

Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

Retired Lt. Col. Oliver North warned students against military reductions and career politicians during a speech Wednesday night.

## North

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"My concern is that there are people in Washington who want to turn back the clock to the Lyndon Johnson era," he said.

North said he has not yet decided to run for U.S. Senate, but has filled all the requirements should he make the decision to run.

"We're going to elect a Republican governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and for the first time in history, a Republican majority in the oldest legislative assembly in the western hemisphere," he said.

North is best known for his role in the 1987 Iran-Contra affair in which he helped carry out President Reagan's policy of supporting the Nicaraguan resistance and the rescue of hostages in Beirut. North was cleared of all charges stemming from the affair.

"I have this suspicion that when they finally put me in the ground, there's going to be a lot of different things that I will have done in my life," North said. "The most important is being a husband and father, and somebody is going to want to put Iran-Contra on that gravestone. I don't look at that as being the defining moment of my life."

## Koldus Building undergoes sewer line repairs

By Kim Horton

THE BATTALION

The collapse of a sanitary sewer line on Aug. 23 has prompted University officials to make emergency repairs to the John J. Koldus student services building.

The repairs to the sewer line, which is buried 23 feet underground, should be completed in early October.

"Whether bad installation or bad materials, the reasons for this failure are not known," said Dennis Busch, assistant manager of the University Center.

Joe Estill, facilities construction manager, said the collapse of the sewer line was probably caused by a shifting in the ground.

Robert Smith, vice president for finance and ad-

ministration, said repairs to 100 feet of the sewer line will cost \$254,000.

Part of the money will be taken from the original \$3.2 million that was allocated two years ago for the building's construction.

Smith said the remaining \$125,000 will come from students' general use fees.

The expected duration of the job has increased because of the difficulty in reaching the sewer line, Busch said.

The repairs should be completed in time for the building's official dedication on Oct. 30 to Dr. John J. Koldus III, former vice president for student services.

Koldus retired this past summer after serving the University for more than 20 years.

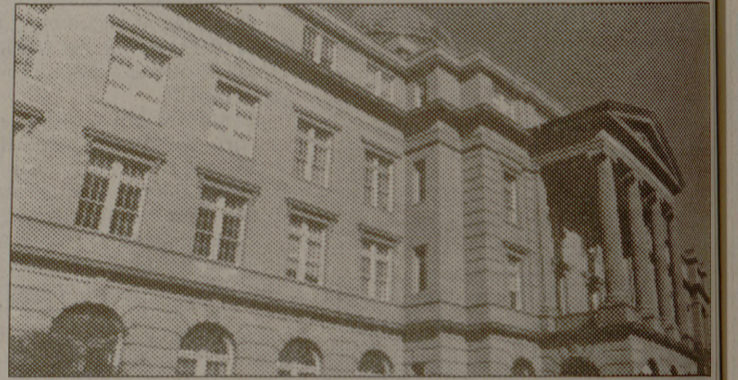
The Board of Regents voted this summer to rename the Student Services Building in his honor.

## ACADEMIC BUILDING WINDOW CONTROVERSY

# Architecture faculty members want metal windows scrapped

"The building begins to look as though it has had all its windows blown out. It looks like a dark hole."

-David Woodcock, Architecture professor



Battalion file photo

By Jacqueline Mason

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University Physical Plant administrators have run into opposition with College of Architecture faculty members over the replacement of traditional wood windows on the Academic Building.

"The building begins to look as though it has had all its windows blown out," Architecture Professor David Woodcock said of the new dark-bronze metal windows. "It looks like a dark hole."

Renovation of the windows began last summer when one of the original white-frame windows was replaced with a metal one.

Joe Sugg, executive director of the Physical Plant, said the window is only a sample. The new windows will not be replaced until November, he said.

"We are very pleased with the way they look," Sugg said.

Currently, the exterior of the Academic Building is being washed and coated with sealant as part of the \$475,000 contract to renovate the windows and reduce the cost of maintenance.

About eight years ago, the

original windows were sanded and repainted. But, Sugg said, the windows have deteriorated beyond repair. "There was just no way we could do that process again," he said.

The new windows are energy-efficient and require less maintenance, he said.

Woodcock said he understands the need for the University to save money on maintenance.

"I don't have any basic objection to the University saying to use our resources wisely," he said.

But, Woodcock said he opposes the quality of the windows being installed.

"There are windows available on the market that would have the same maintenance characteristics as the windows that are being proposed, which would look much more like the original windows that are in the building," he said.

Mary Saslow, a senior lecturer in the Department of Architecture, said the windows on the Academic Building could have been replaced with vinyl clad windows having the same scale and color as the originals.

However, Sugg said the dark windows are more consistent

with the other buildings. "They will tie in with the architecture of the surrounding buildings that also have had their windows replaced," he said.

Saslow said she is concerned that the students did not have an input on the replacement of the windows.

"The decision was made so that it would be consistent with the newer buildings," she said. "The students didn't know about the decision. Nobody knew about the decision."

Woodcock said the renovation has not received much publicity because the replacement is considered a maintenance project. Even his concerns have not received a great deal of response from Physical Plant administrators, he said.

Saslow said it might not be too late to change the outcome of the windows. She said students can voice concerns about the new windows by signing petitions and sending letters to the president.

She added that both students and former students are emotionally attached to the Academic Building.

"It's a traditional structure," she said. "It's OK for it to be different."

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