The Daily Tar Heel

News

Actor talks at UNC about 'Witness' concludes series his Clinton endorsement

oming, he will not be the last.

is so high-profile.

it can direct dialogue."

cided in his vote.

political discussion

candidate," she said.

power alone changes voters' minds.

erate people who are just curious,"

he said, adding that he was inter-ested to hear Astin but still is unde-

Heels for Hillary, said that she believes political endorsements

carry more weight but that she

hopes Astin's presence provoked

for bringing people out to these

events to learn more about the

significant celebrity endorse-

ments include Caroline Kennedy

"I think that it's really important

"Celebrities tend to attract mod-

BY OLIVIA BOWLER STAFF WRITEF

Sean Astin does not in fact have large, hairy feet. Or if he does, his sneakers hide them well.

Wearing blue jeans and a blazer, Astin couldn't have looked less like a hobbit when he appeared in the Student Union Tuesday evening.

The actor, who is most known as the character Samwise Gamgee in the epic Lord of the Rings trilogy, stopped by UNC as part of his N.C. tour this week, endorsing Sen. Hillary Clinton.

"My passion for Sen. Clinton is deep," he said to the more than 50 Tolkien and Hillary fans who gathered in the Class of 2000 Lounge, bearing blue Clinton stickers and gift-set DVDs.

Astin said he believes this will be an election year in which America will experience a huge upsurge in voter participation.

He said he met Clinton when he was 21 years old and was floored by her sincere focus on human interac tion, which he characterized as the most crucial part of campaigning.

"I want to speak through you to the people you'll talk to," he said.

Astin encouraged attendees to volunteer for any campaign, and then opened the floor for questions. The questions - most posed

with some allusion to the trilogy touched on Clinton's experience as opposed to Obama's fresh voice, as well as her plans for helping smalltown rural farmers, which one ques-tioner compared to hobbits.



Actor Sean Astin speaks about his support for Hillary Clinton for president in the Student Union's Class of 2000 lounge Tuesday.

Amanda Vaughn, director of Butler of the band Arcade Fire and Mac McCaughan of the band Superchunk.

Greensboro and Carrboro on May 1

able at the one-stop early voting spot at Morehead Planetarium and

ntact the State & National

BY KELLY YANG STAFF WRITER

Through discussions, photo exhibits, performances and other media, UNC's arts community spent the year exploring issues of capital punishment in society. The dialogue was brought about

by the Creative Campus Innovations Grant, which was awarded to the University and seven other schools in the country. And to close out this year's proj-

ect, Creative Campus will bring "Witness to an Execution," presented by PlayMakers Repertory Company, to Elizabeth Price Kenan Theatre. The production premieres today and runs until April 27.

Reed Colver, project manager for the initiative, said when PlayMakers started its PRC² series – a second stage lineup of smaller shows - she felt the death penalty project was relevant because it looks at the issue from multiple perspectives. "This is the first year we've tried

to undertake the project," she said. "It's been fantastic, and we will continue next year with the gender and identity project."

"Witness to an Execution" is written and performed by Mike Wiley, a UNC graduate from the Masters of Fine Arts program, and tells stories based on chilling interviews of people involved in the Texas prison system's death row.

"It's told from the perspectives of the individuals who performed the execution, the warden, the ones who witnessed and participated in some way," Wiley said. "We also have a story of a death row chef who makes the last meal." Joseph Haj, PlayMakers' produc-

and asked him "to flesh out the 15minute play" and write something that was about an hour long.

Now after nearly six months of research and preparation, Wiley's one-man show will premiere where he started the project. Wiley said he enjoyed working

with Haj and others involved with the production, as well as being able to return home.

Ryan Millager, a senior dra-matic art major, said he is happy he's been able to contribute to an important issue through his work in the drama department.

"With both 'Coyote On a Fence' and 'Dead Man Walking,' we of (the Department of Dramatic Art) Mainstage saw our hard work in the theater engage in the broader community conversation while also standing alone as works of drama that we can be proud of," Millager said

Millager added that he and others involved in the productions have never needed each other more in proceeding with their work than after the death of former Student Body President Eve Carson.

"It has taken a lot of courage from everyone to struggle with ATTEND THE SHOW

Time: Various times, today-Sunday Location: Kenan Theatre Info: playmakersrep.org

issues that now strike very close to home," he said.

Emil Kang, UNC's executive director for the arts, said the students who worked last week with "Dead Man Walking" made the best out of working under similar constraints.

"Eve's death is a devastating tragedy, and I can't say that I've made any connections just yet," Kang said.

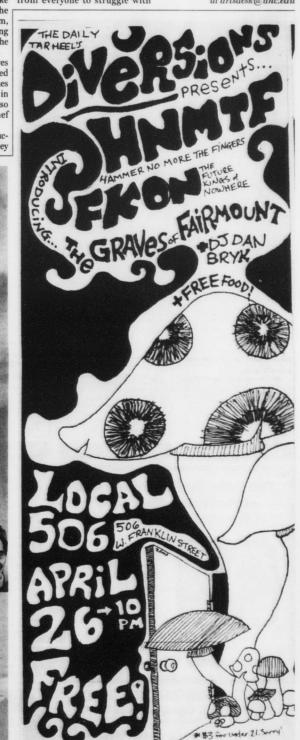
Colver said all of the organiza-tions involved in this year's Creative Campus project have provoked heartfelt emotions and enjoyment from many.

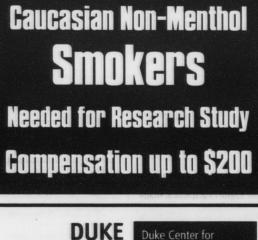
Others said the project has helped utilize the arts to interpret a difficult issue into collaborative dialogue.

"I think it was a great year where we learned a lot about cross-campus collaboration," Kang said. "We look forward to continuing

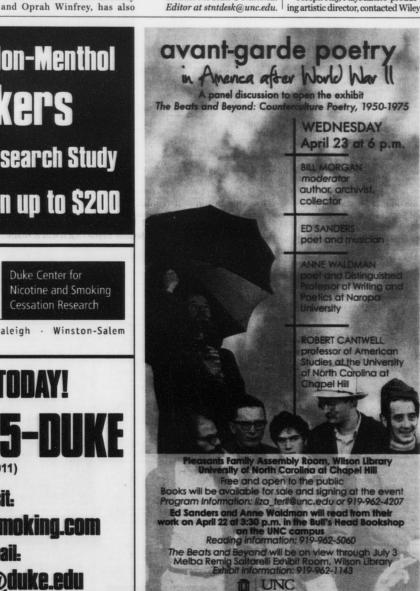
our efforts in weaving the arts into the academic fabric.

> Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu









DTH/I B YOUNG

received the endorsement of Win

Both bands will be playing in "Change Rocks" concerts in and May 2 respectively.

Tickets are free and are avail-Barack Obama, whose most Science Center starting Thursday.



e-mail-

Jay Price



Dick Gordon



jomc.unc.edu

Alumni Conversations

Sponsored by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication

N&O reporter Jay Price and "The Story" host Dick Gordon discuss their reporting on the war in Iraq

> Wednesday, April 23 at 6 p.m. Freedom Forum Conference Center located on the 3rd floor of Carroll Hall

Seating is limited. For more information, contact Benji Cauthren at 919.962.3037 or benji@unc.edu.