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Promenade

Continued from page 1A

Under state law, bartenders can be held liable for individuals who drink too much and then injure other people.

"When people order a drink from a bar, there's a bartender who's held accountable, and an individual who can cut someone off," Friedman said. "There's no way to do that right now."

The majority of students have reacted negatively to the proposed ban.

"I don't think it would work, because it would take away from the Northgate experience," said Shay Mariani, a senior agricultural systems management major. "One of the reasons the promenade is so popular is because people can buy their own cheap beer."

Although many bars in Northgate agree that the situation poses liability issues for them, managers have had mixed reactions toward the pro-

posed ban on open containers.

"I think it's bad since you can no longer do your own thing," Freeman said. "I think that's the unique thing about Northgate, and one of the main reasons people come out here."

McCollum said the CSPD is in the consultation stage, and nothing has even been presented to the City Council.

"We're in an evaluative phase, and I want to emphasize again that nothing has been decided," McCollum said. "We've consulted other cities including Austin, to see how they have handled areas such as 6th street."

McCollum said students can expect an official proposal to be in front of the City Council in the next six months.

"Northgate is changing very, very rapidly," McCollum said. "It used to be four-to-five bars in that area, and now there's about 12 over there. We just want to make sure that it remains a safe place for everyone."

Congress

Continued from page 1A

redistricting plans.

"I think Tom Delay is the most corrupt politician in America today," Bell said. "Not for the redistricting, but for the way he went about doing it. The Texans for Republicans misused corporate money, (a law) which has been on the books for 100 years ... they re-categorized (the money)."

Bell said he is angered by the

redistricting and the time frame in which it occurred, which was nearly minutes after Bell was sworn into office.

"I was elected to Congress in 2002," Bell said. "About one day in Congress there was an ugly little plan for redistricting in the Houston area to be predominantly African American. That would have Democrats fighting against each other."

Greg Mikeska, a sophomore engineering technology major, said that's not true and that the decisions were made in a different way than Bell believes.

"From what I understand the last time redistricting was done, it was done by a court, and I don't think that's right," Mikeska said. "I think the people need a voice in that issue."

Bell said the main idea of the war against Delay is to bring change into Congress.

"We need to change the ethical climate (of Congress)," Bell said.

Bell closed, saying that even though there is much work to be done in Congress, things can improve.

"A brighter day will come," Bell said.

Hurricanes

Continued from page 1A

"We've already heard anecdotal evidence of industrial recruiting in Florida, and the companies say, 'We're going to drop you off our list,'" said Mark Soskin, an economist at the University of Central Florida. "Now you're actually hearing people talking about, 'Maybe this isn't the best place to live.' There's a lot of stress here, you can see it in people's eyes."

For most Americans, the most visible effect of the hurricanes has been their contribution to a surge in oil prices, which broke \$50 per barrel for the first time Tuesday. Florida isn't a major refining center or transportation hub for gasoline, but Hurricane Ivan shut down 39 production platforms and two drilling rigs in the Gulf of Mexico. Nearly 12 million barrels of oil, or 2 percent of annual output there, have been lost since crews were evacuated ahead of that storm

earlier this month.

Americans will also feel the storms' impact at the grocery store. Orange juice prices at the Winn-Dixie supermarket chain are currently no higher than a month ago, the company says, but orange juice futures are up more than one-third on commodities markets since the beginning of August, suggesting prices will rise.

Tomato prices have jumped 50 percent in recent weeks, and squash has nearly doubled, said David Bova, an owner of Produce Source Partners, a wholesaler in Roanoke, Va. The hurricanes hit just as many crops were coming out of season in the rest of the country — a gap usually filled by Florida suppliers. The problem was compounded by hot weather in the West that shortened the growing season there.

"Chances are, high prices on these products will not really stabilize for at least 30 to 60 days," Bova said.

The storms also are expected to delay the harvesting of peanuts in Georgia, where the pecan crop was hard hit.

White House

Continued from page 1A

seen in a long time, Peterson said, and candidates need to use this advantage to get their points across.

Peterson said neither candidate has taken lessons learned from Bill Clinton's presidential campaigns.

"Kerry had an early lead and played defense and talked about the past for a long time," Peterson said. "Clinton had that early lead and relentlessly talked about

the future."

Peterson said Bush has also made the mistake of neglecting his domestic agenda and concentrating more on foreign policy. Bush also paints a rosy picture with the issues in the Middle East, Peterson said, and even with elections close, this could be potentially dangerous.

"We don't know what will happen in the upcoming month with Tony Blair and Parliament voting soon whether or not to pull out of Iraq and Afghan elections," Peterson said. "Both events could be detrimental or encouraging to the Bush campaign."

In a question-and-answer session, Peterson said both parties have been atrocious in representing and reaching minority groups at their respective conventions, but that the Senate races in some states will have minority representation.

Jeff Brand, a senior accounting major, said he agreed with the speakers that the race is close and that the few undecided will actually be deciding a lot.

"I know which way I'm voting, but I'm hoping that the debates will help swing voters take sides," Brand said. "It will be an interesting night on Nov. 2, indeed."

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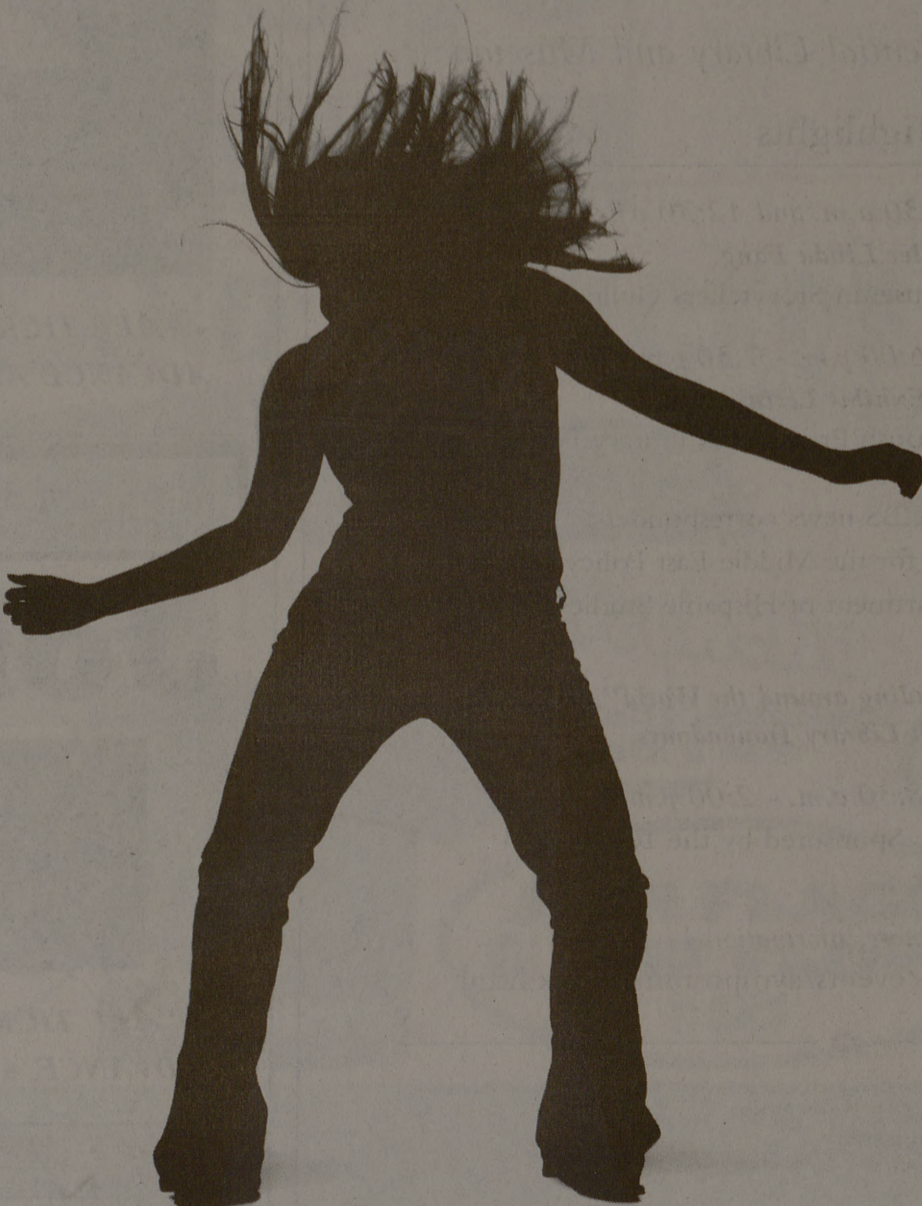
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