SOLE is against the war on Iraq.

You've heard of our organization-Students Organizing for Labor & Economic Equality. We're the ones who fought for a workers' rights code of conduct for the laborers who produce U-M apparel. And we've fought to make sure that that code gets enforced, helping workers form the first independent union ever in a maquila factory in Atlixco, Mexico, and helping workers at a factory in Derby, NY, which produces hats for U-M, avoid massive wage cuts and obtain a safer working environment. We've also fought for workers rights at the local level, organizing thousands of undergrad students to walk out of their classes last year in solidarity with the U-M Graduate Employees Organization strike



It would be tempting to drop the whole student-labor solidarity thing and focus our attention squarely on opposing the Gulf War Part 2. After all the whole antiwar movement is getting pretty intense these days, with a least as many people mobilized as were in the streets during that other foreign policy debacle, the Vietnam War. But we realize that the best antiwar work we can doright now is to keep doing what we do best, building alliances between students and labor.

See, part of the reason folks like our current (unelected) commander-in-chief like war so damn much is that it distracts Americans from the realities of the serious domestic and global economic problems we face. They want to avert our eyes from the upward movement of wealth and power that is taking place on a massive scale every day, domestically and globally. They'd like to pull our attention away from our worker rights issues and get us to focus only on their war policies. That way, we're distracted from clamoring for more economic democracy in the workplace, and they're in a position to call the shotswhenever they decide their war is over, we, the antiwar protestors, are expected to disappear.

But we're not planning on disappearing anytime soon. We will stay relevant and dangerous by continuing to fight for a democratic global economy. We're not saying SOLE will never do antiwar work. We will do antiwar organizing. But we are keeping our focus on the student –labor movement. And in a way, that is the most important contribution we can make to the antiwar effort.