

# OPINION PACES

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*Our*  
**VIEW**

## Limited access

*Icy sidewalks keep too many from class*

Imagine spending three days straight in a dorm room.

You can leave to eat, for a few short spells. You can roam the halls and maybe pop outside for fresh air. If you feel brave, you can try to plunge through nearly impassable streets and walkways to see a friend a couple blocks away.

Everyone else goes to class; however, it's hopeless for you.

This was three days in the life of Tag Johnson, a student living in Selleck Residence Hall who uses a mechanical wheelchair.

Johnson, and his friends with disabilities, spent more time getting to certain classes than they spent in them last week after 12.5 inches of snow made the University of Nebraska-Lincoln a congested, icy mess. Their motorized wheelchairs fought the same elements that crippled students' vehicles along R, Vine, 14th, 16th and 17th streets. It was, at best, a hassle for everyone.

And at the same time, those responsible for helping those disabled students - UNL administrators - were spinning their wheels.

Johnson says that when he went to the chancellor's office to complain, an employee told him the snowy sidewalks would be taken care of. He had the entire next day in his dorm room to think about why they hadn't been.

"This is bullshit," Johnson repeated. "I am pissed off. I wanna fight somebody."

Landscape services, which had some workers clocking 60 hours last week, cannot pay employees overtime to do all the work necessary to clear the frozen mess.

If the university can't do what's necessary to make reasonably sure all students can get to class, then it shouldn't hold class.

But rather than pay those overtime wages, the university lets students like Johnson sit and watch the snow melt and wonder what it will take to get caught up in class.

Being able to go to class isn't a privilege. It's a right all students get when they write their checks and pay their taxes.

“*If the university can't do what's necessary ... then it shouldn't hold class.*”

*Haney's*  
**VIEW**



## Holiday hoopla

*True meaning is too often lost*



**KATYA OVCHARENKO is a freshman English major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.**

Jesus resurrected!  
Veritably resurrected!  
This is how people greet each other on Easter in Ukraine.

Easter is our main holiday of the year, unlike in the United States. Here people consider Christmas the most important holiday.

It's really good that we celebrate these Christian holidays, but, unfortunately, we have lost the real meaning of them.

Here, in America, I've noticed that almost everyone thinks about gifts for a certain holiday, not the holiday itself.

Long before Christmas, people think of the presents they would give to their friends and relatives, they write long lists, and the next two months before the holiday are usually spent in the nearest shopping centers in search of gifts. A week or two before Christmas, presents are wrapped, labeled and put into safe places. Behind this bustle, we completely forget what Christmas is and why we celebrate it.

In the church I go to, right before Christmas we were shown interviews with about 10 students of our university. Each of them was just a passerby and each was asked the same question: "What is Christmas for you?"

NONE of them mentioned the birth of Jesus; they all thought about getting together as a family, getting and giving presents and having long holidays.

In my country the situation isn't better. Though we are not so deeply concerned about gifts, our religious Christian holidays are still material-

ized. For example, when we have fasting for 40 days before Easter, most of us (who choose to fast) think about clearing our organs of harmful substances - not spiritual refining.

It's more important to clean our houses and get the homes prepared for this pure holiday than to prepare our hearts for it, to cleanse our souls before God.

Easter in the U.S.A., according to the words of one of my American friends, became a holiday for children.

Children have a great time when they try to find Easter eggs, ostensibly brought by the Easter rabbit, but in reality, carefully prepared by their parents.

In Ukraine we also paint eggs, and we bake special breads, and we cook so much food as never before; after 40 days of fasting, people want to stuff their stomachs generously. We have a great feast that continues for several days.

I don't intend to say that all the holidays, including Easter, are perverted in this world. But I can't name any other holiday of the year in Ukraine that brings people so close together as Easter does. It's amazing to watch how everyone goes to Orthodox churches with eggs, breads, water and other food for the priest to bless. Even non-Christians go there. If someone tells you that he or she goes to church once a year, it goes without saying that this "once" is Easter.

In my native town back in Ukraine, we have a beautiful pond near the only Orthodox church in

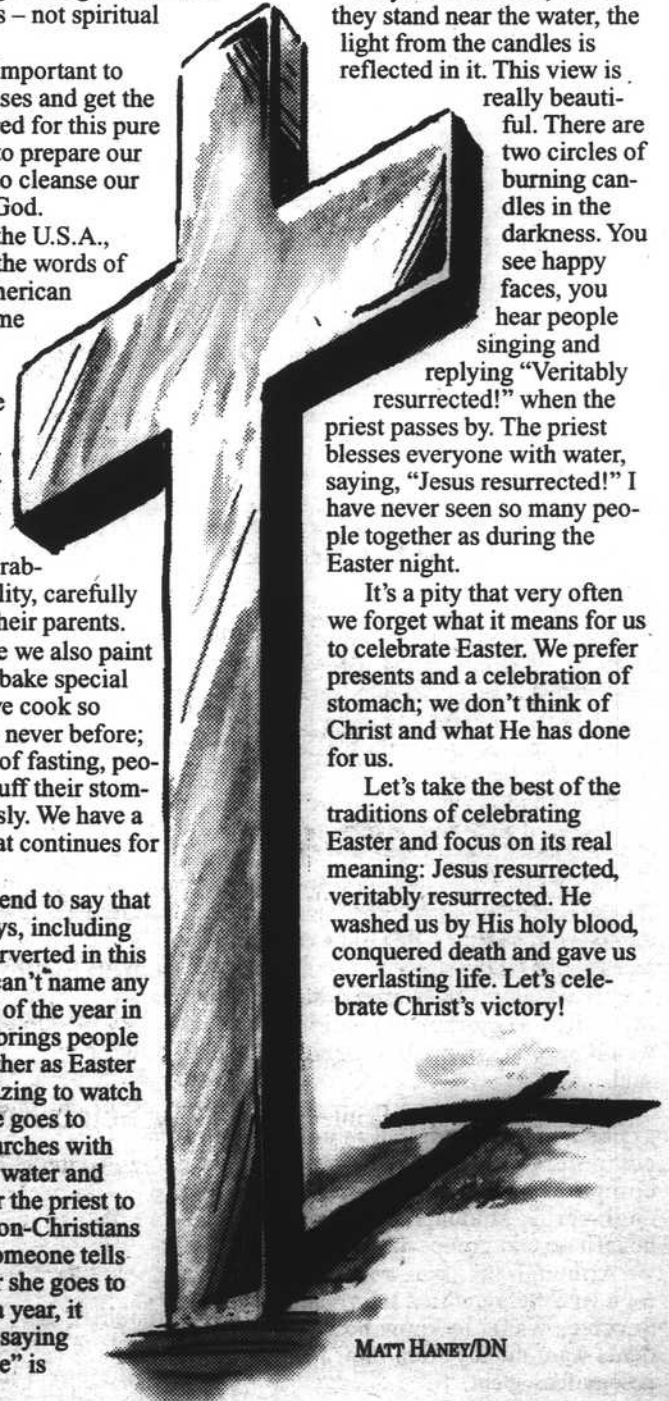
town. On Easter night people from the whole town gather around it, because there are not enough places for everyone in the church.

They burn candles, and as they stand near the water, the light from the candles is reflected in it. This view is

really beautiful. There are two circles of burning candles in the darkness. You see happy faces, you hear people singing and replying "Veritably resurrected!" when the priest passes by. The priest blesses everyone with water, saying, "Jesus resurrected!" I have never seen so many people together as during the Easter night.

It's a pity that very often we forget what it means for us to celebrate Easter. We prefer presents and a celebration of stomach; we don't think of Christ and what He has done for us.

Let's take the best of the traditions of celebrating Easter and focus on its real meaning: Jesus resurrected, veritably resurrected. He washed us by His holy blood, conquered death and gave us everlasting life. Let's celebrate Christ's victory!



MATT HANEY/DN

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