

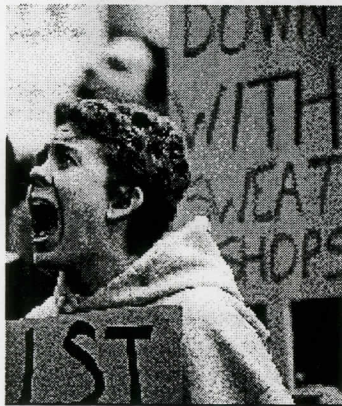
# WHAT IS SOLE NOW?

**Stopping Union Busting at the University of Michigan:** This Summer the University decided to replace 39 union campus workers in the Hospital Food Services department by contracting out to Aramark, a company that will not recognize the union workers. Aramark is widely known for treating its workers terribly and paying very low wages, especially to students and workers on college campuses. We hope to stop the union busting at the University by working in coalition with the unions on campus and student groups. If Aramark comes to the residence halls next year, it is likely that student workers will make \$6 per hour instead of \$8 or \$9 starting pay.

**International Solidarity with Garment Workers in Central America and Asia:** SOLE will continue to be an active member of the anti-sweatshop movement. While SOLE has focused over the past two years on setting up the infrastructures to stand in solidarity with workers, this year students across the nation will be able to directly support union organizing throughout the world in international solidarity campaigns. This summer students convinced Nike to rehire a number of workers who had been fired for union organizing in Honduras. There was a 20,000-person strike in the Cambodian garment industry this summer and students will be supporting these types of efforts where workers demand dignity and safety on the job.

**Demanding Labor Standards in U-M's athletic sponsorship deal:** In April Nike decided that it would not continue its long term relationship with Michigan as an athletic apparel sponsor in protest of the University's adoption of strong labor standards for the apparel industry. However, the University was forced to buy the Nike products that were already made for this year's teams due to such short notice. SOLE will be pushing the University this year to insure that any long term sponsorship include the U-M's strong code of conduct with a living wage and women's rights.

**Building Coalitions, Educating Members and the Campus:** SOLE has traditionally supported other groups such as the Students of Color Coalition and ENACT that promote a vision of social and economic equity at the University and beyond. SOLE will continue to support other campaigns for social justice and work in coalition with other groups to push for an end to racism, sexism, classism, homophobia and the many oppressions that interlock in hurting all people. SOLE will also use internal and campus education to better inform the campus on labor issues.



**Do I need to have a certain ideology to be a member of SOLE?**

No. Rather than promoting or requiring a common ideology among its members, SOLE brings together people of many backgrounds to focus heavily on campaigning and winning tangible reforms for working people.

**Do I need to be an activist or a radical to join SOLE?**

No, SOLE has members with a number of different backgrounds and all people regardless of whether you consider yourself an activist should feel comfortable within the group working for positive changes in society. Every person who cares about others in our society is important in resisting the corporate domination that creates sweatshops and poor paying jobs without benefits or health care in the United States and abroad.

**What is SOLE's structure?**

SOLE is a non-hierarchical and democratic organization. SOLE runs successfully with an elected 5-person steering committee that helps facilitate discussion and group decision-making. All members new and old are encouraged to get involved with coordinating campaigns and learning how to effectively organize.

**How can I get involved?**

Come to SOLE's mass or weekly meetings and ask how you can get involved. You can also send an email to [sole@umich.edu](mailto:sole@umich.edu) to inquire ways to work with SOLE.

Educate yourself through SOLE's resources and/or educate friends about issues that you believe are important for everyone to be informed on.