

# Environmental Action Newsletter

What YOU Can Do for Our People & Planet  
Issue 5: Mass Mobilization

## The Return of Bill Nye the Science Guy

*Bill Nye is trying to deliver us from denialism.* ✦ **Drew Langan**

Five years ago Bill Nye returned from temporary obscurity for an unfortunate reason: [maybe being dead](#). The rumors, thankfully, were untrue. Today, as the majority of his audience has embarked upon their adult lives, the Science Guy is enjoying a resurgence as a political (but non-partisan, he asserts) activist. A cavalcade of fans came forward to support a [kickstarter film](#) about Nye. A new [netflix series](#) focusing on Nye debuted just this week. Nye took a prominent place at the recent March for Science. Some observers [noted](#) that in many ways Nye personified the march. Nye's optimism and enthusiasm continue to inspire generations past and present to action, a perfect prescription for today's political climate.



### WHAT NEW POWER LOOKS LIKE – JONATHAN COHEN

In this clip, [Jeremy Heimans](#), a life-long activist, talks about the "new power" that comes with modern day technology. He discusses how we can use this new power that has mostly been used for entrepreneurial success to change politics. This "new power" from modern day technology has the potential to be of great use for activists to achieve mass mobilization on issues such as climate change in politics.

### MOUThWASH

Mix 1/2 cup filtered/distilled water, 2 tsp baking soda, 2 drops tea tree oil & 2 drops peppermint oil in a container. Shake before use. Swish 2-3 tsp for a minute or two.

### Fact

### REMEMBER THE 5 R'S

**Refuse** what you do not need  
**Reduce** what you do need  
**Reuse** what you consume  
**Recycle** what you cannot **Rot** (compost) the rest

### DIY

### RECYCLE YOUR PLASTIC!

Recycling one ton of plastic saves 1,000 to 2,000 gallos of gasoline!

[TheWorldCounts](#)

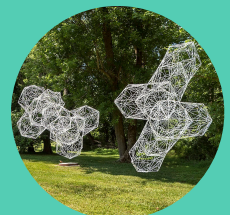
### TIP

Events at the Schuylkill Center



### Replanting Fox Glen

Schuylkill Center  
May 20th  
10am-12pm, Free  
8480 Hagy's Mill Rd,  
Philadelphia PA  
Help plant trees, remove invasive plants, and clean up trails along the Schuylkill!



### Making in Place Exhibition

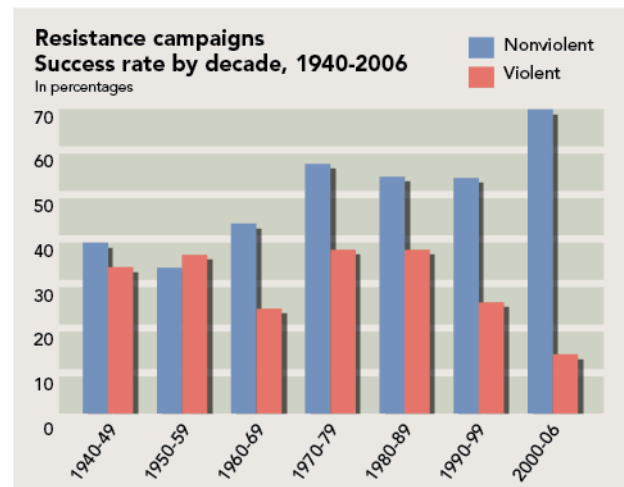
Schuylkill Center  
May 24th  
6-8pm, Free  
Art in the Open:  
14 artists showcase their art gallery onto the Schuylkill trails.  
Celebrate the opening of the exhibit with talks from artists, refreshments and a guided tour!

## In Defense of Non-Violent Direct Action

**Erika Weiskopf**

So, you went to the People's Climate March in DC. You raised your voice in solidarity with frontline communities, you met strangers who share your dream of a just and sustainable future., and despite the power you felt marching through the streets of Washington raising your sign, you can't help but think-- now what? Did my action make a difference? Or, perhaps, you didn't march, and are feeling disillusioned that the energy you've felt at past protests seems to stay in streets. Maybe you think there's no point in marching when those at the top seem not to listen.

Non-violence works. Non-violence can topple dictators, despots, and those who would seek to have you accept that 2+2 equals anything other than 4. I'll make two kinds of arguments here, both of which I think will appeal especially to Swarthmore, Bryn Mawr, and Haverford students. The first is statistical: In 2011, Erica Chenoweth and Maria Stephan, two scholars of peace and conflict studies, assembled a comprehensive database of 323 nonviolent and violent campaigns, at least three-fourths of which aimed to depose demagogic leaders. In their book *Why Civil Resistance Works*, which won the 2012 Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award from the American Political Science Association, Chenoweth and Stephan describe statistical models using this database which



Success rates of nonviolent versus violent actions by decade from *Why Civil Resistance Works*

show that peaceful protests are more successful than armed struggles in overthrowing dictatorships and ending occupations.

My second argument should appeal to the Quaker traditions upon which our three institutions were founded: in a violent word, a pacifist voice is a radical voice. Pacifism is thus not passive: it is an active rebellion against the perpetual violence which has its roots in elite institutions and social structures that protect the interests of dominant groups that fear losing their privileged status to social change. This structural violence obviously demands a response. Through nonviolent action, we reject the violence which has become status quo. Our dream as activists is to achieve a nonviolent world; at events like the People's Climate March, even for a few hours, we can model just what a nonviolent world can look like, and that image is a powerful one. By participating in nonviolent action, we manifest our hopes for the future.

# Call Valerie Smith About Divestment!

Anthony & Mountain Justice (MJ)



“Since Friday’s forum [at Swarthmore College], we’ve seen the administration sidestep key questions about divestment. We’re sitting in President Smith’s office, calling for a response: they’ve found time to issue a statement affirming the right to protest, but not to answer these simple questions. We’re asking students, alumni, faculty and supporters to call and email the President’s office to demand answers. The line will go through to her secretary who you should leave a message with.”

## Who to contact:

**President Smith**

**Phone: (610)-328-8314**

**Email: [president@swarthmore.edu](mailto:president@swarthmore.edu)**



I believe that we must pursue straggles that will actually lower carbon consumption, ones that help to educate students to become leaders in the fight to combat climate change when they graduate, and ones that will have a lasting impact beyond our campus.

Here are questions MJ is proposing for asking the administration at Swarthmore College:

**1. Do you support the 1991 Ban in investing policy or do you support divestment from Apartheid?**

*These two cannot coincide as supporting the ban means you regret divesting from Apartheid, and supporting divestment from Apartheid means you disagree with the 1991 Ban.*

**2. Do you have any arguments against the partial divestment proposal, other than the 1991 Ban?**

*Financial concerns no longer hold up against the partial divestment proposal and it is a compromise that the Board has refused to fully consider.*

**3. Is there any reason why we can't have sustainability and divestment?**

*There is no reason why the sustainability efforts of the college and divestment should be mutually exclusive. We can take sustainability measures and also divest.*

April 17, 2017