

Fair Contract 2010

California Media Workers Guild


“ur core newsroom is our competitive advantage,” Michele Slack, of SFGate, the online arm of The Chronicle, told Advertising Age in August. Of course, The Guild represents more people than the schedule A types in the newsroom, but these folks are our most visible members. They also write and edit the paper and supply SFGate with content. The key to keeping the paper and SFGate competitive is, of course, talent. By scrimping and saving, and paying non-competitive wages, the company is only mortgaging its own future. Suppose you were a young person considering a newspaper or journalism career. So you check out



Photo: Mike Kepka

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Carl Nolte, Reporter and Columnist

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the wages. You discover that in California prison guards are paid more than starting reporters or copy editors (\$45,288 a year for rookie prison guards). Starting pay for Schedule A is \$41,663. And after working to the top of the pay scale: prison guards get \$64,361. Top reporters and copy

editors: \$61,828. Prison guards also get more time off: 11 holidays (compared to seven for us) and four weeks of vacation (we get three). If you were a young, talented person, would you choose an outfit that pays its top people this way? Oh yeah, I forgot: News people are sometimes asked to risk their necks for the paper. This summer, we sent an education writer to cover a riot. She came back OK. Sometimes we aren't so lucky. -30-