# SGA Sustainability Committee

- Thursday February 10th @ 6:30pm
- SORC inside Stamp Student Union

#### Counter-Narrative

- Tells the story of marginalized people
  - In their own words
  - A different take on the dominant narrative

### Noticing and Naming

- First non-white speaking part in documentary at 1:03
- Something for us to practice
  - "I dismissed it because I thought I was being overly critical"
  - I encourage you not to self-censor

### Walden Pond

- Henry David Thoreau
- I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life. And see if I could not learn what it had to teach and not, when i came to die..."

### Brister Freeman

- Enslaved in Concor for 30 years
- Fought in 3 wars
- Self-emancipated by writing "Freeman" as his last name on military papers
  - Land was poor, nobody wanted it
- Thoreau has a passage about "Brister's apples"

### Black Walden

- Community grew up around Brister Freeman's homestead
- Land was poor, people left or died of malnutrition
- Throeau was an abolitionist, felt kinship with outcasts

## **Enslaving Skilled Farmers**

- Relied on those skills
  - Cui Bono?
- Many "Southern" foods are of African origin
  - Smuggled by enslaved people after being captured
  - Rice, especially rice pudding
  - Coffee
  - Yams
  - Black-eyed peas
  - Ochra
  - Watermelon

# Link Between Natural and Spiritual

- Three sisters link to creation story
- Connections in Africa and many tribal cultures
- Pre-Christian traditions in Europe

## Booker T. Washington

- The "Black Belt"
  - Soil exhausted from extractive farming
  - Former slaves starving and malnourished
- "Forty acres and a mule"
  - Some land granted during Reconstruction
  - Much returned to white owners

## George Washington Carver

- Hired as faculty at Tuskegee in 1896
- Advanced degrees in botany
- Pioneered methods of regenerative agriculture
  - J.I. Rodale founded Rodale Institute
  - Used Carver's work as the basis
  - Return carbon to soil

### Rosalind Franklin

- X-ray crystallography
- Double helix structure of DNA
- Watson and Crick
  - Used her data to win Nobel Prize

### Some Successes

- The Weekend
  - Fair Labor Standards Act
    - "Constitutes a step in the direction of communism, bolshevism, fascism, and nazism"
- 19th Amendment 1920

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