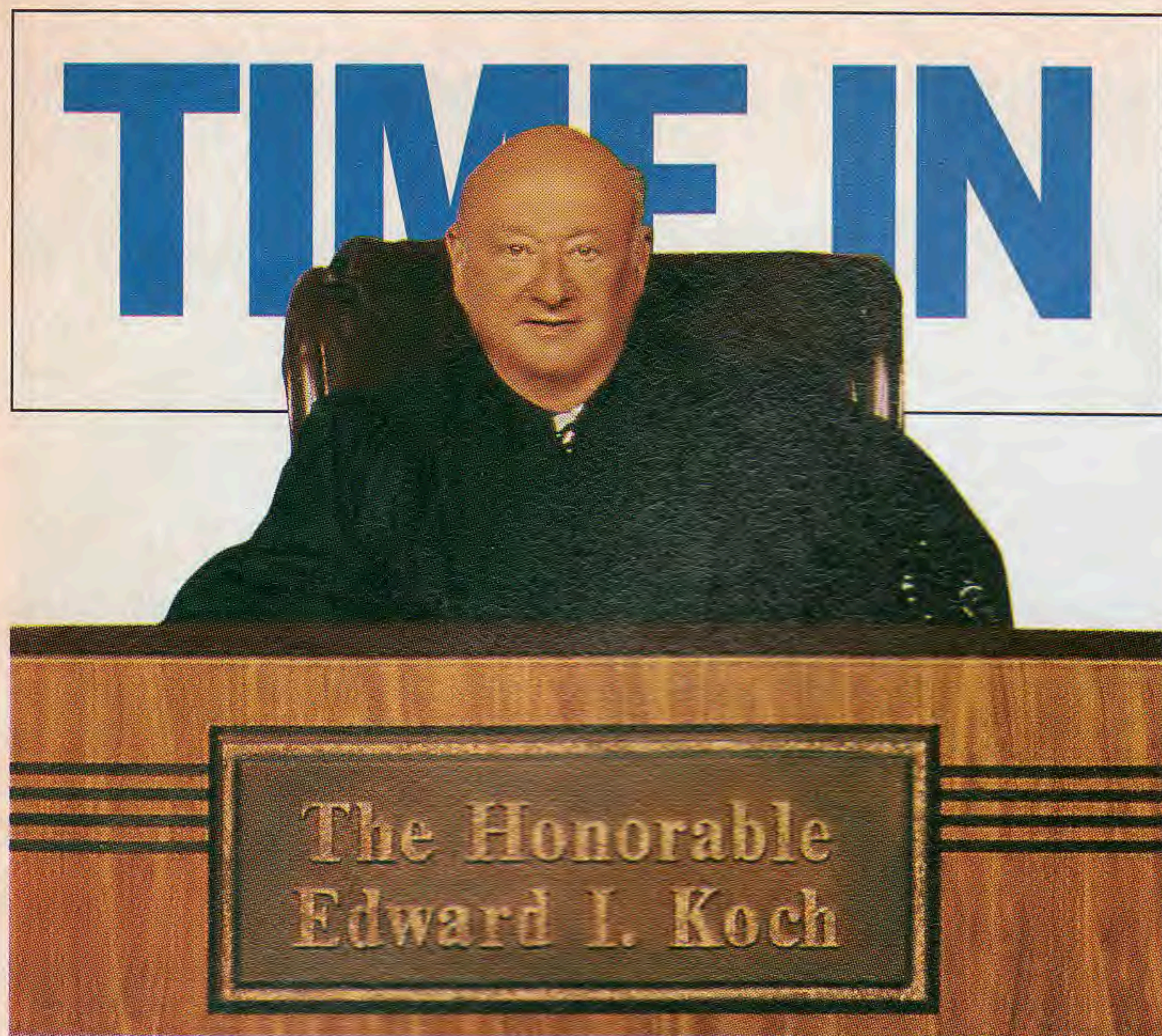


TIME IN



Shouldn't that be "Hizzoner"? Former NYC mayor Koch takes the reins from Judge Wapner and hands down a decision every weekday on *The People's Court*.

Mayor, may I?

In this *Court*, Ed Koch has the last word

By Meakin Armstrong

It's 8:30am, and former three-term mayor Ed Koch is in his midtown office at the law firm of Robinson, Silverman, Pearce, Aronsohn and Berman. A lawyer since 1949, Koch—who acted for years as a sort of fast-talking Gabby Hayes—seems tired as he reads from a huge stack of today's newspapers; there's only a glimmer of that "How'm I doin'" personality that got him various public-office gigs from 1969 to 1989. But Koch, who broke with Giuliani over what he perceives to be the deteriorating independence of the city's judiciary, is inheriting the fabled robes of Judge Wapner on a new version of *The People's Court*. We spoke with him about his latest, very public office.

Time Out New York: How will you be different from Judge Wapner?

Ed Koch: He reflects California, and I reflect New York. And I'd say if you had to sum it up, you'd say California is orange juice, and New York is seltzer.

TONY: Will the show be different?

EK: Yes. One of our people goes out into the street and gets reactions from people. He asks them after the trial, but before my decision, what they think. And then when I come in with my decision, what they think of my decision. It's really interesting, the different opinions. Sometimes they unanimously support what I did. I don't think there's a single case in which they unanimously condemn me.

TONY: Wapner went for 12 seasons. Will you do the same?

EK: Well, I expect to live to be at least 87.

TONY: 87?

EK: Because that's when my father died. He enjoyed working to the last day of his life. I plan to do that, too. If the show catches on, I'll be doing it to the age of 87.

TONY: So that leaves Giuliani out of the show for a while. How would he

rate as a judge?

EK: Giuliani is not a nice person. He's a good mayor, but he has no compassion for people, so my own feeling is that he lacks the necessary ingredients to be a great judge.

TONY: What about Dinkins?

EK: He could very well fail because, while he has a great deal of compassion, he's very partisan.

TONY: If you could have anyone before you in court, who would it be?

EK: I don't think it's something that you can wish on anybody.

TONY: You wear a robe?

EK: Sure!

TONY: Is the robe one-size-fits-all?

EK: I honestly don't know if there's a size or not. I have two. So we can send one out for cleaning.

TONY: How do you look in it?

EK: I look terrific in it. Like it was made for me, and I for it. Like I've been planning this all my life.

TONY: What's your ruling on Frank Gifford? Innocent or guilty?

EK: I don't think there's any question that he had an extramarital affair. It may be a sin, but sins don't come before the court.

TONY: Not even *The People's Court*?

EK: *The People's Court* has a rule that it doesn't pass judgment on sins. That's for God. The highest judge. The true Court of Appeals.

TONY: That's a tough job to get, I imagine.

EK: God's? I don't aspire to it.

TONY: How about the Supreme Court, then?

EK: I'd be bored to tears.

TONY: Will you be wearing a powdered wig like the English judges?

EK: It's called a peruke. I think it'll be at least a year before I introduce it.

The People's Court premieres at 3pm on September 8 on Channel 4.

Questions? Concerns? Please direct everything by mail or fax (460-8744) to John Sellers. Deadline is Monday, nine days before publication.

THURSDAY 4

Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman

7-8pm, TNT The sexy 1993-97 Superman series *Lois & Clark* flies again every Monday through Saturday on TNT.

1997 MTV Video Music Awards

8-11pm, MTV Comedian

and Li'l Penny voice **Chris**

Rock ("Can't talk now—driving through a tunnel!") is the affable

host of this irreverent awards show.

U2, Jamiroquai

and **Beck** perform.



FRIDAY 5

She's the One

8-9:36pm, Cinemax In **Edward**

Burns's 1996 follow-up to *The Brothers*

McMullen, **Jennifer Aniston** plays the

wife of a two-timer (**Mike McGlone**)

who's the brother of a cabbie (Burns) who

has found the girl of his dreams (**Maxine**

Bahns). Yeah, that's the ticket.

The Grand Tour

10-11pm, A&E If you've ever wanted

to know what the rich and fabulous do

on vacation, check out this new weekly

series. Tonight's premiere hits Monaco, a

place that will make you wish more than

ever that you, too, were a millionaire.

SATURDAY 6

Cops

8-8:30pm, Fox Can you believe the

bad boys have been bustin' for nine years

now? Whatcha gonna do?

First Time Felon

9-10:50pm, HBO A kid (**Omar Epps**)

from Chicago's West Side gets in trouble

with the law, is sentenced to boot camp and

winds up learning enough from it to be-

come successful. It's not the most original

plotline, but first-time director **Charles S.**

Dutton (*Roc*) handles it with sensitivity

and realism. The problem here is the hack-

neyed dialogue, which waters down the

movie's tone. When a boot-camp officer

says during graduation, "No matter how

difficult it is, I want you to never give up!

Never! it's as interesting as cardboard, and

more utterances like this give the movie an

after-school-special feel. —Stephen Miloto

America's Most Wanted

9-10pm, Fox After 10 years, John Walsh

is still kicking criminals where it hurts.

A selective guide to what's on

National Lampoon's
The Don's Analyst

9-10:45pm, The Movie Channel

With *National Lampoon* behind it, you'd

think *The Don's Analyst* would at least

offer a few moments of side-splitting

parody of Mafia movies. Unfortunately,

all that exists here is a high concept—the

Godfather hires an analyst—that

might have made a funny three-minute

Saturday Night Live sketch. But imagine

poor **Kevin Pollack** repeating "I'm the

Godfather's analyst!" over and over

again for nearly two hours; add to that a

sappy moralistic ending and a cuddly

Robert Loggia trying to come off as

the terrifying Godfather, and you, too,

will be phoning your shrink to talk you

off the ledge. —Julie Rottenberg

Dogs: The Rise and Fall
of an All-Girl Bookie Joint

9:30-11pm, Sundance Channel No,

it's not a documentary about women and

dog-racing. Rather, *Dogs* is a biting, ho-

morous film about four female room-

mates and a \$6,000 corpse. When Leila

bounces a check intended to pay for her

mother's burial, she receives notice that if

the balance isn't paid in 30 days, her

mother's casket will be returned to her

body and all. Leila and her roommates

seek creative methods of raising the cash,

but wind up meeting a slimy guy who

runs an illegal betting service. *Dogs* airs

as part of the Sundance Channel's

Femme Fest, and it's one chick flick you

don't want to miss. —Tara Pellegrino

SUNDAY 7

Nick Freno: Licensed Teacher

7-7:30pm, WB (Channel 11) WB's

first premiere of the season spotlights the

only man who's licensed to teach—Nick

Freno (**Mitch Mullany**). He returns from

summer break to find he now has to play

Gabe Kotter to a bunch of Sweathog-like

high-school students. Oh, that Nick!

Brandon Lee: The E! True
Hollywood Story

8-9pm, E! The son of Bruce gets the

full E! treatment tonight in this in-

depth look at the rising star's tragic

death. Is the Lee family cursed? Hmm.

Color of Justice

8-9:30pm, Showtime If you enjoy

yelling out what's going to happen next in

a predictable movie, then *Color of Justice* is

just your thing. Not even **Judd Hirsch**, as

a liberal court-appointed attorney, or **Greg-**

ory Hines, as an Al Sharpton type, can

save this one. The film tries to make a point

about race relations and the justice system,

but ends up a mess of stereotypes. *Justice*

is anything but cutting edge, as much as

the handheld camera sequences would

have you believe. —Tara Pellegrino