High-backed oak benches offer students bucolic respite from the mainstream traffic of the Nichols Hall atrium.

Nichols Gymnasium, gutted by fire nearly 17 years ago, is scheduled for rededication at 11 a.m. Saturday, as Nichols Hall.

The 74-year-old building has been the focal point of protest marches, Collegian editorials, Castle Crusade — a campus group dedicated to the preservation of Nichols — and organization worked to keep the issue of Nichols preservation and renovation in the headlines.

Dan Gibson, 1976 graduate in architecture and coordinator of Castle Crusade, said that when it was founded, the small group was composed mostly of architecture students.