

Keaton changed his last name early in his career, as there was already another Michael Douglas registered with the Screen Actors Guild.

**S.M.:** Around the world, McDonald's represents America more than anything else.

**M.K.:** In some ways, yeah.

**S.M.:** Given where we are today, doesn't it seem a bit ironic?

**M.K.:** And you're the only single person besides myself who's said that. It's the truth.

**S.M.:** Essentially, the story of America is the story of immigrants. But Ray Kroc thinks his family was the wrong kind of immigrant. He says: "Who'd want to eat at a place called Kroc's?"

**M.K.:** There is no wrong kind of immigrant. If you're an immigrant who wants to enter the country and kill people – that's the wrong kind of immigrant. Other than that, this country is built on immigrants. While it has to be monitored certainly, because the world's a

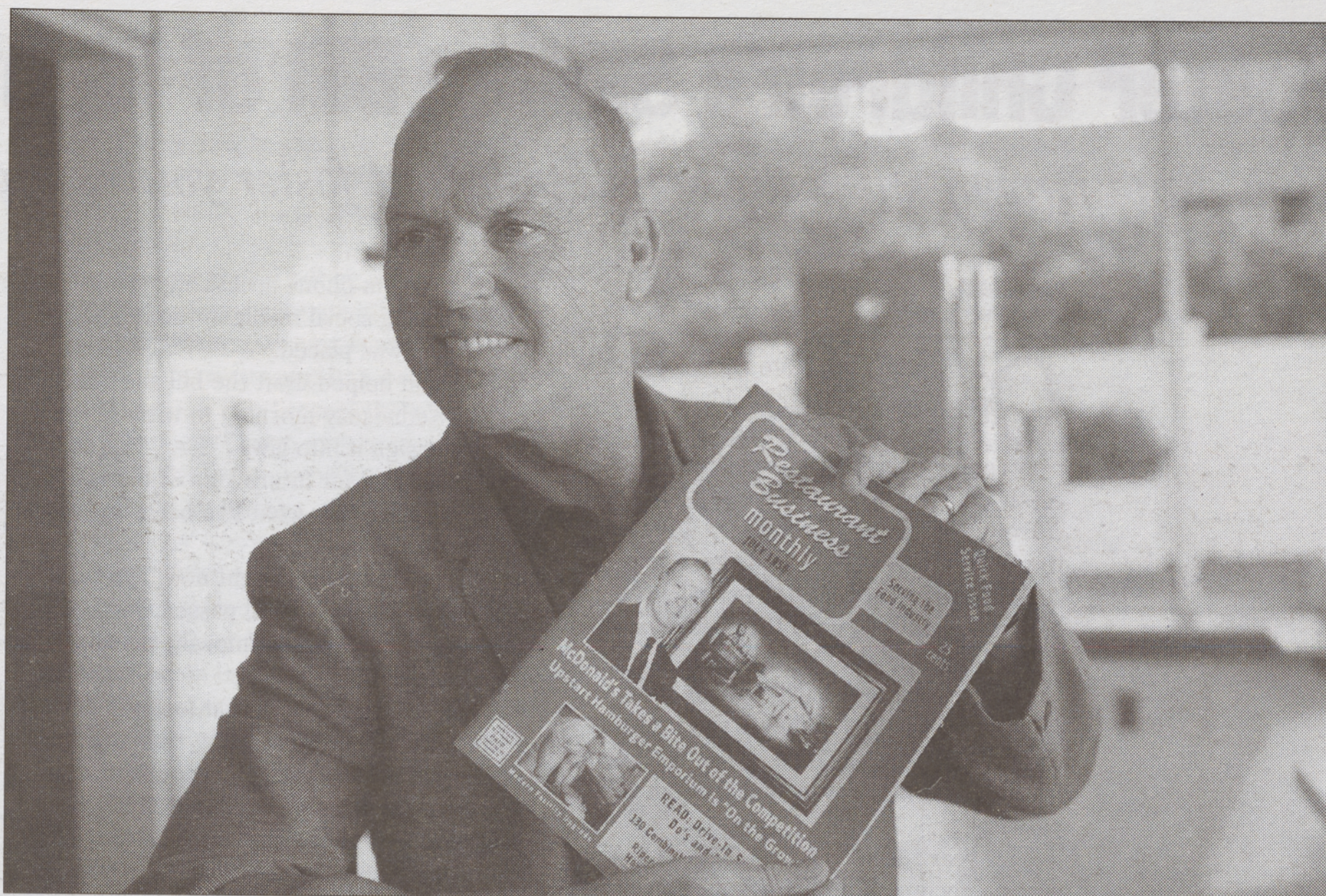
dangerous place, this is a movie about consumption and consumerism and capitalism and the American Dream – and immigration is an integral part to all that.

**S.M.:** You could have played Ray Kroc as a hero or a villain. Does it matter if we like him? Does it matter if we like the methods he used to achieve what he did?

**M.K.:** It depends on who you are. It doesn't matter to me; that's not my job. I couldn't have played him as one or the other. I played the character, the story that had to be told. He was what he was. I'm not remotely interested in trying to make it any sweeter.

**S.M.:** What values do we prize more in society – is it better to be the good guy or the successful guy?

**M.K.:** Yeah, where do you take leave of your ethics and your values? I hope you



Michael Keaton stars in "The Founder."

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become a billionaire – I hope everyone in the world gets to be a billionaire! But it's not going to happen. It's not a question about being successful; it's a question of what you do with it, to what end and what you do in order to get that.

**S.M.:** So Ray may not have founded McDonald's, but he did invent the power of the brand. Today, our world seems to be ruled by brands, whether it's Google or Apple or Trump.

**M.K.:** I agree wholeheartedly. The world's a big, giant strip mall. The irony of the people who support (Trump), he is so not one of them and yet they claim him as one of their own. It's astounding. It's logic-defying. One of my small heroes is the little farmer with the little farm next to Trump's golf course in Scotland.

**S.M.:** Michael Forbes.

**M.K.:** This guy, I love this guy. I like what he said: "I don't really care what you want

to do. This is where I live, this is what I have, this is my life – I can't be bought." The obnoxious consumerism to think, I'm going to reshape some of the dunes to make this artificial thing. The beauty of links courses is to play as it lays, use the landscape, what God left and play that. Play the game with nature and not try to beat the fuck out of it.

**S.M.:** I think Trump did whatever he wanted to do.

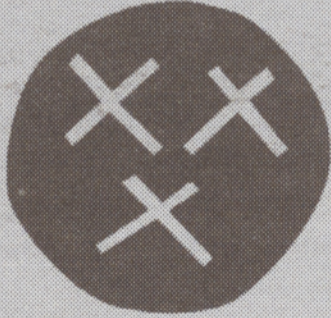
**M.K.:** He totally beat the fuck out of it.



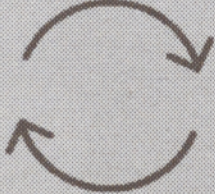
**S.M.:** But he's not happy about the offshore wind farm we're planning to build next to it.

**M.K.:** Please do. How much do you want? You know, I invested in wind farms in the '70s and lost every cent. Back then, I really believed in that technology; still do. I'll come over and help put them up.

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