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national trends of the decline of membership in civic organizations.

"We don't feel as connected to each other, in the sense that we don't feel civically responsible. We don't go out to dinner at each other's houses like we did 20 or 50 years ago," said Arcaro, who is also the director of Project Pericles. "The whole idea behind Project Pericles is the to raise the level of civic engagement and social responsibility that directly enhances the community around here. Project Pericles is one of the things that the school is doing specifically to address the issue of community."
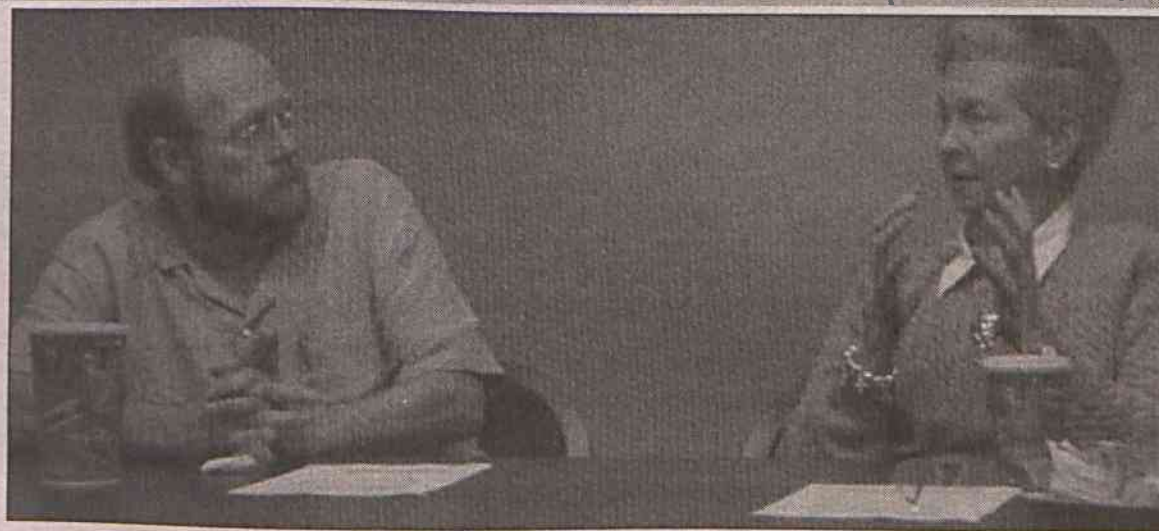
Project Pericles is purposeful in its intent, as some say all planning should be in order to preserve community.

"As we make changes, we should put on the front burner, how is this going to affect community?" Arcaro said. "How can we undercut the things that are going to do bad and how can we make things better? How can we be more purposeful in how we grow?"

With three faculty members living on campus, community dynamics have taken on a new dimension. Seidel, who lives in the international studies pavilion said, "The Academic Village was purposeful. When we look at our spaces and renovations, we have to consider community."

Lack of meeting spaces may be addressed by creating new buildings, but some says it's essential to preserve green space.

"When that business school goes up and you take away those intramural fields and you put them someplace else, that is going to affect our student body," senior Leslie Crowe said. "Taking away a central mingling, central gathering place is going to affect our community. Not everyone plays

intramurals, but they walk by it and they support it. That's enjoying life and company."

With the exploration of community comes the continued understanding of the tandem between innovation and tradition.
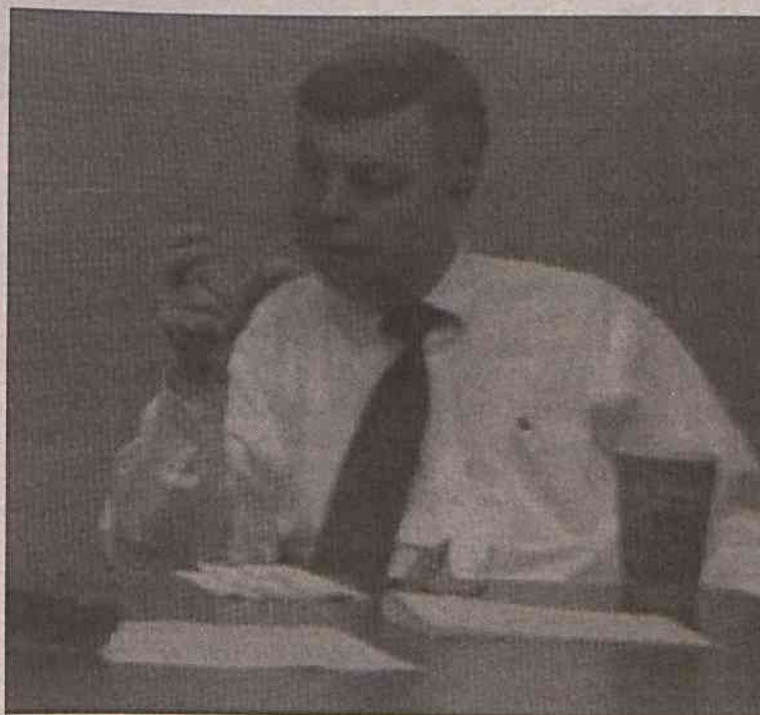
"The amount of change that we are asked to accept is sometimes more than we can absorb," the Rev. Richard McBride said. "I would like to perfect where we are, rather than think about innovation for a while."

Perfecting the traditions that have been established may be essential to preserve. community, but a strong foundation guides the university as it stretches it's branches.

"I have many students who say Elon is a special place. I have friends who went here who say Elon is a special and magical place," said David Copeland, associate professor. "Maybe something happens still that we don't realize."

David Copeland, associate professor of communications, and Janie Brown, professor of health promotion, leisure and human performance, discussed the history of College Coffee.

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>
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Andi Petrini/Photographer

in outside Alamance building every
between classes.

and graduate students.

"Five thousand is a key number," said Sandy Seidel, associate professor of biology. "Once you exceed that number, there is quite a change in academic culture. I've never taught at an institution larger than that, and I don't think I would choose to."

Even approaching 5,000 creates new dilemmas for the university, as facilities must keep up and the people must just to new structures.

"I think one of the things that happens when you get larger is you have smaller communities within the larger community; you certainly find your place," Brown said. "And you have to be sure people find their place."

The struggle for Elon to maintain the level of connectedness mirrors

Mark Albertson, registrar, offered insight as to how Elon has evolved during his time here. Albertson addressed the need for a meeting space for students, staff and faculty to convene as a whole.