



# NEW YORK POST

LATE CITY FINAL

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is that Conde Nast chairman **S.J. Newhouse Jr.** is rewarding Remnick with a big raise and a new five-year deal, at \$1 million plus per year — but nobody is confirming that anything has been signed.

At the time of the original deal, Remnick was a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, but an unproven editor. Now he is arguably one of the top one or two editors in the company, on a par with Vanity Fair's **Graydon Carter** and Vogue's **Anna Wintour**.

Remnick would not comment in any way, shape or form about the contract.

A New Yorker spokeswoman assured us that everything is beautiful between owner and star editor. But of course, Newhouse was saying the same thing in 1998, right before Talk's Tina Brown hit the road.

And we all know what happened with **Bonnie Fuller** and **Jann Wenner**, who announced in these pages that they had a deal. Somebody was telling a little fib, it turned out.

One would suspect that

are happy with him."

When media titans dine, tongues do wag.

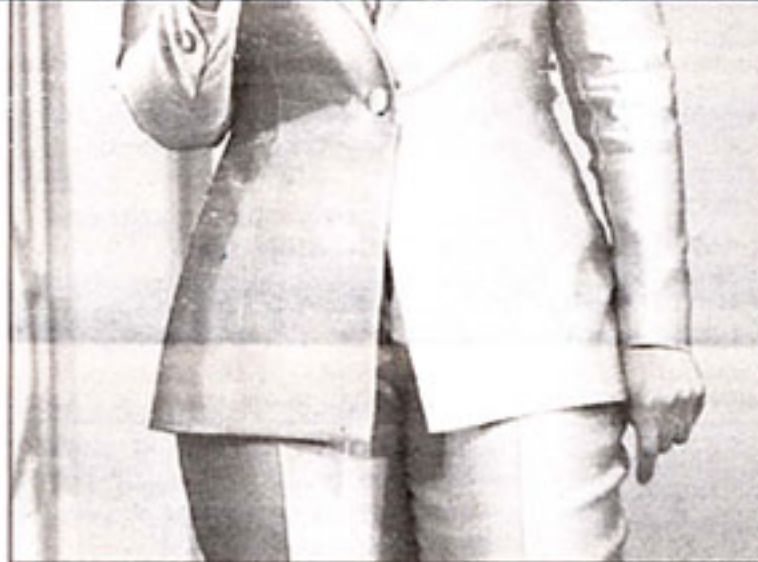
Last Monday at hot spot Michael's, Hearst Magazines president **Cathleen Black** sat down with Knopf publisher **Sonny Mehta**.

What could they have been chatting about, wondered one savvy observer in the room. Could Mehta have been approaching one of the publishing world's top female executives about a memoir from her days at USA Today, Ms., New York and Hearst — where she helped create O, the Oprah magazine, with **Oprah Winfrey**?

Black could not be reached, but a Hearst spokeswoman only laughed off the idea. "They met at a party a while back and decided to have lunch — this was the lunch," she said.

But there is another project that Mehta might love to complete: the chance to publish Oprah's autobiography.

Ten years ago, the book world was in a tizzy, awaiting the publication of the tome that was



**LIMB-O:** Book people are buzzing about an Oprah Winfrey (at left) memoir, sparked by Knopf exec's lunch with O publisher Cathleen Black (top right); David Remnick is likely to sign a new contract at The New Yorker. AP, Steven Hirsch

going to be called "Oprah." Winfrey hit the American Booksellers Association gathering in Miami in June 1993, and received standing ovations as more than 1,800 turned out to hear her speak three months prior to its expected publication date.

Knopf was even thinking of hiking the first printing from 750,000 to 1 million copies.

Then it all unraveled. Oprah only days later announced the book was

being postponed indefinitely.

One theory was that Oprah's then newly acquired fiancé, **Stedman Graham**, objected to the frank discussions of her tortured family background, sexual abuse and poverty.

Oprah eventually shot down the Graham theory, but never did explain in detail what brought the whole project to a screeching halt. In an interview with the Chicago Sun Times in June '93, she

said that she canceled because the book did not go far enough in explaining "what my life has really meant."

Our spy wondered: Was Mehta hoping to rekindle the autobiography bug in Oprah, with Black as an intermediary?

A Knopf spokesman dismisses it. "It was just two media titans having lunch. Sonny talks to lots of magazine people, and they've been friends for a while."

But surely Oprah would have come up?

## Chodorow to open Meatpacking eatery

By LOIS WEISS

Jeffrey Chodorow, the restaurateur making waves on television with Rocco DiSpirito, will open a Japanese restaurant at the \$60 million Hotel Gansevoort, scheduled to open this fall in the Meatpacking District.

The restaurant, to be called Ono, is slipping into space claimed by Buddha Bar before it backed out of

that and its Chelsea Market digs. Located on the triangle bounded by Ninth Avenue, Hudson and 13th Street, the 15,000-square-foot restaurant will have room for outdoor dining and a Robata grill. Ono's 5,000-square-foot main room has 23-foot ceilings plus a mezzanine.

"It's between Pastis, Jean-George's new restaurant, and Steve Hanson's new spot, and I just



**CHODOROW**  
Restaurateur.

brought designer Catherine Malandrino to the other corner at 652 Hudson," said Kim Mogull of MRH Real Estate.

## SoHo to go gaga fo

Windy City-based hot chocolatier Vosges Haut-Chocolat is blowing into a chic, purple-hued SoHo flagship that will open officially during Fashion Week.

The nearly 1,000-square-foot shop at 132 Spring St., decorated in crystal chandeliers and founder Katrina Markoff's trademark purple, will include a Couture Cocoa Bar for instant sipping, and was rented for approximately \$200 a foot. It was previously rented by Transit clothing.

The shop's exquisite chocolate truffles, wedding cakes and couture cocoa created by Vosges owner and Cordon Bleu grad Markoff are infused with exotic flavors — such as Chinese star anise, wasabi, curry and violets — and often packed in cocoa

leaf-decorated Markoff's classes at the Bangkok and ti at a Parisian exotic hot ch Vosges chocol available here a mail.

Susan Penz estate brokerag Charles and Karen Bellanto & Associates v The Candy Q laborated to bi the sweet teeth