To the Editors of The Tech:

Your editorial of the 18th states that: "The Point System aims to prevent a student from carrying too much outside work, to the detriment of his studies, and which by limiting the number of points carried by one man, requires men to take part in student activities."

The purpose of the Point System as set forth in this quotation may appeal to a good parent when considering a school in which to place a son, but to one who has been through college, it means nothing.

Were there no such institution as a Point System, it is my firm conviction that any man falling down in his study would be automatically taken care of by the Faculty. Also, with the system, even though a man's total points fall below the limit, he may keep the standard of his class work up to the demands or he will be asked to take a vacation, and not only from activities but from the Institute as well.

All of which leads us to the second purpose of the Point System, as quoted in the first paragraph, namely, to limit the number of points carried by one man, so as to enable more men to take part in student activities. This is the real aim of the system and is to my mind the fundamental reason for its adoption and its existence.

When the founders of the system first looked into the matter, not so very many years ago, they found that most of the big positions or offices in the student activities were held by a very small number of men. It had been a condition that had existed for years. Perhaps then it was not (7) individuals had not sought for the honors entirely, but because of their having landed one big position were so naturally well known that they not only became customary for the great majority of men to vote for them. To remedy this undesirable state of affairs, the Point System was proposed, and after a great deal of consideration and discussion was adopted by the Institute Committee.

It proved to be the proper plan from the start, and its value to the student body has been shown in the great increase of interest and activity in all undergraduate affairs since its adoption.

Now a change is proposed and the question arises, is it a desirable change or not? It may not be possible for a grad to say whether it is a desirable change or not, for possibly conditions have changed since his day, and now warrant a different rating than formerly. With this in mind, however, it is not my intention to pass judgment on the report of your present Point System Committee, but to bring again to your attention the fundamental purpose of the Point System, and then to leave the decision in the hands of the present Institute Committee, who as representatives of the undergraduate body must decide for the best interests of that body as a whole.

There are always a few men who aspire to be socially well fitted to all social position. It may seem that they should be that change to meet their aspirations.

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January Monthly
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