

# FROM THE GROUND UP

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## Boycott of US Tobacco-Owned Wines Called

Mexican-American vineyard workers at the Chateau Ste. Michelle and Columbia Crest wineries in Washington have decided to take on the UST (formerly US Tobacco)-owned company in order to win higher wages and better working conditions. More than 200 workers, represented by the United Farmworkers of Washington State (UFWWS), called the nationwide boycott in June of 1991 after the winery did not honor workers' requests to unionize. Farmworkers are urging consumers not to buy **Columbia Crest or Chateau Ste. Michelle** wines and asking proprietors to discontinue selling the wines.

Some of the conditions workers seek to improve:

- Vineyard workers often work up to 90 hours a week in extremely dangerous and demanding conditions—but do not receive overtime pay
- In 1992, US Tobacco reported a profit of \$450 million, while vineyard workers real wages have decreased 15% since 1987
- Women vineyard workers earn 30% less than males workers; there are no female foremen
- Since 1987 the workers have requested that the company abide by the results of a union election. UST has aggressively denied this request. (See "Boycott", page 4)

## SAF ORIENTATION: A Short Journey

During the last week of May, 21 unsuspecting college students walked through the doors of the Short Journey Center in Smithfield, NC. For many of these eager people, the trip was long. Many would be meeting members of the group for the first time. "... Am I in the right place?"

Ice-breakers marked the beginning of the **SAF 1993 Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program**. From "Duck, Duck, Sarah" to flying tennis balls, everyone learned the names and interests of their fellow SAF interns. Through fun and games, the interns made new friends and rekindled old acquaintances.

On the other hand, the week focused on the interns' purpose for being there: to learn more about farmworkers and their needs. Scheduled throughout each day were speakers representing the various areas that encompass a migrant or seasonal farmworker's life. Pam DiStefano, attorney from Farmworkers Legal Services of NC, explained and answered questions regarding the legal rights (See "Orientation", page 6)



photo by C. Corrie

SAF interns learn about pesticides through skit.

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