

Local Professor Running for N.C. Senate

interview conducted by Barbara Beebe

Dr. Daniel Campagna is a Criminal Justice professor at FSU and is currently running for the North Carolina Senate. His opponent is twenty-year incumbent Lura Tally. I interviewed Dr. Campagna in March about his campaign and political aspirations.

Barbara Beebe: I didn't know you had political aspirations.

Daniel Campagna: I'm not sure you'd call it political aspirations if you have a person who wants to represent the people instead of political interest groups. I don't equate the two as one in the same.

BB: What do you mean by special interest groups?

DC: Everyone from union groups to all the conglomerations of special interest constituencies who want something specific from government. I think I'm part of a new breed of candidates who wants to represent the great mass of people out there who don't feel like one issue in itself will adequately represent them.

BB: So, you feel that running for the North Carolina Senate will give you the ability to do that?

DC: Yes. I want to try to redefine some of the basic rules of campaigning and of politics in general - how power's distributed, how money's spent, how things get done.

BB: What do you mean by redefining the rules of politics?

DC: How you go about getting the vote. Rather than going to precincts and to the interest groups, I'm trying to appeal to the general public, the individual neighbor and just groups of concerned citizens - community watch and so forth - and talking directly to them. I'm not using the county democratic machine which is so strong in this city.

BB: What do you think are the 3 biggest political problems in North Carolina?

DC: The distribution of state monies for programs and services is probably at the top. That's such a political animal anyway. How money is distributed and the criteria used for that distribution - that would be at the top. Second, the economic future of the state - the fact that we continue to bring in industries which pay marginal wages, instead of livable wages. The third, education, which is a very familiar problem. Students in these counties are compared to national standards. It's time to undergo substantial reform from within the educational system. We need to use a state-wide curriculum, not a national one, quit using the California Achievement Test (CAT) and so forth. I think by attacking education, we will solve or dissolve many of the problems which result from a lack of education. We may help take a bigger bite out of the poverty cycle, too.

BB: Let's go back to the economic future of this state and the particular businesses which we permit to come into this state.

Tobacco and cotton are supposed to be our biggest cash crops...

DC: Tourism is the 3rd biggest industry.

BB: Would you like to see that change?

DC: Tourism could certainly be expanded: convert state parks into luxury parks that the average citizen could afford. Virginia does the same thing. Make North Carolina more of a tourist mecca. But, that's a transient thing. You can't always count on that money. Instead it (the state) needs a more diverse industrial base. Simply put, it means different types of industries. Not just service industries but productive industries. I also think it's time for us to experiment with basic cash crops - experimental crops - like soybean, hemp and so forth that can be used to sell abroad for export purposes.

BB: So much money can be made from growing hemp, because it can be converted into so many different things. Because of the illegality, do you think that you'd have a hard time explaining that to people?

DC: Yes, I really would. But there should be a search for experimental crops that have a good cash flow to them, like soybean for instance. Right now it's marginal. People don't really want to move from tobacco to soybean. But that doesn't mean it can't be made profitable. It simply means right now we're too timid to try it.

BB: The other thing I was thinking was in trying to talk to people about crop conversion, you can deal with environmental issues. If we continue to produce the same thing, the soil is not getting any nutrients.

DC: Yeah. Soil rotation. The state will be confronting, as it grows in population, not only crime and education but really intense environmental issues. Toxic waste, breeder reactors, landfill sites, air pollution in the western end of the state is becoming disproportionate, the unfortunate fact that oil companies want to begin off-shore exploration on the outer banks - all that can be controlled. I think there's a balance between the needs of industry and the needs of the people. Neither side should win to the advantage of the other. In spite of not being able to find that midpoint, that assumes we are intensely stupid in resolving conflicting interests. We can do that. I'm positive we can do that. I know how to do that. If 18 people disagree about the use of the soil, then you simply have to sit down and sort out what they would be willing to accept. Each group has to understand in the process that they have to give something up in order to get something. The days of everyone getting everything they want are gone. That doesn't mean we needed them in the first place.

BB: It's obvious to me that if you're running, you feel there is a problem with the senators we have now.

DC: Yes, a very blatant one. Foremost is the fact that if people think that life is so much better in Cumberland County after having had 20 year representation from a single senator, then by all means they should vote for that person. If they feel that things are supposed to be different and that holding office is an honor, not an entitlement, then they should go for change. I strongly resent the fact

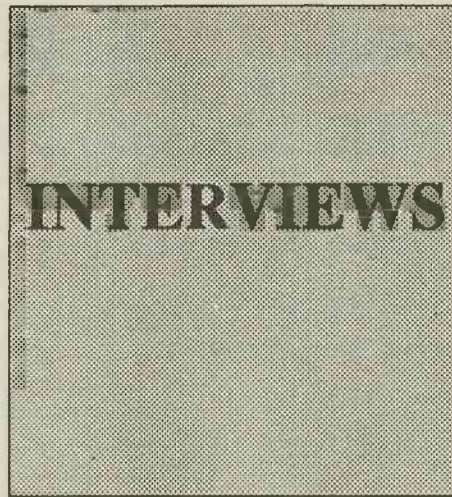
that the county democratic machine has consistently picked the same candidate and thereby removed the choice from the voters for other candidates. I would be insulted if I was a typical voter. I wouldn't have a choice. What I'd have is somebody else's choice forced on me. And I'm trying to be that choice this time around.

BB: In your concept of trying to redefine politics, do you think that all forms of public office should be limited?

DC: Yes. There's not an honest concerned citizen around who couldn't do the job as well as the next one. Experts make mistakes. We currently have a state senate 1/3 or 1/4 of whom are attorneys. I'm familiar with the legislation in this state, and there's nothing blindingly insightful about it. I think anyone can do it. It's designed to be a citizen's legislature, meaning we all get represented at some time. And it should be an office to which any of us, regardless of our income, can aspire. That's out of the question for most folks.

BB: So, I take it you're against career politicians?

DC: Yes. I wouldn't want to be a career



politician. I think you become more ineffective. I think you become too accustomed to doing things only one way and your perspective on solving problems narrows, it doesn't expand because you're told right from the start what is acceptable behavior and what's not. You need a very strong-willed person to say "no, there are other options."

I fully expect to win on May 5th because whoever wins in the primary, wins it all.

THE Crossword

by Martha J. DeWitt

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- ACROSS**
- 1 "— Goriot"
 - 5 Does a belly-whopper
 - 10 Grant
 - 14 Arabian letter
 - 15 Oberon of films
 - 16 Felling tools
 - 17 Revelation
 - 19 Galter
 - 20 On the up —
 - 21 Calming with drugs
 - 23 Phoenician city
 - 25 Pinochle cards
 - 26 Mohammedan judge
 - 29 Square pillar
 - 31 Spry
 - 34 Cromwell
 - 36 Makes boo-boos
 - 38 "If it were done when — done..."
 - 39 Takes umbrage
 - 41 Certain worshiper
 - 43 Reference work: abbr.
 - 44 Cartoonist Addams
 - 46 Louisiana cookery
 - 47 Author Lagerlof
 - 49 Mannerism
 - 51 Hydrocarbons: suff.
 - 52 Hops dryer
 - 54 Chronic failure
 - 56 Of the stars
 - 58 Jockey Arcaro
 - 62 Put to flight
 - 63 Revelation
 - 65 Concerning
 - 66 Public spat
 - 67 Vegetable
 - 68 Contemporary
 - 69 Armor part
 - 70 Mex. laborer
- DOWN**
- 1 Spotted cavy
 - 2 N.C. college
 - 3 Peel

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ANSWERS

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- 48 Substance
- 50 Lawmakers
- 53 Credit
- 55 Shoe size
- 56 Top-drawer
- 57 Early Peruvian
- 59 Barrier to control water
- 60 Jap. box
- 61 Actor Richard
- 62 Van Winkle
- 64 Victory sign