“Malcolm Is ‘Bout More Than Wearing a Cap”

The problem is not the letter X.

It is not the myriad of emblazoned caps,

even when worn backward by whiteboys.

This is not a damnation of hats.

But when Arsenio sports a rhinestone-

studded X to match his Armani suit,

I see Malcolm emasculated by fashion.

As if C symbolized a new NBA team to

challenge the Pistons, Cavs, and Bulls,

the X on their jerseys blinking “Buy American”

with every slam dunk for McDonald’s

cause of the week. Then a sandwich is

named Sandwich X. And a four-wheeler

is named Bronco X. Until the substance

of X is xed out.

Soon Sesame Street will teach the letter X

with a militant horn-trimmed Malcolm

Muppet as a visual teaching aid.

Bert irritating Ernie by any means necessary.

And a dollar for every X on a cap

can either make a millionaire,

or hopefully help pay for a revolution.

A word we hear these days

almost as much as we see Xs.

In America where all is commodified.

Will X stand for change

or changing what America wears?

As ruling designers alienate

the Malcolm from the X.

Separate the meaning of Malcom

from the punctuated power of X.

To Malcom is to do.

I mean your cap is mean

but Malcolm is ‘bout more

than wearing a cap.

Your horn-rims are clean,

but Malcolm is ‘bout true vision.

Your T-shirt is down,

but Malcolm is ‘bout taking over.

Your enemy will also wear the X,

sell the X, sex the X, film the X,

praise the X, record the X, raise the X,

paint the X, fraternize and buy the X.

But the enemy will never Malcolm the X.

Only we can Malcolm the X.

Michael Warr

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