ALDERMEN

The new units will make a small dent in one of the state's most expensive hous-ing markets. According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the typical North Carolina worker earning the minimum hourly wage of \$5.15 has to work 79 hours per week to afford a twobedroom apartment. But in Orange County, the same must work 113 hours.

Thursday, April 11, 2002

Though the board's vote removes the project's municipal hurdle, Club Nova still needs to secure funding from several sources, including the N.C. Housing Finance Agency, before it can start building.

Assuming Sarver and project architect Giles Blunden get the money they need, construction should begin at the end of the year. Ten to 12 months later, Club Nova will have a new home, and Carrboro will have more affordable housing. Blunden said, "I just think it's a project that meets everybody's interests.

The City Editor can be reached

LOANS

of financial support. And more than half of college students around the country receive a form of financial aid.

Each year students seek aid, they must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. These applications are reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education and the University Office of Scholarships and Student Aid.

The financial aid office recommends

The financial aid office recommends an aid package that can include loans, scholarships and work-study jobs. The loan amount is calculated sing a government formula based on a family's size, total income and assets

Depending on the degree of a stu-dent's financial hardship, there are three types of student loans available Federal Perkins Loans, Federal Stafford Loans and Alternative Loans

Tabatha Turner, assistant director for client services in the financial aid office, said the Perkins loan is the best of the two federal loans. "The Perkins loan is the best because it has a fixed interest rate at 5 percent and a nine-month

grace period. The Stafford loan, on the other hand, has a variable interest rate

and only a six-month grace period."
Two types of Stafford loans are ailable: subsidized and unsubsidized. Subsidized loans excuse students from paying interest during school and an allotted post-graduation grace period. Unsubsidized loans charge students interest for the whole life of the loan

adents who do not qualify for need-based aid have the option to take out a private or alternative loan.

But Burdick said students should shop carefully for private loans. "Make sure you get a loan from someone whas good service," she said. "If you call, you want to know there's some one on the other end who cares about your problem."

No matter its source, Burdick said derstanding the terms of a loan is the best way to avoid unpleasant sur prises during the repayment period. But students do not always follow

Burdick said most students have no idea how much they owe, like sophomore biology major Matt Robinson who admitted that the details of his

loan are more than a little hazy to him "I know nothing about (the loan)," he said. "My parents deal with it. They just say that I'll have to pay after school."

Students with this attitude are more

likely to miss inconsistencies in loan paper work. "Lenders make mistakes, too," Burdick said.

Each loan has specific conditions concerning disbursement dates, interest rates, fees, amounts owed and repayment dates. These terms are out-lined in three documents – the promissory note, the approval disclosure and the repayment disclosure.

The conditions of loan repayments and borrower fees are outlined in the promissory note, which must be signed

before applying.

If the loan is approved, the student will receive an approval disclosure.

A repayment disclosure is sent shortly before the repayment period

begins, typically soon after graduation
Because of the Stafford and Perkins loans grace periods, borrowers have a eway after graduation to find

inttle leeway after graduation to find jobs and begin making payments.
Students are allowed up to 10 years to repay the loans, though Burdick said her staff encourages students to pay them off as quickly as possible because as interest accrues over time, borrowers end up paying significantly more than the original loan amount. For need-based federal loans, stu-

dents also receive a break on origina tion fees, usually 3 percent of the total. For example, if the loan amount is \$3,500, the borrower actually receives \$3,400 after the origination fee.

Loans from private institutions also

differ from federal loans because they have stricter schedules for repayment.
While most student loan payments

are deferred until graduation, some, like those available for the Carolina Computing Initiative, must be repaid while the borrower is still in school.

Private, non-need-based loans also

might begin accruing interest while the student is still in school.

To keep track of all these factors, Burdick advises students to take charge of their finances as early as possible. She recommends creating a personal budget each semester based on all the money and possible expenses a student has. She said, "If you're running out of money by October, then you're in trouble."

The Features Editor can be reached at features@unc.edu

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RHA and Coca Cola present: Ferris Bueller's Day Off Road Trip 25th Every Thursday in April at 9:00pm Located in OCUQ (between Davis Library and the Arboretum)



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Prices Effective Through April 16, 2002

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