

NO MORE KINGS

The second round of No Kings demonstrations on Oct. 18 drew crowds of protesters across the KC metro to oppose Trump's actions

story by MICHAEL YI

ON A SUNNY morning on 75th and Metcalf, swaths of No Kings protesters of all ages brought their concerns with the Trump administration to all four corners of the intersection – along with their two-way signs, American flags and inflatable costumes ranging from unicorns to lobsters. Car horns blew through the air to riotous cheers.

A middle-aged couple protesting, Bill and Nancy Skinner, described their frustration with the continued U.S. inflation and recently halted medical grants.

Nancy, a bankruptcy lawyer, has seen people in her office complain about the rising prices of housing, food and gas. And Bill, a healthcare worker at the University of Kansas Health System, expressed concern over grant freezes that have prevented medical treatment from being processed.

“We have never seen leadership like this in our country,” Bill said. “This is way beyond anything in [my] lifetime. The fact that there’s so many people allowing this to happen in Congress is just unbelievable.”

Protesters from across Kansas City gathered to rally against the White House’s actions in immigration,

education and foreign policy in the second round of No Kings Protests on Oct. 18. The demonstrations were coordinated by Indivisible Kansas City – a progressive movement – and other organizers.

SM East parent and social justice professor Melinda Lewis attended the protests in the Plaza. Lewis is mainly concerned with the immediate repercussions on the community in education and immigration.

“Even when somebody might be somewhat more satisfied than I am with the ends that are achieved, all of us should have concerns about the norms that have upended, the precedents that are being set, and the truly heretofore unimaginable seizure of power by just one portion of our federal government,” Lewis said.

Nearly seven million Americans from over 4,200 cities across the country attended the protests, according to Indivisible. In an Instagram poll of 153 SM East students, 21% said they planned on attending. The protests in Kansas City took place in Overland Park, Lee’s Summit and Mill Creek Park.

For disability worker Katy Clanton at the Metcalf protest, one of her greatest concerns with the current Trump administration is their cuts to the Department of Education. During the recent shutdown, the administration laid off over 460 DOE employees in charge of enforcing special education laws.

“The concern of the families I serve [is that] the parents are worried that their loved ones are going to lose all the care and services they receive from all these cuts,” Katy said.

The protests were populated by those from every age range, with families, kids and pets brought to the rally. Participants took photos in groups holding their signs and complimented each other’s costumes, according to the Kansas City Star.

An anonymous business owner and mother from the area attended the Metcalf protests due to her nostalgia for a more tolerant America. She also expressed concern regarding the community of customers of her crystal shop. Many of the patrons of her business are Latino, and she feels they’ve gained an increasing fear regarding

Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Senior Sophia Yanics attended the protests in the Plaza with her mother, citing concerns regarding immigration and a disregard for due process. Yanics brought a double-sided sign. One side read “MAKE ORWELL FICTION AGAIN,” and the other side read “MY NEIGHBOR ISN’T A FELON, BUT THE PRESIDENT IS.”

“It just felt like one big community,” Yanics said. “We were all there for the same reasons. It was very peaceful. There was a lot of joy in the air. People were trying to speak up for what they believed in.”

Despite Kansas Senator Roger Marshall stating in an interview the National Guard should be sent to prevent chaos at the protests, Indivisible stated that the protests were peaceful.

Yanics wants to emphasize the importance of protesting even though many young people at SM East may not feel the immediate repercussions of economic and social regressions.

“The people that this is most important [to] mostly can’t go out and protest, so we need to do it for them,” Yanics said. “And just because [this is] not affecting you now, doesn’t mean it’s not going to get worse. It’s really important to stand up and use your voice when there’s so many people that can’t.”

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**BILL SKINNER
HEALTHCARE WORKER**

Pictures taken at the protest

