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**INTERNATIONALLY-ACCLAIMED JOURNALIST AND BLACK HAWK
DOWN AUTHOR MARK BOWDEN REJOINS PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
24-year Inquirer Veteran Reporter Will Write for Commentary Page**

PHILADELPHIA, February 6, 2007 – Philadelphia Media Holdings CEO and *Philadelphia Inquirer* Publisher Brian P. Tierney announced today that veteran *Inquirer* reporter and author Mark Bowden will rejoin the paper as a commentator in the Currents section. His column, to be called *The Point*, will appear every Sunday starting February 11, 2007.

“Mark’s diverse experiences as a journalist, bestselling author and screenwriter will delight readers interested in his unique world view,” said Mr. Tierney. “We’re thrilled that Mark will be joining the strong ranks of our current line-up of writers including Trudy Rubin, Jonathan Last, Dick Polman, Tom Ferrick, and Carlin Romano.”

“It’s a great pleasure to welcome Mark Bowden and ‘The Point’ back to our Sunday commentary section,” said Editorial Page Editor Chris Satullo. “Mark is a world-class journalist who is expert on topics ranging from Iran’s inner workings to SEPTA’s foibles, thanks to a lifetime of gutsy, in-depth, clear-eyed reporting.”

Mr. Bowden was a Staff Reporter at the *Inquirer* from 1979 to 2003. During his tenure, he achieved international recognition for his 29-part *Inquirer* series which ran in 1997 entitled “Black Hawk Down.” The series detailed the infamous Battle of Mogadishu, Somalia.

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In 1999, Mr. Bowden penned a book based on these articles, which became an international bestseller and a finalist for the National Book Award in 1999. In 2001, the book was adapted into a film, *Black Hawk Down*, directed by Ridley Scott and starring Josh Hartnett and Ewan McGregor. Mr. Bowden also worked on the screenplay for the film.

“I’m excited to rejoin the *Philadelphia Inquirer* staff. I look forward to reconnecting with readers in the region where I have continued to live since I left the *Inquirer* in 2003,” said Mr. Bowden.

In addition to *Black Hawk Down*, Mr. Bowden has written seven other books, including *Killing Pablo: The Hunt for the World’s Greatest Outlaw*, which is currently being adapted for the big screen, and *Guest of the Ayatollah*. Mr. Bowden is also currently a national correspondent for *The Atlantic* and occasional contributor to National Public Radio. He has also written for *The New Yorker*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, among others. He is an adjunct professor at Loyola College in Maryland, where he teaches creative writing and journalism.

Mr. Bowden graduated from Loyola College in Maryland with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature. He still resides in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

In a separate announcement today The Philadelphia Inquirer also announced that local radio personality Michael Smerconish will be joining the paper as a commentator, with a column also scheduled to run on Sundays in the Currents section.

About Philadelphia Media Holdings, LLC

Philadelphia Media Holdings, LLC, is the leading media company in the Philadelphia region. Privately held and locally owned, PMH is the owner of The Philadelphia Inquirer, Daily News, philly.com, related online products and several community newspapers. With almost one million people reading The Inquirer each day, and 1.8 million on Sundays, The Inquirer is the region's most-read daily newspaper. Together with the Daily News, the #1 tab newspaper in the region, and philly.com, the #1 website in the region, Philadelphia Media Holdings, LLC, reaches almost 2 million people each day.

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