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UO CHEERLEADING TRYOUTS

for men and women

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

march 11th, 7:00 P.M.

IN CASANOVA CENTER

pittman room

TRYOUT DATES

april 10th - 13th



Free the Planet rally encourages activism

■ **ENVIRONMENT:** Campus
2000's week-long
campaign involves a
variety of political issues

By Jennifer Carter
Student Activities Editor

Homo sapiens may soon be on the endangered species list next to the sea cow and the blue whale unless action is taken now to protect the earth's biodiversity.

This was the message Free the Planet members presented to students during a Campus 2000 Endangered Species rally in the EMU Courtyard on Tuesday.

David Wagner, a senior scientist at the Northwest Botanical Institute, told students they need to work to maintain an environmental balance through the actions they take.

"[In Eugene] we have a balance of people who are gatherers and who are dispensers," Wagner said.

Wagner said endangered species exist because there is currently an imbalance between these two roles. "Everything you do is a part of this balance," he said.

Students also need to be caretakers of the land to preserve endangered species. People can fulfill this role partly by finding out about common species of animals and plants in the Eugene area.

"It should be part of your environmental quotient to know common birds, to know common trees," he said.

State Representative Kitty Piercy attended the rally and said human life is connected in a "web of life" that includes all other animals and plants.

"We cannot poison other crea-

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We cannot poison other
creatures without poisoning
ourselves. We have to learn to
live more lightly on the land.

— Kitty Piercy
State Representative

“
tures without poisoning our-
selves,” she said.

In the past, humans have preserved some species and wiped out others based on creatures' usefulness to humans, she said, affecting human life negatively.

"The expansion and conquering of the West was premised on clearing the land of some species or sub-species, even some humans," Piercy said. "I believe my life is enriched by all the diverse species."

Piercy said in order for this enrichment to continue, people need to do more than make sure protective legislation is enacted; they need to reduce their consumption and change the way goods are produced.

"We have to learn to live more lightly on the land," she said.

People also need to make sure pro-environment candidates are elected so legislation such as the Endangered Species Act will be preserved and improved upon, she said.

Gaining knowledge about candidates and about how environmental legislation is affected by their actions is increasingly important, she said. "Education is our best weapon in this battle."

The Free the Planet rally, organized as a part of Campus 2000, kicked off a week-long campaign to encourage student activism on a variety of issues.

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