

# FROM THE GROUND UP

a publication of *STUDENT ACTION WITH FARMWORKERS*

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## Support Needed for Grape Boycott

In early 1984, due to increasing exploitation of farmworkers and an increasing decline in working conditions, the United Farm Workers of America (UFW) called for a boycott on California table grapes. The goals of the boycott are to ban cancer and birth defect-causing pesticides which are currently used on grapes, to bring about union elections free of intimidation, violence or coercion, and to insure good faith collective bargaining.

The United Farm Workers of America have targeted the table grape industry in particular due to the fact that some of the most dangerous pesticides are used on grapes. In fact, grapes receive more restricted use pesticides than any other fruit. In addition, one-third of the approximately 12 million pounds of pesticides used on grapes annually are known to cause cancer. Furthermore, the majority of these pesticides are

(see "Boycott", page 4)

## ITF Begins with Training Weekend

Helping some of the thousands of migrant and seasonal farmworkers who harvest crops in the Carolinas every year and encouraging college students to become more active in work for social justice was the focus of a training conference held at Duke University from Oct. 8-10. Sponsored by SAF, the training involved students and staff from ten North and South Carolina universities and colleges who are part of the Into the Fields: SAF Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program.

SAF recently received a \$133,250 grant from the federal Commission on National and Community Service to help fund the Into the Fields program for two years. The Commission was created by Congress to support national community service efforts. SAF was one of thirteen new programs in the area of higher education selected to receive funding this year. SAF will use the funds to assist nine universities in North Carolina and one in South Carolina in their efforts to develop their own service-learning programs which focus on farmworker issues.

The training weekend marked the beginning of the partnership between SAF and the following schools: Appalachian State University, Central Piedmont Community College, Duke University, Fayetteville State University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, Shaw University, the University of South Carolina-Columbia, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and Warren Wilson College.

The weekend included workshops on how to raise awareness of the problems facing farmworkers, recruit a diverse group of interns, find financing for the internships, and create service-learning classes on farmworker issues. Charlotte Jones, the Into the Fields Program

(see "Training", page 5)



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## **The SAF Mission:**

*To bring students and farmworkers together to learn about each other's lives, share resources and skills, improve conditions for farmworkers, and build diverse coalitions working for social change.*

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### **FROM THE GROUND UP**

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**Editor: Felice James**

## **New Staff Member Joins SAF**

As Student Action with Farmworkers prepares for a new year and the summer 1994 Into the Fields Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program, SAF also welcomes its newest staff member, Debbie Rosenstein. Debbie joined SAF in mid-September as the Coordinator of the Into the Fields (ITF) program. Debbie, who is a 1992 graduate of the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources, comes to SAF with a history of involvement in social justice and service-learning programs. In the past Debbie has been involved in documenting the obstacles small farmers in South India face converting to organic methods and in facilitating a coalition of paperworkers and environmentalists in Mobile, Alabama.



When Debbie was asked to talk about how her past internships relate to her new job with SAF she stated, "I've had many unique experiences that, in my opinion, should be more common and accessible. I would like to see more students involved in internships and that is what I see as SAF's purpose, offering students a meaningful way to coalesce activism with their education." When asked what brought her to SAF Debbie

remarked, "I was really impressed by SAF's philosophy; the fact that SAF isn't a charity organization. It's a group of students, farmworkers and agencies striving for the self-determination of farmworkers."

As her first month with SAF came to an end, Debbie expressed her excitement for the future, "I've learned a lot but there's still so much to discover and understand. Every day is a challenge." As SAF continues to grow with its new ITF program, Debbie also hopes to grow and develop.

by Felice James

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