Daily Nebraskan

Property of
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA,
Lincoln.

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE $2 PER YEAR
Payable in Advance
Single Copies, 5 Cents Each.

TELEPHONES
Office—B-1888. Night Phone—B-4204
Editor B-1518 Manager B-1821

Entered at the postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second class mail matter, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1913

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CONVOCATION.

Temple Theatre 11 o'clock
Violin Recital by
Prof. August Molzer
Elsie Ackermann at the Piano
Hymn to Spring Kocian
Melody—Tschaikonsky
Humoreske Kocian
Chant Sans Parole Tschaikonsky
Caprice Viennois Kreisler
Tarantelle—Wieniawski

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THE STUDENT COUNCIL.

In last Thursday's forum, among many distinct things he suggested in the same article, Will Kavan concluded with recommending the student council as a substitute for the Innocents. In view of the things it would be possible for the student council to do, and in view of the things it has been possible for the Innocents to do, we see no need for the substitution. In theory, the work of the Innocent Society has been to organize student support of student activities; to arouse by shop-worn methods University spirit; and to ostensibly co-operate with any effort made to promote the general good of the student body. In practice the duties of the Innocent Society have been wholly ministerial; they have elected themselves cheer-leaders of the football games; they have set dates for the football rally; and they have gotten the usual professors and others to address the multitude. They have also compromised with the freshman on the green-cap issue, and they have selected the usual Omaha lawyer for toastmaster at the Cornhusker banquet. So far as discharging this kind of duty is concerned, the burden of proof is on the supporters of the student council to show that these jobs can be better done by a more representative and democratically selected group than the Innocents.

Kavan protests that there is now no way to get a new thing before the student body for decision. He forgets that there is very little for the student body as such to decide.

The educational and administrative policies of the institution, both external and internal, are fully prescribed by University authorities. Spontaneous movements,—athletics, social life, and the like, in the numerous University organizations now existing. It seems almost deception to make the students believe that there is anything vital for them to decide.

From the standpoint of what the University really is, it is vastly more important that student should form opinions and express opinions than that they should decide questions. The decision they reach on matters essentially trivial is not important. Grave matters are rarely submitted to them for decision. What we need is an intelligent, responsive public opinion among students. We need a daily paper that will publish every man's views. We need a convocation that will give a man a chance to talk not when he is assigned a piece, but when he has something to say. Once these means succeed in developing a real strong public opinion the means we already have for deciding educational and collateral questions, it is safe to predict, will act on that opinion quite as effectively as a student council. We urge students not to overburden a top-heavy supply of extra scholastic activities with a student council.

WE NEED INTELLIGENT OPINIONS NOT DECISIONS.

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