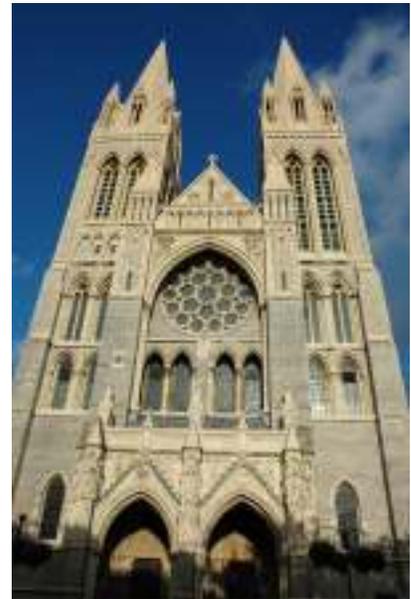


Behind Schedule

by Joey Dranetz

I was late. With a presentation for the religious convention in hand, I raced down the streets toward the cathedral. The cathedral's shadow cascaded down over the surrounding buildings. The magnificent stained-glass windows colorfully decorated the cold stone. Its towers, with ornate sculptures of gargoyles, angels, and other mystic creatures, rose above all the other buildings. Continuing to run down the street, I wondered, of all days, why this day had to be the day of this convention. For today was unusually warm and the sky was a perfect light blue compared to the cold, rainy, and windy days prior to today. As I tried to juggle all the things I needed to remember for the presentation, a sudden thought made its way into my head: What if I was too late to present?



The Greatest Day

by Tanner Williams

On an ordinary yet chilly morning in Jacksonville, FL, the woods were still and silent. I had been sitting in my tree stand for many hours. Finally, as the sun rose high in the sky, the light pierced the darkness. Roosters started crowing, the turkeys began gobbling and the sound of birds flapping their wings soon dominated the woods, and out of the morning mist came a most beautiful sight: an eight-point buck. As he feasted on the fresh corn, all I could do was look at him, awe-struck, and raised my 7mm Magnum from its resting position. I fired a single perfect shot; the deer dropped. I stayed back, hardly able to contain my excitement, until I was sure it was dead. Many a morning I had sat there and never had an experience like this. The long-awaited day had finally come.

Robbery

by Duffy Flynn

There was not a star in the cloudy sky when some men met in a dark alleyway to discuss a certain thing. A family of black cats ran across the alleyway through a shallow puddle. As the men whispered, a car alarm sounded in the background. The four had a clever idea about how to rob a bank. This bank sat in Time Square in New York City. One of the men had patrolled the bank at night; he was the closing security guard. He usually lounged in a room surrounded by bulletproof glass eating PB and J. He knew how to run all the security cameras, and he had all the digital codes and keys to all the safes. This would be the easiest bank robbery in the world, three billion cash in their hands. They were going to rob the bank the night of the twenty fourth of December, Christmas Eve. Everyone else snuggled in their beds trying to fall asleep, thinking about presents in the morning. The friends strolled into the bank. The only people there, they staggered down the hallway. Everything was perfect. Unlocking and opening doors with no problem, one after the next, they finally came to the end where the three billion dollars was sitting; all they had to do was to open the safe. The safe was about twenty feet tall, all steel and into the keyboard attached to the side, he said out loud while he typed 28, 36,9,11 then typed "whanahaukalogee"...and the safe opened.