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utting aside a day for the earth

Thirty-eight degree temperatures did not stop CMU students from flocking to the fifth annual Earth Day to hear live music and learn about a wide variety of environmental issues.

Earth Day began April 22, 1970 and is in it's 25th year, while CMU celebrated Earth Day for the first time in 1990.

Despite the cold weather, typical numbers of students came to the event, according to Student Environmental Alliance members, sponsors of the event.

Kate Kehoe, Flushing junior, said Earth Day was more important than attending her 12:30 p.m. class.

"The earth's going to be around here a lot longer than physics class," she said.

Sam Stein, singer and guitarist for "Sparky's Back Door," said the weather hindered the performance because of cold hands and frigid guitar strings.

"This is the first time I've had to wear a coat to a show," Stein said. "Sparky's Back Door performed second out of six scheduled bands.

About 11 different booths were set up around the area. At the booths, participants could make donations, purchase items or receive free information. Pagan Wheel's booth offered tarot readings and face paintings with a cash donation.

"The whole story of Earth Day



coincides with our beliefs of respecting the earth," said M'jit Turner, Pagan Wheel member and Mount Pleasant resident.

Three local businesses selling environmentally-friendly items were Good Vibrations Creations, 206 S. Main St.; Ethnic Creations, 1620 S. Mission St.; and Greentree Natural Grocery, 214 N. Franklin St.

"We want to impress upon people the importance of protecting the environment," Wilbur said.

Ethnic Creations owner Daniel Stephens said the store sells many items made from natural fibers such as rayon dresses made from wood sap. The store also sells shoes made from recycled tires and other items and jewelry made from natural hemp fibers, he said.

Greentree Natural Grocery sold organic food items and environmentally-friendly cleaning products in its booth.

CMU groups with information booths included Women Initiating Social Equality, Beta Beta Beta biology honor society, Gay and Lesbian Association for Student Support, Student Environmental Alliance and Pagan Wheel.

"Mother Nature is a woman and we dig her," said Darci Thoun, WISE member and Howell sophomore. The WISE booth sold pins and T-shirts supporting women's issues.

- Heather Needham