

Purdue gets visit from Green Party nominee

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Green Party presidential hopeful David Cobb is running to build the Green Party nationally.

Last Friday, David Cobb came to Purdue.

"My primary goal is to build up the Green Party," said Cobb who is seeking nomination for president in 2004.

Cobb spoke to a group of more than 60 students, faculty and community members in the Stewart Center and addressed issues concerning the upcoming presidential election and his goals for 2004.

Cobb has already traveled to 27 states, and by the end of June will have gone to 40. He has been to colleges including University of Texas, Harvard and University of Southern California.

Cobb says he is running to increase Green Party registration and is attempting to get more active membership in local parties. In addition, he is helping to start local chapters where they do not exist and strengthen local chapters that do exist. Also, one of Cobb's goals is to help local Green Party members get elected.

Cobb's goals are numerous. He said he wants to bring the troops home and end the military industrial complex that supports it. In addition, his goals include getting universal health care, getting publicly funded elections, end the war on drugs while presenting an industrial complex and addressing climate change and moving to sustainable energy.

Mark Franciose, sophomore in the School of Liberal Arts and president of Purdue Campus Greens, was there when Cobb spoke.

"He wants more open elections and to get more parties into the process," said Franciose.

The Purdue Campus Greens got Cobb to come and speak at Purdue. The group has 15 active members who run campaigns and address local issues concerning Purdue.

The group is addressing Purdue's recycling policies. Franciose said their goal is to make it easier and more accessible. Also, the group wants Purdue to get a fair trade certification.

A fair trade certification means that a fair price was paid for the product. Coffee at Purdue still needs a fair trade certification, and the group is working towards that.

The Green Parties across the nation are trying to increase third party membership and reach goals concerning their party.