

# \$250,000 Writing Contests

*by Andrew Blackman*

## Introduction

Over the past ten years I've been gathering information on writing contests around the world. I've gone through the listings in books, newsletters, websites and magazines, and kept a list of all the short story contests I thought worth entering. I've accumulated a database of contests with a combined prize total of more than a quarter of a million dollars.

Now, for the first time, I'm sharing my list with others. I hope it's useful for you.

Because I lived in London and New York while I was accumulating this list, most of the contests are based in the US or UK. However, the vast majority of them are open to anyone from around the world. In the few cases where there are restrictions, such as only people from a particular country, I've mentioned them in the "Notes" column on the right. I haven't included contests where the entry requirements are very restrictive, e.g. only for residents of a particular town or region. Prizes and fees are listed in local currency. "C\$" is Canadian dollar, and where I just use "\$" it means US currency.

A quick disclaimer: the rules for entry change all the time, fees rise, prizes fall, and contests are sometimes discontinued. I've spent hours combing through the list and checking every contest to make sure the information is accurate, and I'll update the list whenever I come across new information, but there's still a chance that you might go to a website and find things have changed. Please let me know of any discrepancies by emailing me at [info@andrewblackman.net](mailto:info@andrewblackman.net), and I'll update this book right away.

I hope you find lots of great contests to enter, and wish you the best of luck! Please let me know when you win your first prize!

All the best,

Andrew Blackman

P.S. If you like this free eBook, please help me spread the word by recommending it on [Twitter!](#)



Competition	Due Date	Prize	Word Limit	Entry fee	Website	Notes
On the Premises	ongoing	\$180	5,000	£0	<a href="http://www.onthepremises.com/current_contest.html">http://www.onthepremises.com/current_contest.html</a>	
Glimmer Train Fiction Open	quarterly	\$2500	25,000	\$19	<a href="http://www.glimmertrain.com/fictionopen.html">http://www.glimmertrain.com/fictionopen.html</a>	
Flash 500	quarterly	£300	500	£5	<a href="http://www.flash500.com/">http://www.flash500.com/</a>	
Glimmer Train Very Short Fiction	biannual	\$1500	3,000	\$15	<a href="http://www.glimmertrain.com/veryshort.html">http://www.glimmertrain.com/veryshort.html</a>	
Global Short Story contest	monthly	£100	2,000	£5	<a href="http://www.globalshortstories.net">http://www.globalshortstories.net</a>	
A Very Short Story	monthly	£50	1,000	£4	<a href="http://averyshortstory.co.uk/default.aspx">http://averyshortstory.co.uk/default.aspx</a>	
Chudleigh Phoenix	1/13	£100	1,500	£5	<a href="http://chudleighphoenix.co.uk/2012comp.html">http://chudleighphoenix.co.uk/2012comp.html</a>	
Chapter One Promotions	1/14	£2,500	2,500	£10	<a href="http://www.chapteronepromotions.com">www.chapteronepromotions.com</a>	
K. Margaret Grossman Fiction Awards	1/15	£1,000	8,000	\$10	<a href="http://www.literal-latte.com/contests/#fiction_awards">http://www.literal-latte.com/contests/#fiction_awards</a>	
Warren Adler Short Story Contest	1/15	\$1,000	2,500	£15	<a href="http://www.warrenadler.com/writing-contest.shtml">http://www.warrenadler.com/writing-contest.shtml</a>	
Crazyhorse Fiction Prize	1/15	\$2000	25 pages	\$16	<a href="http://www.crazyhorsejournal.org/page.php?id=106">http://www.crazyhorsejournal.org/page.php?id=106</a>	
Words With Jam	1/27	£500	2,500	£6	<a href="http://www.wordswithjam.co.uk">http://www.wordswithjam.co.uk</a>	
Prism	1/27	C\$2,000	25 pages	C\$28	<a href="http://prismmagazine.ca/contests/">http://prismmagazine.ca/contests/</a>	
Biscuit International Short Story Prize	1/31	£1,000	5,000	£12	<a href="http://www.biscuitpublishing.com/comp">http://www.biscuitpublishing.com/comp</a>	
GSU Review	1/31	\$1,000	9,000	\$15	<a href="http://www.review.gsu.edu/page/contest.html">http://www.review.gsu.edu/page/contest.html</a>	
New Millennium	1/31	\$1000	6,000	\$17	<a href="http://www.newmillenniumwritings.com/awards.php">http://www.newmillenniumwritings.com/awards.php</a>	
Homestart Bridgwater	2/1	£500	not specified	£7	<a href="http://www.homestart-bridgwater.org.uk">http://www.homestart-bridgwater.org.uk</a>	
Accenti	2/7	C\$1,000	2,000	C\$20	<a href="http://www.accenti.ca/writing-contest">http://www.accenti.ca/writing-contest</a>	
Nelson Algren Short Story Award	2/15	\$5,000	10,000	£0	<a href="http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/books/ch-i-nelson-algren-award-112910,0,7904777.htmlstory">http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/books/ch-i-nelson-algren-award-112910,0,7904777.htmlstory</a>	US residents only
Memoirs Ink	2/15	\$1,000	1,500	\$15	<a href="http://www.memoirsink.com/writingcontestguidelines/">http://www.memoirsink.com/writingcontestguidelines/</a>	
BBC National Short Story Award	2/27	£15,000	8,000	£0	<a href="http://www.booktrust.org.uk/prizes-and-awards/">http://www.booktrust.org.uk/prizes-and-awards/</a>	For writers with a prior record of publication
Grace Dieu	2/28	£500	2,000	£5	<a href="http://www.gracedieuwriterscircle.co.uk/">http://www.gracedieuwriterscircle.co.uk/</a>	
Norton Girault Literary Prize	2/28	\$1000	25 pages	\$25	<a href="http://barelysouthreview.digitalodu.com/the-norton-girault-literary-prize/">http://barelysouthreview.digitalodu.com/the-norton-girault-literary-prize/</a>	
Edge Hill Prize for the Short Story	3/1	£5,000	not specified	£0	<a href="http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/shortstory">http://www.edgehill.ac.uk/shortstory</a>	Born or resident in UK/Ireland
Bryan MacMahon Short Story Award	3/2	€2,000	3,000	€10	<a href="http://writersweek.ie/the-bryan-mcmahon-short-story-competition">http://writersweek.ie/the-bryan-mcmahon-short-story-competition</a>	
Wabash prize	3/8	\$1,000	not specified	\$15	<a href="http://www.sycamorereview.com/contest/">http://www.sycamorereview.com/contest/</a>	
Nelligan Prize	3/14	\$2,000	50 pages	\$15	<a href="http://coloradoreview.colostate.edu/nelligan-prize/submission-guidelines/">http://coloradoreview.colostate.edu/nelligan-prize/submission-guidelines/</a>	
Waasmode Short Fiction Prize	3/15	\$1,000	7,500	\$15	<a href="http://passagesnorth.com/contests/">http://passagesnorth.com/contests/</a>	
Just Desserts Short Short Fiction Prize	3/15	\$1,000	1,000	\$15	<a href="http://passagesnorth.com/contests/">http://passagesnorth.com/contests/</a>	
World's Best Short Short Story Prize	3/15	\$500	500	\$16 for	<a href="http://www.southeastreview.org/contests.php">http://www.southeastreview.org/contests.php</a>	

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Gulf Coast	3/15	\$1,500	25 pages	\$23	<a href="http://www.gulfcoastmag.org/contests">http://www.gulfcoastmag.org/contests</a>	Entry fee includes 1-year subscription to magazine
Arts & Letters	3/18	£1,000	25 pages	£15	<a href="http://al.gcsu.edu/prizes.php">http://al.gcsu.edu/prizes.php</a>	
Fish Flash Fiction Prize	3/20	€ 1,000	300	€ 14	<a href="http://www.fishpublishing.com/flash-fiction-contest-competition.php">http://www.fishpublishing.com/flash-fiction-contest-competition.php</a>	
Missouri Review Audio Contest	3/22	\$1,000	10 minutes when read aloud	donation	<a href="http://www.missourireview.com/audiovisual/submissions/">http://www.missourireview.com/audiovisual/submissions/</a>	
Elizabeth Bowen Short Story Competition	3/30	€ 3000	3,000	€ 20	<a href="http://www.mitchelstownlit.com/Mitchelstown_literarysociety.html">http://www.mitchelstownlit.com/Mitchelstown_literarysociety.html</a>	
Short Fiction	3/31	£500	5,000	£10	<a href="http://www.shortfictionjournal.co.uk/?page_id=33">http://www.shortfictionjournal.co.uk/?page_id=33</a>	
Steyning Festival Short Story Competition	3/31	£250	1,500	£4	<a href="http://www.steyningfestival.co.uk/">http://www.steyningfestival.co.uk/</a>	
Tom Howard	3/31	\$3,000	5,000	\$15	<a href="http://www.winningwriters.com/contests/tomstory/ts_guidelines.php">http://www.winningwriters.com/contests/tomstory/ts_guidelines.php</a>	
Bristol Short Story Prize	3/31	£1,000	3,000	£7	<a href="http://www.bristolprize.co.uk/rules.html">http://www.bristolprize.co.uk/rules.html</a>	
Exeter Writers Short Story conest	3/31	£250	3,000	£4	<a href="http://www.exeterwriters.org.uk/">http://www.exeterwriters.org.uk/</a>	
Spilling Ink Flash Fiction	3/31	£500	500	£5	<a href="http://spillinginkreview.com/competitions/">http://spillinginkreview.com/competitions/</a>	
Meridian Writing	3/31	£100	3,000	£5	<a href="http://www.meridian-writing.co.uk">www.meridian-writing.co.uk</a>	
Writers Village	3/31	£400	3,000	£5	<a href="http://www.writers-village.org">www.writers-village.org</a>	
Gemini Magazine	3/31	\$1,000	no limit	\$4	<a href="http://www.gemini-magazine.com/contest.html">http://www.gemini-magazine.com/contest.html</a>	
Sonora Review	4/1	\$1,000	1,000	\$15	<a href="http://www.coh.arizona.edu/Sonora/contest.htm">http://www.coh.arizona.edu/Sonora/contest.htm</a>	
Equinox Prize	4/1	\$400	2,500	\$9	<a href="http://www.inthesnake.com/contest/">http://www.inthesnake.com/contest/</a>	
Trend Micro	4/3	£5,000	3,000	£0	<a href="http://www.trendmicro.co.uk/wys-uk/">http://www.trendmicro.co.uk/wys-uk/</a>	UK residents only. Themed contest
Chautauqua	4/15	\$1,000	750	\$20	<a href="http://www.ciweb.org/contest-information/">http://www.ciweb.org/contest-information/</a>	
Writer Advice Flash Prose Contest	4/18	\$200	750	\$10	<a href="http://www.writeradvice.com/">http://www.writeradvice.com/</a>	
E.M. Koepfel	4/30	\$1,100	3,000	\$15	<a href="http://www.writecorner.com/award_guidelines.asp">http://www.writecorner.com/award_guidelines.asp</a>	
Momaya Press	4/30	£110	3,000	£8	<a href="http://momayapress.com/momaya-short-story-competition/competition-guidelines">http://momayapress.com/momaya-short-story-competition/competition-guidelines</a>	Themed competition
Unbound Press	4/30	£500	1,500	£5	<a href="http://unboundpress.com/competitions/">http://unboundpress.com/competitions/</a>	
The Writer magazine	4/30	\$1000	2,000	\$10	<a href="http://www.writermag.com/storycontest">www.writermag.com/storycontest</a>	
Sunpenny Open Short Story Contest	4/30	£150	4,000	£4	<a href="http://www.sunpenny.com/competitions.html">http://www.sunpenny.com/competitions.html</a>	
Nottingham Short Story Competition	4/30	£1,000	2,500	£10	<a href="http://www.primewritingacademy.com">http://www.primewritingacademy.com</a>	

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William Faulkner	5/1	\$1,500	10,000	\$30	<a href="http://www.wordsandmusic.org/competition.html">http://www.wordsandmusic.org/competition.html</a>	
South Loop Review	5/1	\$1,000	20 pages nonfiction	\$20	<a href="http://cms.colum.edu/southloopreview/submissions.php">http://cms.colum.edu/southloopreview/submissions.php</a>	
Fugue	5/1	\$1,000	8,000	\$15	<a href="http://www.uiweb.uidaho.edu/fugue/contest.html">http://www.uiweb.uidaho.edu/fugue/contest.html</a>	
American Short(er) Fiction Prize	5/1	\$500	1,000	\$15	<a href="http://www.americanshortfiction.org">http://www.americanshortfiction.org</a>	
Crucible	5/1	\$150	8,000	£0	<a href="http://www.barton.edu/academics/english/crucible.htm">http://www.barton.edu/academics/english/crucible.htm</a>	
Lorian Hemingway	5/1	\$1,500	3,500	\$15	<a href="http://www.shortstorycompetition.com/">http://www.shortstorycompetition.com/</a>	Unpublished writers
Writers Digest	5/15	\$3,000	4,000	\$25	<a href="http://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-annual-writing-competition">http://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-annual-writing-competition</a>	
Lush Triumphant	5/15	C\$750	3,000	C\$25	<a href="http://subterrain.ca/">http://subterrain.ca/</a>	
Alexander Patterson	5/18	\$1,500	8,000	\$15	<a href="http://www.newletters.org/awards.asp">http://www.newletters.org/awards.asp</a>	
Midway Journal	5/31	\$1,000	6,000	\$15	<a href="http://www.midwayjournal.com/Contest.html">http://www.midwayjournal.com/Contest.html</a>	
Bridport Flash Fiction	5/31	£1,000	250	£6	<a href="http://www.bridportprize.org.uk/">http://www.bridportprize.org.uk/</a>	
Bridport Prize	5/31	£5,000	5,000	£8	<a href="http://www.bridportprize.org.uk/">http://www.bridportprize.org.uk/</a>	
Frome Festival	5/31	£300	2,200	£5	<a href="http://www.fromefestival.co.uk/">http://www.fromefestival.co.uk/</a>	
Yeovil Prize	5/31	£500	2,000	£6	<a href="http://www.yeovilprize.co.uk">http://www.yeovilprize.co.uk</a>	
Machigonne Ficiton Contest	6/18	\$1000	7,500	\$15	<a href="http://www.newguardreview.com/">http://www.newguardreview.com/</a>	
Jerwood Gridshell prize	6/22	£1,000	2,000	£7	<a href="http://www.wealddown.co.uk/Events-Information/Historical-Fiction-competition">http://www.wealddown.co.uk/Events-Information/Historical-Fiction-competition</a>	Story must relate to an aspect of the Weald and Downland Museum
Sentinel Literary Quarterly	6/25	£150	1,500	£5	<a href="http://www.sentinelpoetry.org.uk">www.sentinelpoetry.org.uk</a>	
Bloody Scotland	6/29	£2,000	3,000	£10	<a href="http://www.bloodyscotland.com/competition/">http://www.bloodyscotland.com/competition/</a>	Themed competition
V.S. Pritchett Memorial Prize	6/29	£1,000	5,000	£5	<a href="http://rslit.org/content/pritchett">http://rslit.org/content/pritchett</a>	For UK/Irish citizens/residents only
Leaf Books	6/30	£75	500	£4	<a href="http://leafbooks.co.uk/">http://leafbooks.co.uk/</a>	
William Van Wert	6/30	\$1,000	25 pages	\$17	<a href="http://www.hiddenriverarts.com/">http://www.hiddenriverarts.com/</a>	
Raymond Carver Short Story Contest	6/30	\$1,000	not specified	\$17	<a href="http://www.carvezine.com/RCcontest.htm">http://www.carvezine.com/RCcontest.htm</a>	
Writers Bureau	6/30	£500	2,000	£5	<a href="http://www.wbcompetition.com">http://www.wbcompetition.com</a>	
Lightship Publishing Competitions	6/30	£1,000	5,000	£12	<a href="http://www.lightshipublishing.co.uk">www.lightshipublishing.co.uk</a>	
Fulton Prize	7/31	\$400	10,000	\$10	<a href="http://www.theadironackreview.com/FultonPrize.html">http://www.theadironackreview.com/FultonPrize.html</a>	
Robert and Adele Schiff	7/31	\$1,000	40 pages	\$25	<a href="http://www.cincinnatiareview.com/blog/contests/robert-and-adele-schiff-prizes-in-poetry-and-prose/">http://www.cincinnatiareview.com/blog/contests/robert-and-adele-schiff-prizes-in-poetry-and-prose/</a>	
HISSAC	7/31	£400	2,500	£5	<a href="http://www.hissac.co.uk">www.hissac.co.uk</a>	
Dream Quest One	7/31	\$500	5 pages	\$10	<a href="http://www.dreamquestone.com">http://www.dreamquestone.com</a>	
Sean O Faolain Short Story Competition	7/31	€ 2,000	3,000	€ 15	<a href="http://www.munsterlit.ie/">http://www.munsterlit.ie/</a>	

Competition	Due Date	Prize	Word Limit	Entry fee	Website	Notes
Ilkley Literature Festival	8/1	£200	3,000	£4	<a href="http://www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk/competitions/adults-competitions/">http://www.ilkleyliteraturefestival.org.uk/competitions/adults-competitions/</a>	
Aesthetica	8/31	£500	2,000	£10	<a href="http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/submission_guide.htm">http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/submission_guide.htm</a>	
Bill Naughton Short Story Competition	9/7	€ 200	2,500	€ 7	<a href="http://www.aghamoreireland.com/kennynaughton/short-story.htm">http://www.aghamoreireland.com/kennynaughton/short-story.htm</a>	
Rubery	9/30	£500	3,000	£7.50	<a href="http://www.ruberybookaward.com/information1.html">http://www.ruberybookaward.com/information1.html</a>	
Jeremy Mogford Prize	10/1	£7,500	2,500	£0.00	<a href="http://oxfordliteraryfestival.org/news/article/food-and-drink-writing-award-launched">http://oxfordliteraryfestival.org/news/article/food-and-drink-writing-award-launched</a>	Theme of food and drink
Mighty River Short Story Contest	10/1	\$500	30 pages	\$15	<a href="http://www6.semo.edu/universitypress/mrss.htm">http://www6.semo.edu/universitypress/mrss.htm</a>	
Missouri Review	10/1	\$5000	25 pages	\$20	<a href="http://www.missourireview.com/">http://www.missourireview.com/</a>	
Prollitzer Prize	10/1	£130	1,500	£4	<a href="http://www.prolebooks.co.uk/page8.html">http://www.prolebooks.co.uk/page8.html</a>	
Mississippi Review	11/1	\$1,000	8,000	\$15	<a href="http://www.usm.edu/mississippi-review/mrcontest.html">http://www.usm.edu/mississippi-review/mrcontest.html</a>	
Aura Estrada Short Story Contest	10/1	\$1,500	5,000	\$20	<a href="http://bostonreview.net/about/contest/index.php">http://bostonreview.net/about/contest/index.php</a>	
Zoetrope	10/3	\$1,000	5,000	\$15	<a href="http://www.all-story.com/contests.cgi">http://www.all-story.com/contests.cgi</a>	
HE Bates	10/4	£150	2,000	£4	<a href="http://www.hebatescompetition.org.uk/">http://www.hebatescompetition.org.uk/</a>	
Rick DeMarinis Short Story Award	10/10	\$1,250	5,000	\$17	<a href="http://www.cutthroatmag.com/contest.html">http://www.cutthroatmag.com/contest.html</a>	
Calvino Prize	10/14	\$1,500	25 pages	\$25	<a href="http://louisville.edu/english/creative-writing/contests/creative-writing-contests.html">http://louisville.edu/english/creative-writing/contests/creative-writing-contests.html</a>	in style of Italo Calvino
RRofihe Trophy	10/15	\$500	5,000	\$10	<a href="http://opencity.org/the-rrofihe-trophy">http://opencity.org/the-rrofihe-trophy</a>	
Sunday Times Short Story Award	10/28	£30,000	6,000	£0	<a href="http://www.booktrust.org.uk/prizes-and-awards/5">http://www.booktrust.org.uk/prizes-and-awards/5</a>	Author must have previously published work in UK or Ireland
InterAct Ruth Rendell COntest	10/29	£1,000	1,000	£10	<a href="http://www.interactreading.org/content/ruth-rendell-short-story-competition-20112012">http://www.interactreading.org/content/ruth-rendell-short-story-competition-20112012</a>	
Dana Awards	10/31	\$1,000	10,000	\$15	<a href="http://www.danaawards.com/guidelines.htm">http://www.danaawards.com/guidelines.htm</a>	
Tom Gallon Award	10/31	£1,000	5,000	£0	<a href="http://www.societyofauthors.org/tom-gallon-trust-and-olive-cook-award">http://www.societyofauthors.org/tom-gallon-trust-and-olive-cook-award</a>	Biennial prize
Earlyworks Press	10/31	£100	8,000	£5	<a href="http://www.earlyworkspress.co.uk/Competitions.htm">http://www.earlyworkspress.co.uk/Competitions.htm</a>	
Early Works Short Story contest	10/31	£100	4,000	£5	<a href="http://earlyworkspress.co.uk">http://earlyworkspress.co.uk</a>	
Amrosia	11/1	C\$1,000	1,000	C\$25	<a href="http://wcdr.ca">http://wcdr.ca</a>	Entry fee \$C20 for Canadian citizens
H.O.W. Journal	11/1	\$500	12,000	\$20	<a href="http://www.howjournal.com/submit-contests.html">http://www.howjournal.com/submit-contests.html</a>	
Briar Cliff Review	11/1	\$1000	6,000	\$20	<a href="http://www.briarcliff.edu/campus/bc_review/bcreview_new/contest.aspx">http://www.briarcliff.edu/campus/bc_review/bcreview_new/contest.aspx</a>	
Commonwealth Short Story Contest	11/30	£5,000	5000	£0	<a href="http://www.commonwealthwriters.org/">http://www.commonwealthwriters.org/</a>	
Fish Short Story Prize	11/30	€ 3,000	5,000	€ 20	<a href="http://www.fishpublishing.com/short-story-competition-contest.php">http://www.fishpublishing.com/short-story-competition-contest.php</a>	

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New Writer Prose Prize	11/30	£300	5,000	£5	<a href="http://thenewwriter.com/prizes.htm">http://thenewwriter.com/prizes.htm</a>	
Grist Competition	11/30	£500	3,500	£3	<a href="http://www-old.hud.ac.uk/mh/english/grist/competitions/index.htm">http://www-old.hud.ac.uk/mh/english/grist/competitions/index.htm</a>	
InkTears Short Story Competition	11/30	£1,000	3,000	£4.50	<a href="http://www.inktears.com">http://www.inktears.com</a>	
Fiddlehead	12/1	C\$1,500	6,000	C\$36 (includes sub)	<a href="http://www.thefiddlehead.ca/FHcontest.html">http://www.thefiddlehead.ca/FHcontest.html</a>	Entry fee \$C30 for Canadian citizens; includes one-year subscription
Writer's Digest Short Short Story Contest	12/1	\$3000	1,500	\$20	<a href="http://www.writersdigest.com/competitions/short-story">http://www.writersdigest.com/competitions/short-story</a>	
Blue Earth Flash Fiction	12/1	\$100	600	£5	<a href="http://www.mnsu.edu/blueearth/">http://www.mnsu.edu/blueearth/</a>	
Long Story Contest	12/15	\$1,000	14,000	\$15	<a href="http://whiteeaglecoffeestorepress.com/page4.html">http://whiteeaglecoffeestorepress.com/page4.html</a>	
Willesden Herald international short story competition	12/19	£150	8,000	£0	<a href="http://www.willesdenherald.com/competition/rules.php">http://www.willesdenherald.com/competition/rules.php</a>	
Blue Mesa	12/31	\$1000	7,000	\$17	<a href="http://blumesalit.wordpress.com/about/">http://blumesalit.wordpress.com/about/</a>	
H.E. Francis	12/31	\$1,000	5,000	\$15	<a href="http://www.uah.edu/english/hefranciscontest/">http://www.uah.edu/english/hefranciscontest/</a>	
Hackney Literary Awards	12/31	\$600	5,000	\$20	<a href="http://www.hackneyliteraryawards.org/Home.html">http://www.hackneyliteraryawards.org/Home.html</a>	
Carve Magazine Esoteric Awards	12/31	\$1,000	not specified	\$23	<a href="http://www.carvezine.com/EAContest.htm">http://www.carvezine.com/EAContest.htm</a>	Check the theme for each contest