

International students' insight on Trump

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President Donald Trump's administration continues to face criticism nationally as new policies on executive orders arise. While residing U.S. citizens share their opinions on Trump regularly, international students studying abroad at UNC Asheville bring a new perspective to the discussion of U.S. politics.

"I was here for the inauguration. Trump's inauguration speech everyone said was quite presidential, quite boring. He didn't do anything much. Then after that, all this extra stuff comes out," said Gordon Barlow, a political science student from Sydney, Australia. "Everyday, there's some new controversy."

Berkay Denli, an international trade and business and economics student from Istanbul, Turkey, said U.S. politics seem like fiction to him and those in other countries.

"I was seeing debates as some fictional TV series. Debates are like TV series where people are watching. The speeches were so popularized, you know, they were saying what sells, basically, what society wants," Denli said. "But when I came here, I see people are marching, they are in the streets. Something is more serious than those speeches."

Politicians and the people they govern remain separate entities, Denli said. The 22-year-old notices a much more diverse group of people than what was represented through the debates he watched during the U.S. presidential election.

"I feel like U.S. politics don't represent U.S. people at all. I always try to make a separation between society and politics. Because in politics, they are talking about the

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Celebration of languages and cultures attracts large crowd and community

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The outdoor courtyard between Highsmith Union and Mills Hall was full of food, music, poetry and dance as UNC Asheville's campus celebrated a day dedicated to the appreciation of languages and cultures.

"I think language day is an absolute wonderful idea," said Michael Davis, a sophomore business management student. "As far as people, we must understand each other by beginning at the basis — language. Language is one way that we communicate with each other, so what better way for our great university, as well as myself, to get to know our peers and colleagues better than by going at the basis of culture and learn languages."

On Thursday, UNCA celebrated its second annual Languages and Cultures in Action Day. The event lasted from noon to 3 p.m. and was open to Asheville and the campus community.

"The idea of language day came from Jeremias Zunguze (assistant professor of interdisciplinary studies)" said Michelle Bettencourt, associate professor of modern languages and literature. "When we hired him, he was coming from University of California, Berkeley and this is an activity that they would do there that was really popular."

Bettencourt said UNCA added its own spin on the language and culture celebration.

"At Berkeley it was more focused toward majors in the language, so it was a higher level of complex poetry," Bettencourt said. "For the UNCA crowd, we just wanted this to be open to everybody and to all other departments, not even world language departments or classics departments, but to all people. This is for people who are just interested in languages and culture in any aspect."

Songs, poems, food, recitations and performances, represented by students, were in languages such as Cherokee, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Latin, Lingala, Portuguese and Spanish.

Food and drink recipes from around

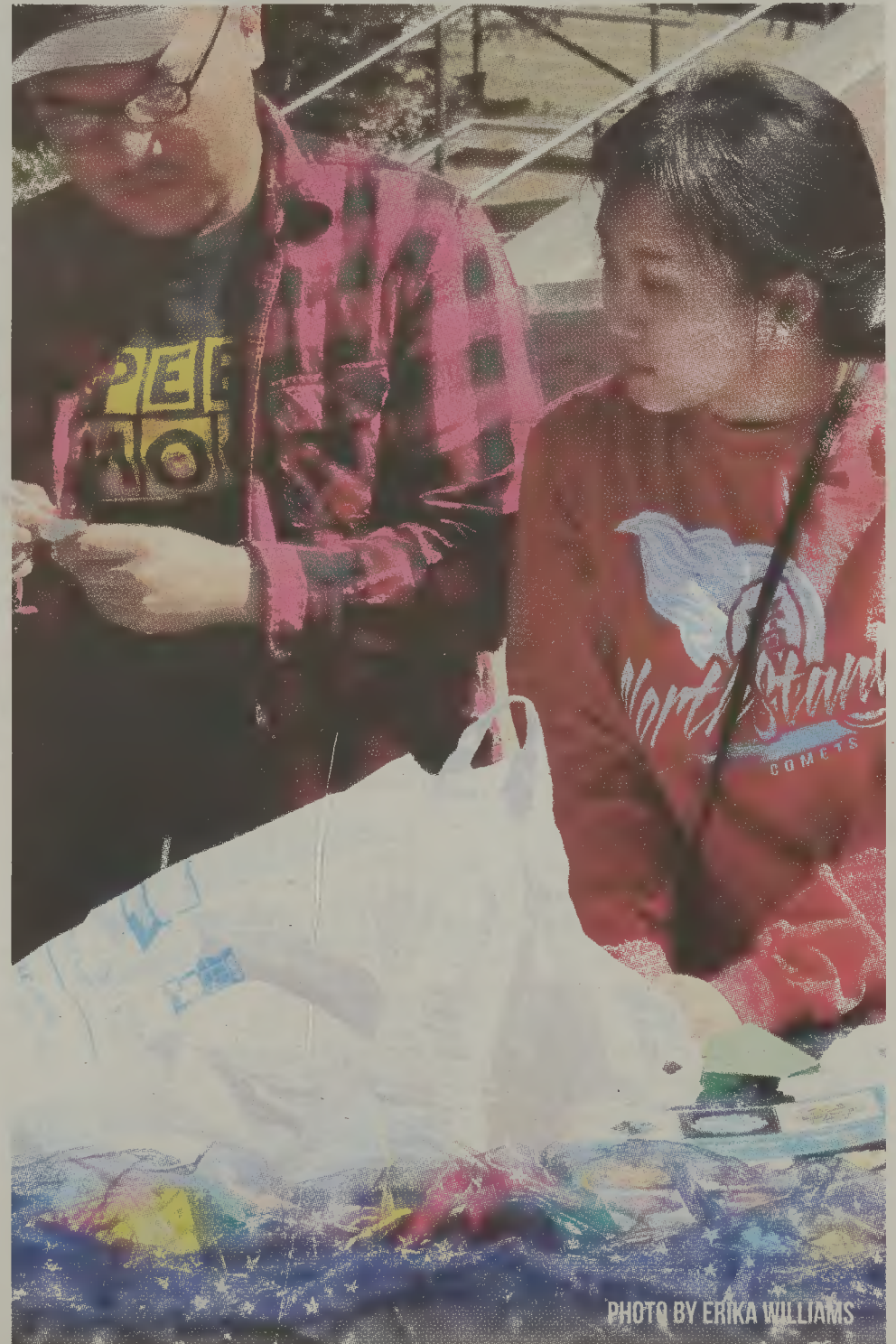


PHOTO BY ERIKA WILLIAMS

UNCA students prepared culinary masterpieces across cultures and were more than willing to share them with o

the world, such as the French dish Pouding Chômeur (Poor Man's Pudding), were made by students and distributed for tasting.

Davis said he was excited to taste the food and happy to provide support to the students.

"But really, the main way I am contributing is through my support. Support is one of the best things that you

can give to people," Davis said. "It is better than money, or anything else, because you being there speaks volumes to people. Being there really shows that you genuinely care about them, their cause, their culture and them as people."

Junior psychology student James

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