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John Halprin

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Stephen Lay, interviewer

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Stephen Lay said they will be having housing search week at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). University resident's halls are packed again. Every room on campus is filled and there are many students wanting to attend UAF this fall and will be unable to live on campus. A number of these students will be in Fairbanks searching for off campus accommodations. They are being assisted by the UAF student housing office. Jonathan Halprin is one of the organizers of search week. Halprin said it is an attempt to help students who can't live on campus. They are trying to solve the big housing crunch they have in Fairbanks. They are trying to take listings and make the list available to the students searching for living arrangements. Student housing officer, Eric Gausiac, explains there isn't enough housing for the enrolled 5,000 students. Gausiac said they have 1400 spaces for single students and about 100 spaces for families on campus. They have 500 students who did apply for housing on campus they cannot accommodate. They cut off taking applications on May first to the point where they have told students they can still apply, but it will not do them any good. Typically about half of everyone that applies for admissions also applies for housing. He thinks there are about 200-300 students who would like to have campus housing, but didn't apply because they knew there was no hope. Lay said to find housing the office has offered a listing service for anyone who has space available. Anyone with available rental properties has been asked to call the special housing telephone. Gausiac said listings have been trickling in. They have been spreading the word throughout the community on radio, television and newspapers. He is hopeful people will offer places to live for students. Some of the churches have been helping find places for people to live.

Lay said the housing office in compliance with the Federal Equal Housing Opportunities laws are accepting all listings without bias. Gausiac said the university isn't going to inspect any of the units. Halprin has been visiting a few listings in the paper to get a feeling for what is there and what is available. They will not make recommendations. Lay said last year the Housing Office found a numbers of places in homes in the community. It was a successful arrangement for the majority of the students involved. Gausiac said the students living with families for the most part was very successful. He said 30-50 students lived with families last year and they hope there will be other people to open their homes to students again.