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Com Alt. Seminar, week 4

**Triggering Passages:**

A just and democratic food system is not simply the end goal. Rather, it is also a strategic means to challenge the structures that impede the possibility of a just life for all peoples in every domain of life.
(Elsheikh, 7)
Race and Corporate Power in the US Food System: Examining the Farm Bill

I had no faith. Because the same thing had happened on Christmas. They told me that Santa would come on the Saturday after Christmas but the rent was due on that Saturday and he didn’t come at all
(Smart-Grosvenor, 31).

**News Media:**
“The monuments are an aberration,” he said. “They’re actually a denial of our history and they were done in a time when people who still controlled the Confederacy were in charge of this city and it only represents a four-year period in our 1000-year march to where we are today.”
- Controversial removal of Confederate monuments starts in New Orleans (Online article)
<http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/controversial-removal-of-confederate-monument-starts-in-new-orleans/ar-BBAefFl>

“I’m looking for a great day, when I see my Jesus face to face.”
-The late Emma Lou Dailey, Beatrice, Alabama (Walking Across America, Transom Radio Podcast)
<http://transom.org/2013/walking-across-america-advice-for-young-man/>

 The reading for Tomatoland this week was something that hit me really hard. I previously learned about the harms and costs of having pesticides on your food, and birth defects was something mentioned, yet reading about all these babies born when their mothers had no choice yet to be exposed to the herbicides, risking both their own life and their future child’s was something really heartbreaking. It also hits me hard, because the first day of my internship this quarter, I was presented with the opportunity to be able to get Herbicide / Pesticide Applicator Certification. I opted out, because it’s definitely not the route I wanted to be taking, even if it meant it would help me find work in the future, through the department of agriculture or department of ecology.
 Just as a reminder though, the pesticides used in this was just some out of the many used. Tomatoes are definitely a crop you would want to eat organically, but recognizing this is just one of the many foods sprayed with dozens of pesticides is shocking.

I chose a news article about the Removal of the Confederate monument which might not be completely relevant to the reading and text, I had a theme going in my head the focusing on the deep-south. I found this article relevant because it focuses on moving forward and taking down a part of history that at this point is now incredibly offensive, and there is no reason for such a statue to still be standing.
Walking across America, Podcast: 25:17 – 30:20