



Malcolm Little, age 15 (left), with sister Ella and friends in this 1941 photo, taken in Franklin Park. It was in Boston that Little began the journey from partying teenager to street hustler to convicted inmate — a journey that would eventually lead to

his conversion to Islam and rebirth as the legendary Malcolm X. (Photo courtesy of Rodnell P. Collins; Originally published in "Seventh Child: A Family Memoir of Malcolm X," Carol Publishing Group)

Malcolm: The Boston years

How life in the Hub shaped a historical icon

Kenneth J. Cooper

EDITOR'S NOTE: Monday, May 19, would have marked the 83rd birthday of the man born Malcolm Little, reborn El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, and known the world over as Malcolm X. In commemoration of the date, the Banner republishes here Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Kenneth J. Cooper's Feb. 2006 article on the historical figure's time in Boston.

After a long trip from Michigan, the red-haired teenager stepped down from the Greyhound bus, starting his walk into history with

those first steps at the terminal at Park Square in Boston.

The dozen years he spent living in Massachusetts prepared Malcolm Little to become Malcolm X, the black Muslim feared in his own time but so respected in death that an Ivy League college, Columbia University, established a research center to study his life.

It was here in Boston that he went from being a partying teenager who couldn't keep a job to a street hustler who got busted and imprisoned as inmate number 22843. Behind the bars of Massachusetts prisons, he educated and remade himself into a

disciplined, religious man with the backbone to stand up for his people.

More than a half century after he moved away from Boston, there are still many places in and around the city where anyone can look at and say, "Malcolm was here."

When he arrived in Boston, either in 1940 or 1941, according to various accounts, Malcolm Little was no more than 16 and went to live with his older half-sister, Ella Little Collins. Her two-floor house at 72 Dale Street in Roxbury still stands, and has been declared a historical landmark by both the City of *Malcolm, continued to page 14*

In Conn., prep school dream nearing reality

Colin Poitras

HARTFORD, Conn. — From the basement of the Hartford YWCA on the corner of Broad Street and Farmington Avenue, Patrick R. Moore has a vision.

Where others may see empty storage space, a darkened gym and a jumble of discarded office furniture, Moore sees classrooms and the smiling faces of 60 young boys neatly clad in ironed white shirts, dark pants and ties.

Thanks to a few generous donations, a little help from friends and a lot of hard work, Moore's vision will come true in four months when his new Covenant Preparatory School opens on Aug. 28.

It is a labor of love for the 26-year-old Moore, a Canton native

and Holy Cross graduate who, despite his age, just finished three years as the head of a similar prep school in New Bedford, Mass.

"It's a very simple model. It's not complicated," Moore said of running the school, which is patterned after 64 similar Jesuit-based prep schools operating across the country as part of the NativityMiguel Network of Schools.

"It's given me so much. I feel blessed to be a part of it," Moore said.

The school intends to offer a tuition-free middle-school education to 60 boys from low-income Hartford families. Small classes, full

school days and close personal attention are key. When the school opens there will be 30 students, Moore said — a 15-student class of fifth-graders and one of sixth-graders.

Moore said he expects to add a seventh grade in 2009 and an eighth grade in 2010, for a total of 60 students overall. Ultimately, the tiny prep school hopes to become a feeder to other local prep schools, such as the Kingswood-Oxford School in West Hartford and Loomis Chaffee

in Windsor. Loomis' dean of faculty sits on the Covenant board of directors, as does the head of Kingswood-Oxford.

"I am a firm believer that independent schools not only serve their own student bodies, but also have a public purpose," said Dennis Bisgaard, head of the Kingswood

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school. "Our students become more well-rounded ... if they engage with their peers from other parts of the world, and certainly with their peers and neighbors from Hartford."

Although students will say a morning prayer, the school will not push its church affiliation. It is non-denominational, faith-based and open to all, Moore said.

Each school day starts at 7 a.m. with a morning assembly, some classical music, the "Our Father" prayer and meditation, Moore said.

Students attend classes from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Recreation and sports take place at 3 p.m., followed by dis- *Hartford, continued to page 19*

Nubia museum head links Boston, Egypt

Kenneth J. Cooper

ASWAN, Egypt — The Nubia Museum sits on a hill just up from the floating line of cruise ships moored on the Nile River.

Inside the museum's yellow sandstone walls works an enthusiastic man with a Boston connection, some 6,000 miles away from this southern Egyptian city. His name is Ossama Abdel Meguid, the founding director of the world's only museum devoted solely to Nubia.

Scholars now agree that this region — divided between modern Egypt and Sudan — was the homeland of several pharaohs in a late dynasty of ancient Egypt. Some Afrocentric theorists further argue

that Nubia provided the foundation of the revered civilization that erected the pyramids, temples and monuments still standing in the Nile Valley.

Three years ago, Meguid, 45, came to Boston to research ancient Nubia. He pored over archival records at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, from a Harvard professor's archeological expeditions in the 20th century. He also toured the National Center for Afro-American Artists in Roxbury, including its permanent exhibit on a Nubian pharaoh, and chatted with director Edmund Barry Gaither about their common interests.

Meguid's main mission as a Ful- *Egypt, continued to page 20*



Ossama Abdel Meguid, founding director of the Nubia Museum in Aswan, Egypt, stands in his office next to a model of a traditional Nubian home. Three years ago, he came to Boston to

research ancient Nubia, poring over the archives at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the National Center for Afro-American Artists in Roxbury. (Kenneth J. Cooper photo)

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