

## College cutbacks make it harder to earn degrees

*Budget problems forcing schools to lay off instructors, eliminate classes*

SAN FRANCISCO—It isn't just tuition increases that are driving up the cost of college. Around the country, deep budget cuts are forcing colleges to lay off instructors and eliminate some classes, making it harder for students to get into the courses they need to earn their degree.

The likely result: more time in college. And while that may sound agreeable to nostalgic alumni, to students like Michael Redoglia, time is money.

Early this semester at San Francisco State University, Redoglia unsuccessfully crashed 26 different classes, hoping to find space that would move

him closer to a hospitality management degree. Outside some classrooms, wait-listed students took turns standing closest to the door so they could hear the lecture and not fall too far behind should they get in.

Redoglia, a fourth-year student, is now enrolled in just two courses. He could lose financial aid, and his plan to finish his degree in 4 1/2 years is up in smoke.

"This semester has put me back another full year," said Redoglia, adding that the delay is "killing me financially."

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## House passes resolution...

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ter has receded and the streets swept clean of mud and debris," Rep. Speier added.

HR 800 recognizes the hardship caused by Typhoons Ketsana and Parma and "salutes the resilience and strength of our friends of the Filipino people."

This resolution urges the United States government to continue providing emergency relief, logistical support and financial assistance to the Philippines and to work with

Philippine officials and non-governmental organizations to improve disaster preparedness programs in the country to mitigate heartbreak, havoc and loss of life that could be caused by future storms.

"The 12th Congressional District is home to more Filipino Americans than any other in the country. As a resident here all my life, I know about the invaluable contributions Filipino Americans make to the very fabric of our society," Speier said in an earlier interview.

## Filipino singers named...

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It has won numerous awards, including the European Grand Prix for Choral Singing in 2007 (Arezzo, Italy), and its influence in the Philippines and throughout Asia is far-reaching. Responsible for training more

than 200 singers and choral music specialists since its creation, the group goes on tour twice a year, not only abroad but also to the most remote parts of the Philippines.

Named for two years, the Philippine Madrigal Singers are

Nationally, Americans of Filipino descent are the second largest population of Asian Americans in our country numbering some 3.1 million Americans, according to her.

The congresswoman also urged her colleagues to support HR 800 "to show our friends, the good people of the Philippines that as they stood with us in World War II, the American people stand with them during this time of greatest need."

The Resolution passed by unanimous consent, with both Democrats and Republicans speaking in support. ■

expected to bring their support to Unesco programs on cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. Specific projects include a series of Concerts for Peace, a Sing for Peace festival, and various choral singing classes, workshops, and educational activities. (*Inquirer.net*)

## Nike unveils Pacquiao billboard in Hollywood

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL  
AJPress

HOLLYWOOD—It's another first for Manny Pacquiao.

The pound-4-pound king became the first Filipino athlete to be featured in a major billboard in Los Angeles.

Nike, a Pacquiao sponsor, has featured the Filipino boxing hero on a billboard campaign promoting its AW77 hood sweatshirt.

The towering billboard located on top of the Nike Montalban Theater in Hollywood on Selma Ave. and Vine St. shows Pacquiao wearing a grey and teal blue hooded sweater with a scowl on his face.

"For him to be on an actual billboard that's a big statement," said Anthony Nguyen, a passerby. "Manny Pacquiao is the man. He's the hero of the Philippines. Everyone loves him over here in America and I think it's good timing especially with the fight coming up soon."

"I just tweeted it because I want all my friends to see it," he added.

Nike Spokesperson Rachel Buenviaje said they've received a positive response from the local Filipino community since the billboard



Manny Pacquiao's billboard in Hollywood on Selma Ave. and Vine St.

AJPress photo by Joseph Pimentel

went up last weekend.

Alex Rotodo, an events promoter from San Francisco, recently visited the billboard and took photos of it.

He said for Nike to put Pacquiao's face on a billboard on a major street speaks highly of the Filipinos buying power.

"Here I am walking in Hollywood along the sidewalk of stars and I look up and I see Manny's billboard," said Rotodo. "He's the biggest star in the Philippines and what this billboard shows is not only is Manny like the hugest icon but

shows the marketing power of the Filipino community."

"They [Nike] believe in our buying power just like Gatorade and the Jabbawockeez," added Rotodo.

Pacquiao is still training in Baguio, Philippines. Pacquiao will face Miguel Cotto of Puerto Rico at the MGM Grand on November 14 in Las Vegas.

It's not known whether Pacquiao has seen the billboard but it is located only a few blocks away from the Wildcard Boxing Gym, where he trains in Los Angeles. ■

## OFW welfare group vs compulsory...

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\$100 a month in subsistence allowance benefit for six months for migrant worker involved in a case or litigation for protection of his or her rights in receiving country.

The bill also provides that claims resulting from employer's liability to worker shall have an insurance coverage amounting to three months for every

year of service.

In case of workers recruited through government-to-government mechanisms, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration shall provide a guarantee fund for monetary claims out of breach of contract.

Rehires and direct hires may get insurance coverage from employers or pay these themselves. ■

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