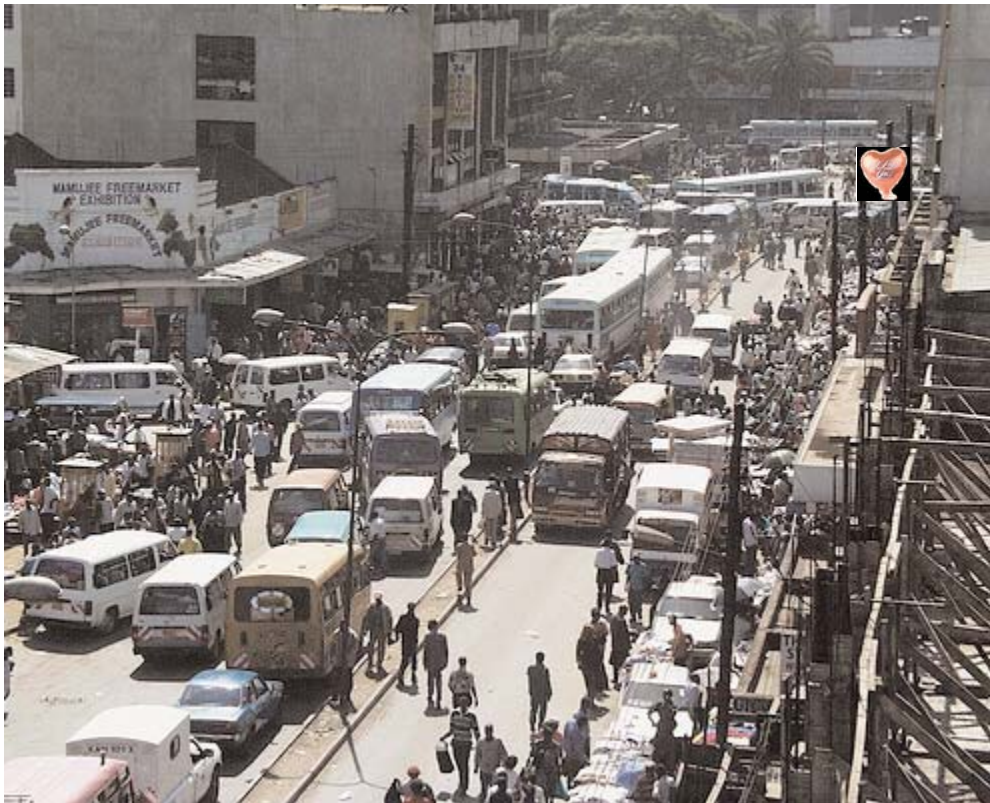


# “Red Heart” & “3 C’s”

How do you make a black car stand out in traffic for two blocks? Put a large “Red Heart” balloon on the top of it! Of course!!!



The “Red Heart” made a U-Turn at the “Prisoners’ Drop Off Here” sign and picked up the “3 C’s” at State and 16th Streets.

According to plan, CT had her pink baseball hat and fuchsia sweatshirt,



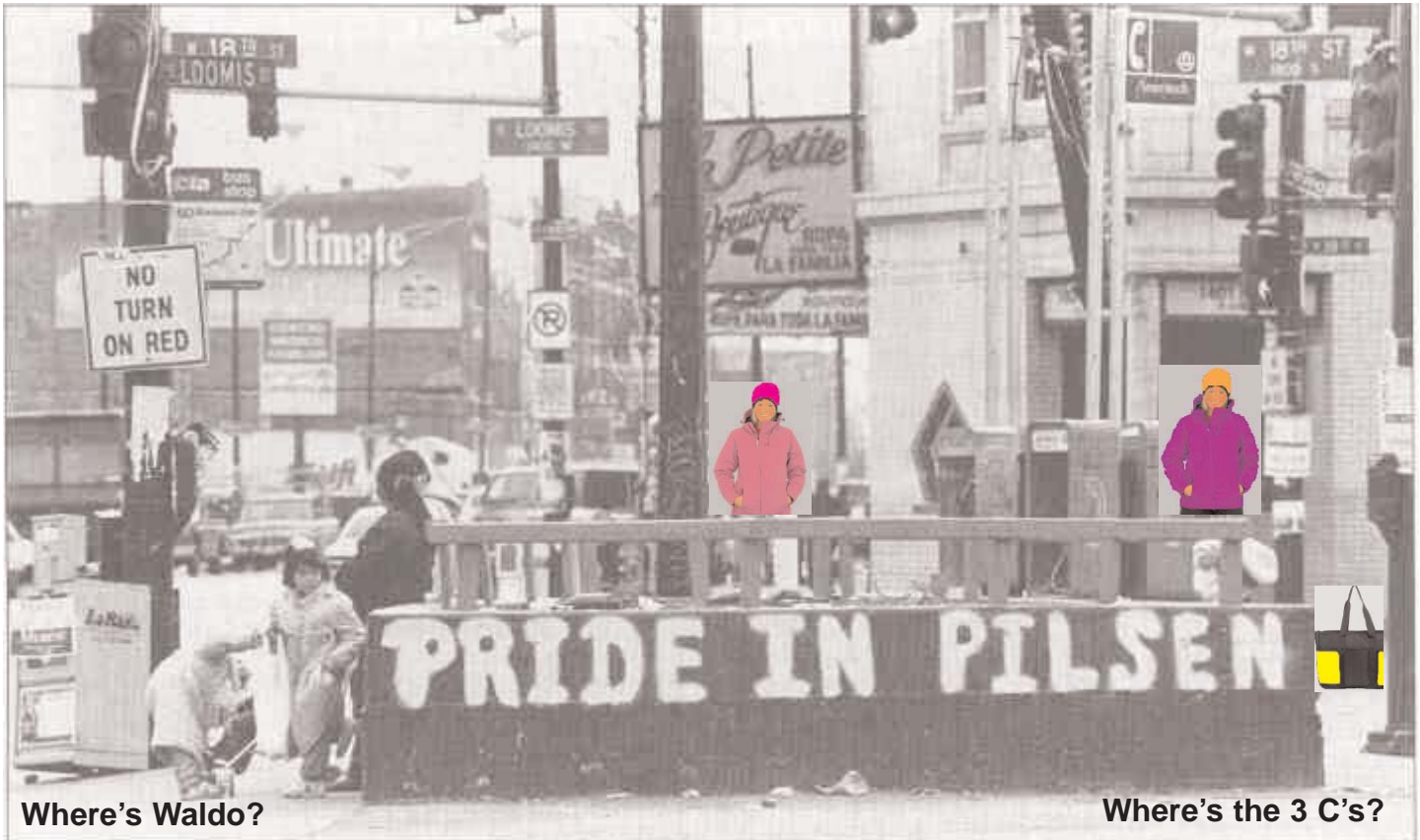
CF had her orange baseball hat and purple sweatshirt,



and CS carried the black bag with bright yellow patches.



Each “C” could be spotted in the crowded streets as far as the eye could see.



Each “C” had her cell phone, posters, tracts [“flyers”], a few “freebies”, tape and stick pins in her supply bag.

We pulled up to 18th and Halsted and the “3 C’s” began their bold take-over of Pilsen.\* [Not “PRISON” — “PILSEN!”]



“Red Heart” followed them block by block, dodging cars, buses, people and other creatures.



Rain did not deter the “3 C’s” from completing their territory — 18th and 19th Streets from Halsted to Damen. Store-by-Store, Door-to-Door, Window-by-Window. Libraries, Laundermats, Beauty Shops, Groceries, Restaurants, Medical Offices, and more. We even paused for lunch at a picturesque Mexican Restaurant, which had delicious Mexican cuisine.

After we got back in the car and started driving, we saw a man reading a poster we had just posted a few minutes earlier! Shouts of joy from all of us were triggered by that scene, which brought us closer to realizing our goal.

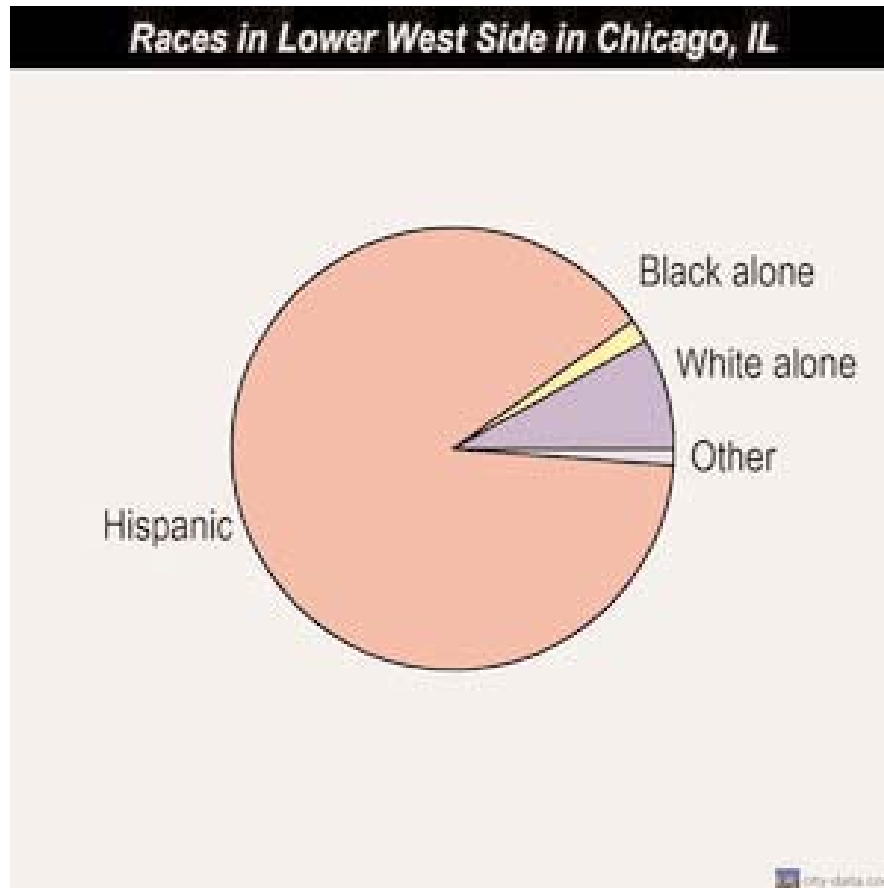
“In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:10

Soon CF ran out of material and the posters were re-divided. Our final stop was Stroger (County Hospital) — not that we were personally admitted, though perhaps we could have been. By this time we were wearing down, but the “3 C’s” ran in to divide and conquer.



And then, alas, it was time to close down the work and wend our way home, supplies almost gone. "Red Heart" with “3 C’s” left with thankful, joyful hearts, though weary bodies and brains. The Lord had given the strength, the words, and a beautiful day to be remembered forever!

\* Illinois ranks fifth in the nation in total Hispanic population. The Pilsen area of Chicago is one of 77 well-defined communities of Chicago located on the west side of downtown Chicago. It is 86.9% Hispanic.



The Czechs replaced the Germans, who had settled there first with the Irish in the mid 1800s. Although there was an increasing Mexican-American presence in the late 1950s, it was not until 1962-63 when there was a great spurt in the numbers of Mexican-Americans in Pilsen due to the destruction of the neighborhood west of Halsted between Roosevelt and Taylor Streets to create room for the construction of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Pilsen became a National Historic Register District on February 1, 2006.

As the Latino population has skyrocketed in Chicago neighborhoods like Pilsen, residents have tried to keep gang graffiti to a minimum. Brightly painted murals and signs are a common sight in these communities, often adorning storefronts and residences.



**18th Street is an active commercial corridor, with Mexican bakeries, restaurants, and groceries though the principal district for Mexican shopping is 26th Street in Little Village, Chicago's other formerly majority Pan-Slavic community, which is currently the main area of successful Mexican immigrant commerce.**

**The east side of the neighborhood along Halsted Street is one of Chicago's largest art districts, and the neighborhood is also home to the National Museum of Mexican Art. This is where our Spanish Public Meeting will be held on October 3, 2010.**

## **National Museum of Mexican Art**

