



McLIBEL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

PRE-TRIAL MAILOUT - End of Jan 1994

dear friends,

The trial has at last been set - it starts Monday 28th February and is expected to last the whole of March. The next 2 months will involve a great deal of legal work, fundraising and publicity....and of course campaigning in local areas, on the streets.

LEGAL SCANDALS - A HUGE LEGAL COVER UP, AND RIGHT TO JURY TRIAL SCRAPPED

After about 16 pre-trial hearings over 3 years, some involving a week of legal arguments between the defendants (Dave & Helen) and McDonald's QC, it is perfectly clear that the court has done everything in its power to protect the Corporation and to prevent any chance of justice.

Faced with a strong and determined defence, the court has broken its own rules by allowing McDonald's to withhold from the defendants a huge number of revealing company documents, and other relevant information which would verify the truth of London Greenpeace's 'defamatory' statements. On December 21st the court removed the defendants' right to a jury trial, saying the matters were 'too complex' for the public to understand. In fact, the opposite is true - the jury would be likely to be outraged that the case was ever brought at all.

However, it is essential to go ahead with the trial as the defence will be able to call on up to 70 witnesses, and also to cross-examine up to 87 of McDonald's witnesses (including numerous representatives up to the level of President). The judge has banned the defence from bringing in a lot of their evidence, including some which would prove that the fast food giant has lied to the public (for example about using ex-rainforest land beef). In the light of all this, the 'McLibel 2' have applied to appeal against the denial of these rights.

THE CAMPAIGN TO DEFEND FREE SPEECH

All over the country (and beyond) McDonald's protests continue to grow - this included over 100 local stores leafletted last October and a 400-strong demonstration through London. Since then there've been fortnightly pickets in some towns and rooftop and sit-in protests in others. Please step up the local protests, and also demonstrate at the High Court on Day 1 of the trial. Please bombard the press, magazines and phone-ins, and get groups to back the campaign and the Free Speech Pledge (see the Tear Off Slip on the Summary)... many have already.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO PLEDGE NOW TO CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE & DISTRIBUTE THE LEAFLETS (AVAILABLE IN BULK - see enclosed leaflet) WHATEVER THE VERDICT AT THE END OF THE TRIAL.

Every word on the leaflet is 100% accurate. We must not tolerate the truth being silenced by censorship and legal thuggery or every Corporation will be doing the same in future.

In the face of mass defiance, McDonald's will be completely helpless and their efforts will have totally backfired! This is the message we must send out to the public, and send out now.

APPEAL

The defence needs to raise thousands of pounds in order to pay the fares of their witnesses - ex-staff and trades unionists, ex-cattle ranchers, soya feed and rainforest experts, animal welfare advocates, nutrition and health specialists etc.

PLEASE FUNDRAISE AND DONATE URGENTLY!
(Cheques to: McLibel Support Campaign)

DEFEND FREE SPEECH

SATURDAY 26th FEBRUARY - DAY OF ACTION AGAINST McDONALD'S
- picket all their local stores!

MONDAY 28th FEBRUARY, 9.30am. - PICKET THE HIGH COURT,
Strand, London WC2. - on the first day of the McLibel Trial.

SATURDAY AFTER THE VERDICT - Picket your local McDonald's.

SATURDAY 21st MAY - National FREE SPEECH DAY - picket your local McDonald's - again!

(Leaflets available, £12 per 1,000, from 0602 585666, and 061 953 4039, or for London area only - 071 837 7557).

- * Step up the protests before, during and after the trial
- * Please send donations to help pay for defence witness fares etc.

McLibel Support Campaign, London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX.

THE McLibel case, which I've mentioned before, is, to my horror, coming to trial next month. This is the High Court libel suit brought by McDonald's, the unimaginably rich burger people, against two unemployed campaigners, Helen Steel and Dave Morris. Legal aid is not available for defamation, so the defendants are having to represent themselves (against some of the top libel lawyers in the country). Steel and Morris distributed leaflets attacking various aspects of the McDonald's operation. McDonald's accepts that they didn't write the allegedly libellous material, only handed it out, but still seems determined to go through with the trial. The two have had a setback. A High Court judge has ruled that the case should be heard by a judge alone - as McDonald's requested - and not, as is usual in libel, by a jury, which the defendants wanted. I cannot think of a case in which the legal cards have been so spectacularly stacked against one party.

Guardian 18.1.94

MESSAGE FOR LONDON-AREA SUPPORTERS...overleaf..

Calling All London Area Activists & Supporters!

McDonalds have got billions of pounds to play with, extensive media contacts, a huge city law firm working on the case and direct access to the public via their 'McFact' cards at their 474 UK stores. We just have each other and our determination to expose and to fight injustice. We have built up a countrywide network of hundreds of supporters (groups and individuals), but we need more individuals to join the London MSC group.

Most important of all we need more people to attend the weekly organising meetings. So put your name against one of the tasks below and come and help us build up a strong McLibel collective to win this historic free speech campaign.

● WE MEET EVERY THURSDAY 6.30pm AT 5 CALEDONIAN ROAD, KINGS X. N1.

Please come along if you can help with: answering post ☐ fundraising ☐
publicity/press ☐ mobilising support in trade unions ☐ green organisations ☐
socialist groups ☐ anarchist groups ☐ internationally ☐
organising protests ☐ anything! ☐

SATURDAY 26th FEBRUARY - MASS LEAFLETTING DAY OF ACTION AT McDONALD'S STORES THROUGHOUT LONDON - to publicise the trial and the 1st day's demonstration (28th)

This depends on local supporter(s) or group doing their local store(s).

We're co-ordinating this ambitious blitz to ensure it is as widespread and effective as possible, and that overlaps which are unnecessary are avoided.

In preparation, 25,000 leaflets have been initially printed and are just itching to be shoved into the willing hands of an eager public!

We enclose a list of McDonald's in London - please indicate the one(s) you and your friends are able to cover, and how many leaflets you need....

We'd also like to get the message out with flyposting - can you do your neighbourhood?

Take
your
pick

LEAFLETS £12 per 1000 or donation (London only) * (*see over if you need flts elsewhere)

Indicate the
One(s) you can
do

Let's show McDonalds the strength of opposition in the Capital!

McDonald's Hamburgers Ltd -
(Head Off), 11 High Rd N2 8AW
Restaurants

Acton, 147 High St W3 6LP
Baker St, 122 Baker St W1M 1LD
Baiham, 159 Baiham High St SW12
Barnet, 102 High St EN5 5XQ
Brixton
Bethnal Green, 432 Bethnal Gn Rd E2
Brent Cross, Brent Cross Shopping Cntr NW4
Bromley, 1 Market Sq, Bromley BR1 1NA
Camberwell, Butterfly Wlk, Denmark HI SE5
Canning Town
Camden, 112 Camden High St NW1
Catford, 90 Rushey Gn SE6 4HW
Croydon
Chiswick High Rd, 230 Chiswick High Rd W4
Clapham, 130 Clapham High St SW4
32 St. Johns Rd SW11 1PW
Colindale, The Hyde, Edgware Rd NW9
Cricklewood, 136 Cicklewood Bdw NW2
Croydon, 88 North End, Croydon CR0
Dalston, 36 Kingsland High St E8 2JP
Deptford, Bestwood St SE8
Ealing, 50 Broadway W13 0SU
Earl's Court, 208 Earl's Ct Rd SW5

East Ham, 28 High St Nth E6 2HJ
Edgware Rd, 178 Edgware Rd W2 2DS
Ealing (West)
Edmonton, 118 Fore St N18 2XA
Eltham, 55 Eltham High St SE9 1TD
Enfield, 4 Market Chmbs, Enfield EN2
Epsom, 36 High St KT19 8AH
Finsbury Pk, 31 Chase Side N14 5BP
Forest Gate, 324 Romford Rd E7 8BD
Forest Hill, 26 London Rd SE23 3HF
Fulham, 312 North End Rd SW6 1NG
Golders Gn, 35 Golders Gn Rd NW11
Hackney, 359 Mare St E8 1HY
Hammersmith, 33 Kings St W6 0QW
Haringay, Green Lanes N4 1DR
Harlesden, 6 High St NW10 4LX
Harrow, 361 Station Rd, Harrow HA1
Haymarket, 57 Haymarket SW1Y
Hampstead
Holborn, 112 High Holborn WC1V
Hackney (Dalston)
Houndsditch, 28 Houndsditch EC3A
Kingston
Hounslow, 200 High St, Hounslow TW3
Ilford, 231 High Rd, Ilford IG1 1NE

Islington, 65 Chapel Mkt N1 9ER
Kensington, 108 Kensington High St W8
Kentish Town, 295 Kentish Town Rd NW5
Kilburn High Rd, 127 Kilburn High Rd NW6
Kingsbury, 539 Kingsbury Rd NW9 9EG
Kings Rd, 49 Kings Rd SW3 4ND
Leicester Sq, 48 Leicester Sq WC2H
Lewisham, 169 High St SE13 6AA
Leytonstone, 865 High Rd E11 1HR
Maidstone, 94 Week St ME14 1RL
Marble Arch, 4 Marble Arch W1H 7AP
London Bridge
Orpington
Neasden, Neasden La NW10 0ED
New Oxford St, 40 New Oxford St WC1
North Finchley, 770 High Rd N12
Norwood, 15 Westow HI SE19 1TQ
Old Kent Rd, 518 Old Kent Rd SE1
Oxford St, 8 Oxford St W1N 9FL
185 Oxford St W1R 1TA
291b Oxford St W1R 1LB
8 Oxford St, Off W1N 9FL
Peckham, 72 Rye La SE15 5DQ
Penge, High St SE20 7EZ
Putney, 84 Putney High St SW15 1RB
Regent St, 310 Regent St W1R 5AJ
Romford, 125 South St RM1 1NX
Seven Sisters, 13 Seven Sisters Rd N7
Shaftesbury Av, 65 Shaftesbury Av W1

Shepherds Bush, 88 Uxbridge Rd W12
Southend, 72 High St SS1 1JF
Southgate, 31 Chase Side N14 5BP
Staines, 62 High St TW18 4DY
St. Martins La, 68 St. Martins La WC2N
Strand, 35 The Strand WC2N 5HZ
Richmond/Twickenham
Streatham, 121 Streatham High Rd SW16
Sutton, 170 High St, Sutton SM1 1NL
Swiss Cott, Harben Pde, Finchley Rd NW3
Sidcup
Tooting, 46 Mitcham Rd SW17 9NA
Tottenham Ct Rd, 134 Tottenham Ct Rd W1
Tottenham, 502 High Rd N17 9JF
Tower Hill, 8 Tower HI EC3
Uxbridge, 124 High St UB8 1JT
Victoria, 155 Victoria St SW1E 5NA
Walthamstow, 258 Hoe St E17 3AX
Walworth, 182 Walworth Rd SE17 1JJ
Wandsworth, Arndale Cntr SW18 4TQ
1 Swandon Wy, (Drive Thru) SW18 1EW
Wembley, 482 High Rd, Wembley HA9 7BH
Surbiton
Whiteley's, 151 Queensway W2 4SB
Wimbledon, 15 Worple Rd SW19 4JS
Wood Gn, 99 High Rd N22 6BB
Woolwich, 56 Powis St SE18 6LQ

LET'S DO THEM ALL!

Yes! I / We can do it: Name _____

Group? _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Store(s) selected _____

Leaflets needed: _____

Donation £ _____

Return to McLibel Support Campaign c/o London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1. Ph 071 837 7557