

The future of Greek at the University is in our hands

It is almost impossible, when you're watching a freedom fighter on the television or an animal activist in protest, not to feel some sense of admiration for their strength and moral perseverance. While we might not agree with the stance that individual is taking, it is important to focus not on their fight, but what they are fighting for. And it is important to give that principle some consideration.

When you take away the University, the faculty, the students and their fight to keep the Greek Studies course alive at the University of New South Wales, you will find that what we are left with is not the practice, but the principle. And you will find Dr

Maria Zarimis, head of the Greek Department. She is my mother, yes, but to really understand a person you must watch their world from a distance. In taking myself and my family out of the picture, I see a woman fighting to keep the spirit of the Greek culture alive among those who grow up, wishing to speak the language papou did... Or perhaps those who simply want to learn about such a strong culture without having to spend the thousands of dollars for a plane ticket to Greece.

When I see my mother, I see a woman who has shown great strength and compassion for the Greek culture and great heart for her point of argument. And I see her students wanting to learn more,

which should inspire authorities to take this issue for what it is: not a fight for the University, about the University, against the University, this is a fight for some kind of consideration. Consideration that somewhere beyond the protests and financial dynamics, there is a fear that to deny students of continuing lessons in the Greek language and culture, is to warn the students that such lessons are no longer needed, or are no longer as important as others. So prove us wrong. Let this be an opportunity for the University to prove its appeal and demonstrate its focus on giving the students what they want. Or at least paying attention to their chanting and protests.

However, an almost regrettable

tendency of human nature is to allow the older generations to do our work for us. We, the young Greek youth, must understand and appreciate that the future of Greek at the University is in our hands. It is not just enough to protest, to attend Greek events and parade the nationality; it is a matter of showing the community that you are involved in every way possible. If we are to close down Greek Studies at UNSW, let it be known that the avenues available to keep this culture alive are slowly, and no doubt will continue to be, dying out. In this case, it is useful to apply the Domino Effect: one University goes down, the rest follow suit.

Nicola Zarimis

Canada Bay ranks among world's best for liveability



CANADA Bay Council is an international gold medallist in sustainable living. The council was one of three Australian cities recognised at the UN-endorsed International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom) in Pilsen, Czech Republic, this week for their commitment to creating environmentally-friendly communities.

The council proved its green credentials earlier this year when it won NSW Keep Australia Beautiful's Sustainable Cities Award. At LivCom, an international competition that judges environmental management and community liveability, it collected two more awards.

The latest plaudit followed three days of intensive judging, as communities from 16 countries put their case to be crowned the most liveable.

Canada Bay, Melville and Rockhampton were the only cities from Australia to make the finals.

Canada Bay won a gold award in the whole city award category and the environmentally-sensitive practices award.

"That level of recognition by our peers at an international level means a lot to us as a community and we certainly could not have done it without our community taking part in wonderful projects," Canada Bay Mayor Angelo Tsirekas said. "To get gold at that level is truly amazing and a great achievement. It means there is something that has been achieved that people can be proud of and have a sense of feeling they are doing things right."

Crete quarry could be original site of ancient Greek Labyrinth

An old stone quarry on the Greek island of Crete which has a network of underground tunnels could be the original site of the ancient Labyrinth, the maze that housed the Minotaur of Greek legend, scholars believe.



An Anglo-Greek team believes that the site, near the town of Gortyn, has just as much claim to be the place of the Labyrinth as the Minoan palace at Knossos 20 miles away, which has been synonymous with the Minotaur myth since its excavation a century ago.

The 600,000 people a year who visit the ruins at Knossos are told the site was almost certainly the home of the legendary King Minos, who was supposed to have constructed the Labyrinth to house the Minotaur, a fearsome creature born out of a union between the king's wife and a bull, the Independent

reports.

Nicholas Howarth, an Oxford University geographer who led the expedition to the site, said there was a danger of Gortyn being lost from the story of the Labyrinth because of the overpowering position that Knossos had taken in the legend "People come not just to see the controversial ruins excavated and reconstructed by Evans, but also to seek a connection to the mythical past of the Age of Heroes. It is a shame that almost all visitors to Knossos have never heard of these other possible 'sites' for the mythical Labyrinth," Mr Howarth said.

The cave complex at Gortyn had been visited recently by archaeological thieves who were preparing to dynamite one of the inner chambers in the hope of discovering a hidden treasure room.

The caves, which are known locally as the Labyrinthos Caves, consist of about two and half miles of interlocking tunnels with widened chambers and dead-end rooms. They have been visited since medieval times by travellers looking for the Labyrinth, but since Knossos was rediscovered at the end of the 19th century they were neglected, and were even used as a Nazi ammunition dump during the Second World War.

Man held for battery of newborn daughter

A 25-year-old man alleged to have severely beaten his newborn daughter, leaving the infant with serious head injuries, was detained by police in Thessaloniki yesterday on charges of attempted manslaughter. According to police, the suspect punched the 11-day-old child in the head, threw her onto the ground and then kicked her in the head at his home in Katerini, a small town outside the northern city. After undergoing treatment at a local hospital, the baby was transferred to an intensive-care unit at Thessaloniki's Ippocrateio Hospital where she was said to still be in critical condition late last night. It was unclear whether the infant's mother was at home at the time of the alleged attack by the 25-year-old, who is said to have a history of mental problems.