register. It is simple enough for anyone to use."

Marie Cullen of YSU's Admissions Office and Marayamah Hassan, a YSU systems analyst, are the SOLAR system's project leaders.