Dorms to be visited for city head-count

(Continued from page 1) ready door-to-door listing, but Cambridge waited in order to do the combined census," Putnam explained.

Students living in dormitories may ask to be counted as residents of their home towns, rather than as Cambridge residents, when the census-takers visit the dormitories, Putnam said. Students who are not contacted by the census-takers will personally be counted as Cambridge residents; students who do wish to be counted in Cambridge should contact the Census Office, he said.

"It is not of that much importance to students where they are counted," Putnam said, explaining that he expected few students to ask to be counted as non-residents. Students registered as voters in Cambridge must, however, be counted as Cambridge residents, as officials have warned that residents may be dropped from the voting lists if they are not counted in the census.

The last census in Cambridge, conducted by the Police Department in 1971, was a "fiasco," Putnam said, due to an undercount of 20,000 people. Those census results had to be discarded, he said.

This year, the census is being taken by a special force of 20 people who will try to go to every residence in the city. They started in East Cambridge at the beginning of March, and are expected to finish in North Cambridge by the end of May.

The census takers were hired from the unemployed under a special program sponsored by the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, and thus are not being paid by the city, Putnam said.

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