

THE ORGAN OF STUDENT EXPRESSION SINCE 1925

PRESENTS... 9th Morehouse College Breast Cancer Walk

THE MAROON TIGER

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE · ATLANTA, GA

SPECIAL EDITION 2

WWW.THEMAROONTIGER.COM



Image: Phyllis Shelman-Ford

Sandra Walker (above, and to the right) shows off her pins honoring breast cancer survivors. Walker, Mary Peaks and the late Chandra Price originated Morehouse's annual march around the AUC. Almost 400 people participated this year, a substantial number of them were Morehouse employees.

Flurry of Pink and White

Breast cancer survivors organize walk at Morehouse

GEORGE WILLIAMS IV
Associate News Editor
gwilliv.10@gmail.com

Sandra Walker was the calm center of a pink and white hurricane that intensified with each passing minute left in the day before the ninth Morehouse College Breast Cancer Walk. She bounced around her desk amidst a deluge of pink and white, breast cancer-themed paraphernalia. Boxes filled with polo shirts, bags and hats for registrants were stacked along the walls and in every corner of her office. Desks were piled with pins, stickers, ribbons and mouse pads, which were layered on top of registration forms and college administrative paperwork.



Image: Phyllis Shelman-Ford

Visitors were frequent. Dean Sterling Hudson stopped by to complete his registration, students checked in to volunteer and representatives of businesses donated checks and door prizes.

Walker was an example of multitasking at its best. She focused on one task by one student who entered her office. Walker jumped up from her seat, smiled with warmth and joy and received a student with embrace.

"This is Joshua," she said with bright eyes from behind her vibrant glasses. "When we met yesterday, he told me his mother died from breast cancer, so I told him to stop by my office today," she explained as she handed the young man a polo shirt. She told him to wear it with pride in honor of his mother.

Walker is one of three friends and employees of Morehouse College who were diagnosed with

breast cancer within two years of each other. The three women, Walker, Chandra Price and Mary Peaks, organized the Morehouse College Breast Cancer Walk, now in its ninth year. Walker initiated the annual event the year she was diagnosed.

The women grew closer as they supported one another through one of the most difficult times in their lives. "It's something you can't explain until you've been through it, or have seen it," Peaks said. During their initial stages of treatment and attempts to survive (as they put it), the three women found a way to help others and support a cause that quickly became close to their hearts.

"I was at the hospital sitting in the chair after receiving chemo, and I looked at my daughter and said, 'I'm going to start a breast cancer walk at Morehouse'" recalled Walker. Peaks and Walker remembered that the response

"Beauty in Pink and White" page 2▶

Breast Cancer Walk Raises Spirits and Awareness

JAMAL HANSBERRY & FRANK LEE JR.
Contributing writers

Hundreds of supporters gathered at Morehouse College's Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel on Saturday to participate in the ninth Morehouse College Breast Cancer Walk.

With nearly 400 people in attendance, the event was organized by Mary Peaks of the Morehouse College Counseling Research Center and Sandra Walker, the executive assistant to the vice president of business and finance.

Peaks understands the

importance of this event. The 11-year cancer survivor has helped the American Cancer Society raise \$116,000 during the past nine years.

"More white women are diagnosed with breast cancer, but more and more

Black women are losing the fight," Peaks said.

The event began with an opening ceremony on the steps of the chapel at 8 a.m. Participants huddled beneath the statue of King as they sang the national anthem, prayed and received encouraging words from school president, President Robert Michael Franklin, before walking the course that encompassed

the Atlanta University Center.

"It is very important to inspire and unify in order to show solidarity to sisters who have survived cancer, and also to raise money for research and treatment strategies," Franklin said.

Participants traveled the 2-mile course from Westview Drive to Northside Drive, then to Fair Street and Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard ending back at King Chapel.

Dr. Harriett Walton, a Morehouse College retiree, continues to support the walk after several years.

"I support the idea of those surviving breast cancer. I support

the research in order to, one day, find a cure," she said.

The closing ceremony included a performance by the Morehouse College Glee Club and a heartfelt speech from Gwen Burton, a breast cancer survivor, parent of a Morehouse graduate and a devout supporter of the walk.

"You may not have cancer, but you may know someone who has cancer. We're all connected and we're all affected," Burton said.

Following the ceremony, many participants walked away with raffle prizes, which ranged from breast cancer paraphernalia to Morehouse College gear.

ANNUAL MAMMOGRAMS ARE ESSENTIAL

To Prevent Cancer Tomorrow, Take Action Today

CARL RINGGOLD
Associate Features Editor
carlringgold@gmail.com

The participants in this year's walk were comprised of many different people from many different backgrounds with each one bringing a unique perspective on why they felt the walk was significant.

As a measure of the importance of the event, some top staff members were in attendance including President Robert Michael Franklin and Dr. Cheryl Franklin. When asked why he felt the walk was important, President Franklin responded with great insight.

"It is important to the African-American community to focus on the health and well-being of the community as a whole. It excites me to see survivors walking alongside Morehouse students and younger people."

Karen Ivery, who is the executive assistant to Dean Sterling Hudson, was in attendance and expressed her feelings on the significance of



Image: Phyllis Shelman-Ford

Morehouse President Dr. Robert Michael Franklin and First Lady Dr. Cheryl Franklin

the walk.

"I think we have made strides in breast cancer research, but that research needs to continue. It is not beyond belief that one day this disease won't exist," she said.

Dr. Cheryl Franklin, who is the first lady of the college, gave some insight from a medical perspective and why she felt the walk was significant.

"One out of every eight women in the United States will develop breast cancer," Franklin said, an OB-GYN physician who holds degrees from Stanford University and Columbia University.

When asked if she could give any advice to women who may have the disease she said, "It's important to learn about early detection methods, including self-breast exams and mammograms."

She went on to elaborate that, "In African-American women the disease is much more vicious. The suggested age for a breast exam is now 35 instead of 40. That is why these early detection methods are critical."

Although there is no vaccine for the disease, there is a plethora of medical advice toward preventing the disease. There is a three-part action plan

focused on maintaining breast health.

Part A, which is the most important part, is having regular mammograms. It is a safe radiation treatment and gives a big head start and can detect cancer years before a lump forms.

Part B, is a breast exam. This too is a very important step in maintaining breast health. A thorough breast exam can take up to 10 minutes. People are urged to consult the doctor if they feel the at-home exam wasn't thorough enough.

Part C, is breast awareness. People should become familiar with how their breasts look and make notice of any changes.

It is imperative that people use resources and the expertise of many health professionals. Breast cancer is not a deadly disease if it is treated and prevented early.

For more information contact the American Cancer Society via their Web site (www.cancer.org) or by phone at 1-800-ACS-2345.

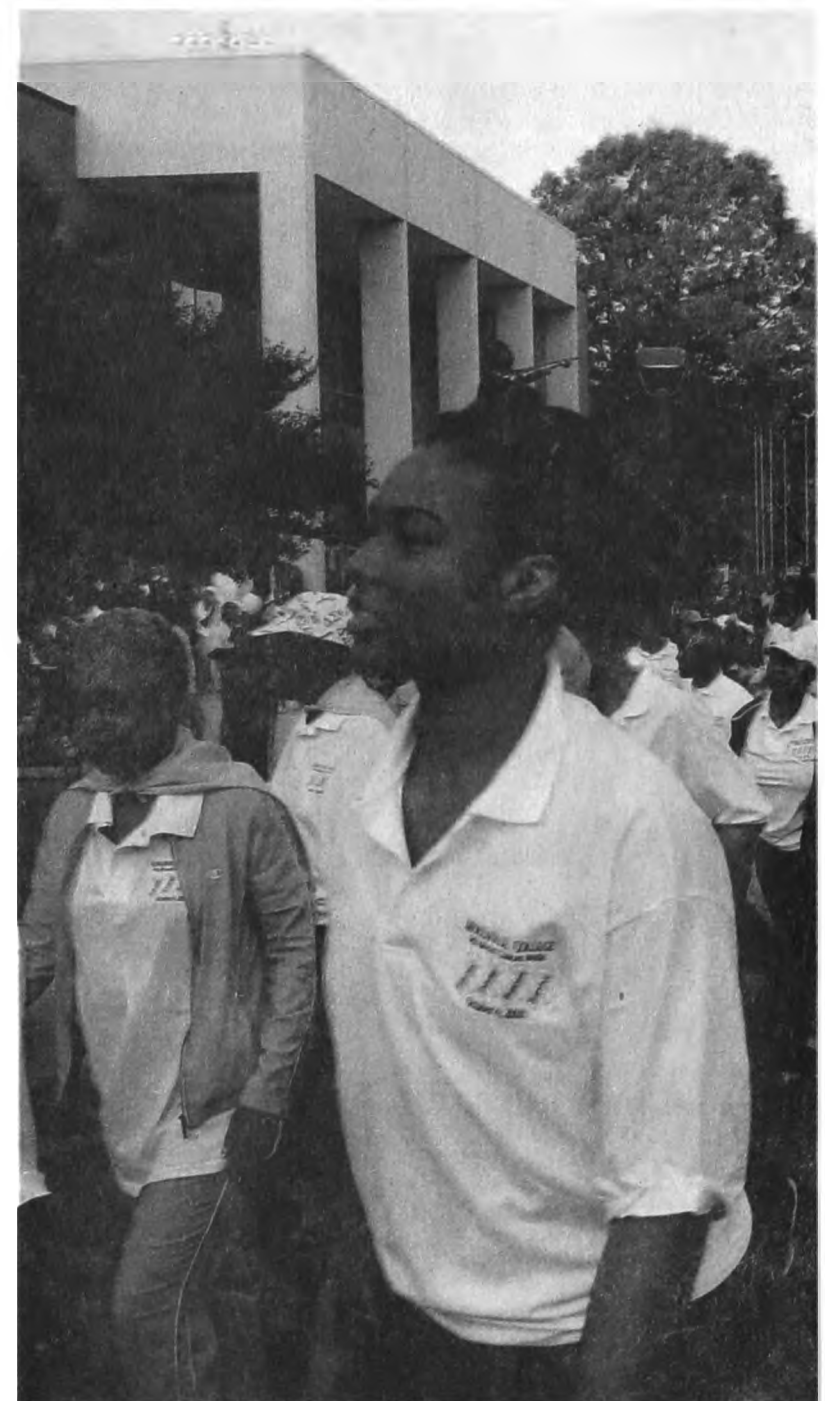


Image: Zandra Everett

Marchers on the move after leaving King Chapel.

'I'm A Survivor'

COLUMN
Family Heritage, Cancer Link Make Her Fear the Unknown

KHADIJAH ROBINSON
Associate Opinions Editor
Krobin18@apeleton.edu

It started in the bed. I didn't know that it had started until I noticed that my mother began getting out of bed less and less.

As I grew older, I learned that the cancer that was keeping her there, was keeping me there as well.

My mother is now 46 years old and has had at least three bouts of breast cancer, which I know of. There may have been other periods of sickness. But what I don't know won't hurt me — until it creeps into my breasts. As a 7 year old, during my mother's first sickness, I didn't know enough about anything to imagine the implications of her illness. But I grew to know and increasingly fear the second and third times.

For me, it's a fear of both the familiar and the unknown. My grandmother died of breast cancer years before I was born. My great-grandmother died of breast cancer when I was 11. Almost every woman who I am close with in my mother's family for three generations back has gone through cancer. I grew to know as much, but there are some things that I did not and still don't know.

I don't know what it is like to rub your breast one night after a long day and feel that ominous lump. I don't know what it feels like for a doctor to tell you that you have breast cancer. I don't know what it is like to suffer



treatment after treatment and try to be strong because if you break down, so will everything and everyone else around you. I don't know what it is like to feel like one foot is already on the other side.

I do know what it is like to be a 10 year old, staring at a card hanging on my shower caddy that instructs me on how to do a breast exam. I do know what it is like to make mammogram appointments at the age of 20. I do know what it is like to fear the very genes that built me. I do know what it is like to lay in bed thinking that I am the same age my mother was when her mother died of breast cancer. I do know what it is like to fear for my future, my daughters' future, and their daughters' future.

Every time I look at my mother, whose hair is still shaven from chemotherapy, I fear the days when I won't be able to get out of bed.

Whether or not those days will come, I don't know. What I do know is that my story is not an isolated one. This sickness does not burden me alone. My family is not special.

The cure is not just for my great grandmother, my grandmother or my mother. The cure is for me.

Three-Time Survivor Keeps Knocking Down Obstacles

KENICIA BLACK
Contributing Writer

Sensitive to the unpleasant smells of the sewers on Fair Street and winded from the first mile of two, Ethel Young marched on with many others at Morehouse's ninth Annual Breast Cancer Walk.

Coming from Hampton, Ga., Young talked about being an optimistic three-time survivor of breast cancer. A battle she has been struggling with for seven years.

"Living, that's all that counts," she said. This strong inspiring statement comes from a woman, who found out last year that her breast cancer had migrated to her brain. She remained undaunted by the seven-year battle and continued to fight.

She refused to believe the doctors when they told her the distressing news. Being the only one in her family to acquire breast cancer, how could she have breast cancer with no genetic background? This did not defeat her enthusiastic spirit as she pushed forward through weekly chemotherapy treatments and the loss of her hair and both of her breasts. Upbeat, charming, and yet



Image: Phyllis Shelman-Ford
Ethel Young continues a seven-year fight against breast and brain cancer.

exhausted from the long walk, questioning those around her about how much further she had to go, Young found time to talk about losing her breasts and her reconstructed breasts.

"You would never be able to tell if I didn't tell you," she said.

She even stopped to give a few police officers on motorcycles a laugh by asking them if they could give her a ride back to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel.

Today, at 57, she continues

to walk after starting three years ago due to the encouragement of her doctor, Dr. Torrey Clark. She completed the two-mile walk by joining her two companions who were waiting for her, who she had lost about a mile earlier, by the gates that face Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard.

A walk she could not complete last year, she finally finished, inspiring others not to be pessimistic about anything in life. A gas shortage or even a failing grade, will never compare to a battle with cancer.

COLUMN
The Untold Story of One Woman's Breast Cancer Ordeal

ALEXANDER P. BROWN
Opinions Editor
subjektzero@gmail.com

There are millions of stories about cancer survivors, all of them inspiring and a testament to the willpower of human beings. However, one of the most important stories in my life has never been told and may never be.

As a child, I remember visiting my grandmother in the hospital when she was ill, but it wasn't until high school that

I figured out she had breast cancer. My dad's side of the family never talked about



the major events that impacted our family, from hospital stays to different crises involving money or police. Despite our perceived closeness we held each other at arm's length, making us a facsimile of a made-for-TV/Lifetime movie.

To this day, her recurrent hospital stays for outpatient therapy or relapses are treated as footnotes to our conversations, right below her Pastor's Sunday message and whether or not I'm on the way to finding a wife here in Atlanta. I've always wanted to inquire about how she got through the ordeal, especially since she didn't want it to be a family matter. But it always became that elephant in the room, even during those times she had to move in with different family members to ensure she got the care she needed.

It took a heart-to-heart talk with my parents to realize why the sparse details in what would be a major event in other families. My grandmother grew up as the eldest child of a traveling pastor in the Mississippi area, so much of her life was spent fretting over her siblings and making sure they took advantage of their opportunities, many times to the detriment of her personal life. She accepted that matters of her life were secondary.

I can never remember her telling any family member how she survived cancer. The few snippets of conversation came about when my father instructed my little brother and me to stay at her house whenever she underwent outpatient chemotherapy. Cancer's impact on us never hit until I spied a mastectomy scar above her nightgown.

Despite knowing that breast cancer hit my family, it never affected my life. It remains a footnote in the trials of the great Brown family, below the legacy of great grandfather's liturgical accomplishments and the legacy of HBCU graduates.

Throughout the years, I tried to fill that void of personal knowledge with substantial facts about the disease. I participated in many breast cancer awareness events and would proudly let others know that I had a close family member who was a survivor. I even considered entering a medical profession in the hopes of helping others through the ordeal. However, to this day, I cannot add that pink ribbon to my clothing without feeling mostly detachment and curiosity about whether my grandmother's story will ever be told.

Church Members Come Out to Support First Lady of Baptist Church

ASHLEY R. HARRIS
Contributing Writer
arharris02@isyr.edu

NICOLAS B. AZIZ
Contributing Writer
nicolasbrierreaziz@yahoo.com

Patsy Grant is a tiny, petite, soft-spoken woman who possesses an undying amount of faith and bravery.

After all, 75-year-old first lady of Mount Welcome Missionary Baptist Church has dealt with the huge feat of battling breast cancer.

She dauntlessly smiled after completing the 2-mile Morehouse College Breast Cancer Walk and said, "God allowed me to accept it." Grant was the beating heart of fifty Mount Welcome church

members who joined her in support.

They not only shared Grant's same strength in faith, but are also affected by breast cancer in some way.

Georgia Fleming has been a member of Mount Welcome Missionary Baptist Church for several years and feels a sense of affinity toward Grant and her role in the church.

"I am just here to support her," she said. "She is the first lady of my church, and I feel I owe this to her." Fannie Love, 68, of Decatur is a first-time participant in the event.

She's had several friends who have had the disease and thought of a close friend who lost a battle with breast cancer.

Flurry of Pink and White

◀ Continued from front page

from the college community was overwhelming. With the approval of college administrators, Walker tapped Peaks, the administrative assistant of the Wellness Resource Center, and Price, a former campus operations employee.

Peaks thinks the walk has had an amazing impact on everyone who has ever participated. "Once someone hears the word cancer, they think it's a death sentence, but it doesn't have to be" she said with confident resolve. She, herself, is an 11-year survivor.

When the three women came together to share their story with the rest of the campus, they saw an emergence of personal stories from members throughout the community. "This is an all-male college, but everyone knows someone who has been diagnosed: a mother, a sister, an aunt, a grandmother," Peaks said.

Walker asks those who are confused by the association of a breast cancer walk to Morehouse

College: "Isn't it a compliment to the college?"

"Doesn't that speak volumes about the college? It is the only school in the AUC that hosts a walk and it's an all-male college advocating for a cause that mostly affects women." Since the inception of the walk, Peaks and Walker say that many students have used the walk as a means to cope with their family's experiences with breast cancer.

The walk helped Peaks and Walker cope with the lost of their co-founder Chandra Price. Price passed away at the age of 30; it was only three years after she was diagnosed, and two years after the three friends started the walk. "Her enthusiasm was so great that she inspired me," Walker said.

The day before and even the early morning hours before the walk, Walker appears optimistic and pleasant. After nine years she has developed a system that she executes with ease up until the moments before the official start of the event. Going up to



Image: Zandra Everett

Mary Peaks (above) says the walk has helped many Morehouse students cope with their family members' battles with breast cancer.

Walker's Gloster Hall office for the last time before the 8 a.m. start of the walk, she and Mary Peaks exchange a few words.

"Are you alright Ms. Walker?" asks Peaks. "I'm just nervous. I got to see people, you know?" responds Walker. "They're coming," responds Peaks with reassurance.



The Maroon Tiger

Breast Cancer Walk Special Edition

Editor-in-Chief

Ron Thomas

News Editors

David Gibson

Errin Haines

Add Seymour, Jr.

Copy Desk Chiefs

Rashida Rawls

Krista DeSouza

Layout Editor

Vickie Hampton

Photo Editor

Mikki Harris

Photography

Phyllis Shelman-Ford

Zandra Everett

Page Editors

Tyren Christopher Holmes

Nick Gowens

Maroon Tiger Staff

Reporters

Jessica Allen
Kibby Araya
Nicolas Aziz
Kenicia Black
Mychael Bond
Alexander Brown
Randol Davis
Jamal Hansberry
Lauren Harper

Ashley Harris
Passion Hemphill
Frank Lee, Jr.
Carl Ringgold
Khadijah Robinson
Elizabeth Sawyer
Chris Watkins
George Williams IV
Taylor Williams

Copy Editors

Edwin Coffie
Brittney Daigle-Leonard
Kimberly Elliott
Raveem Foster
Kofi Khamit-Kufh

Logistics

Jacobi Eaves
Anthony Harris
Kody Melancon

Director, Morehouse Journalism and Sports Program

Atlanta Journal-Constitution Associated Press

Morehouse College Communications Writer

Atlanta Journal-Constitution Maroon Tiger Chief Copy Editor

Morehouse College Publications Manager

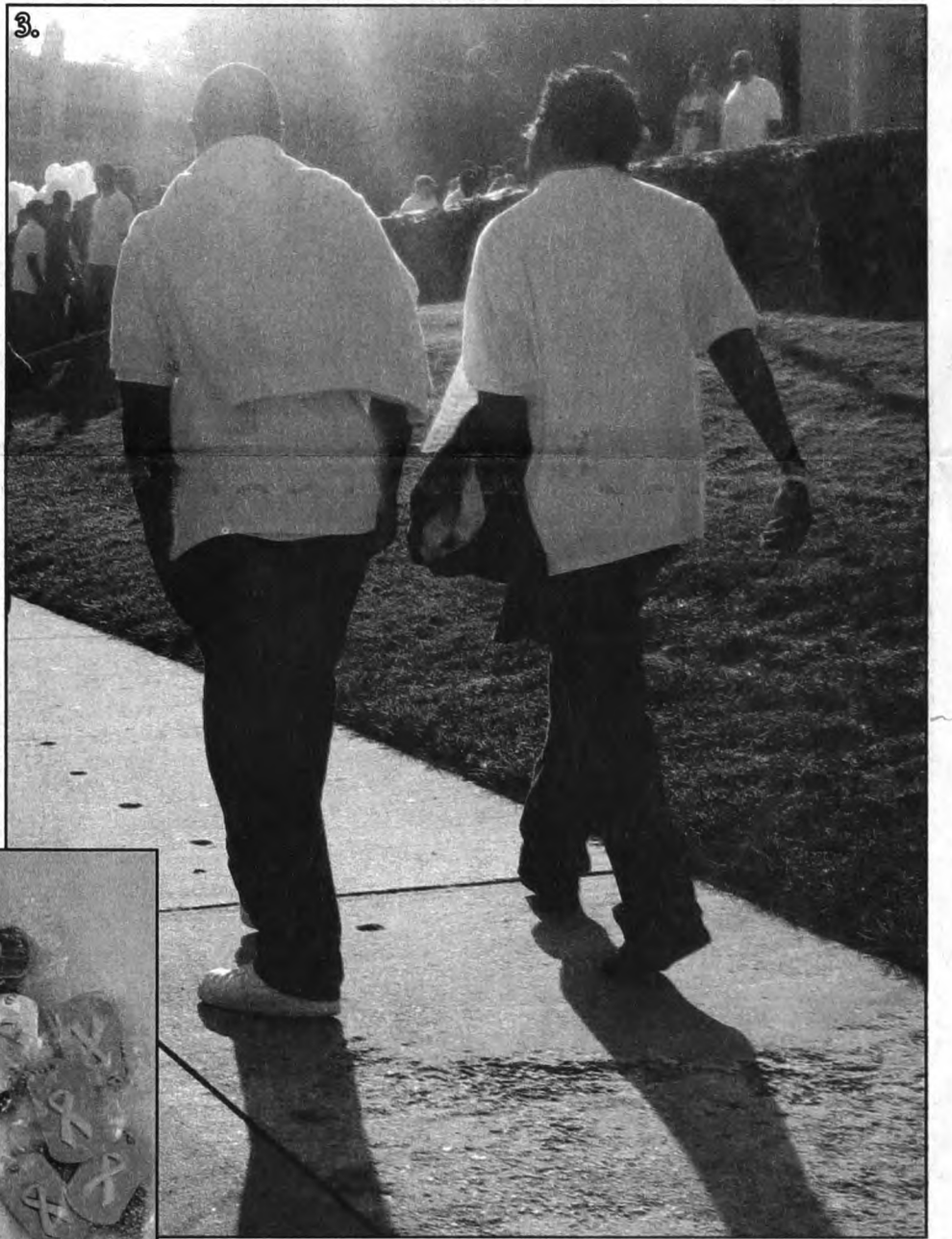
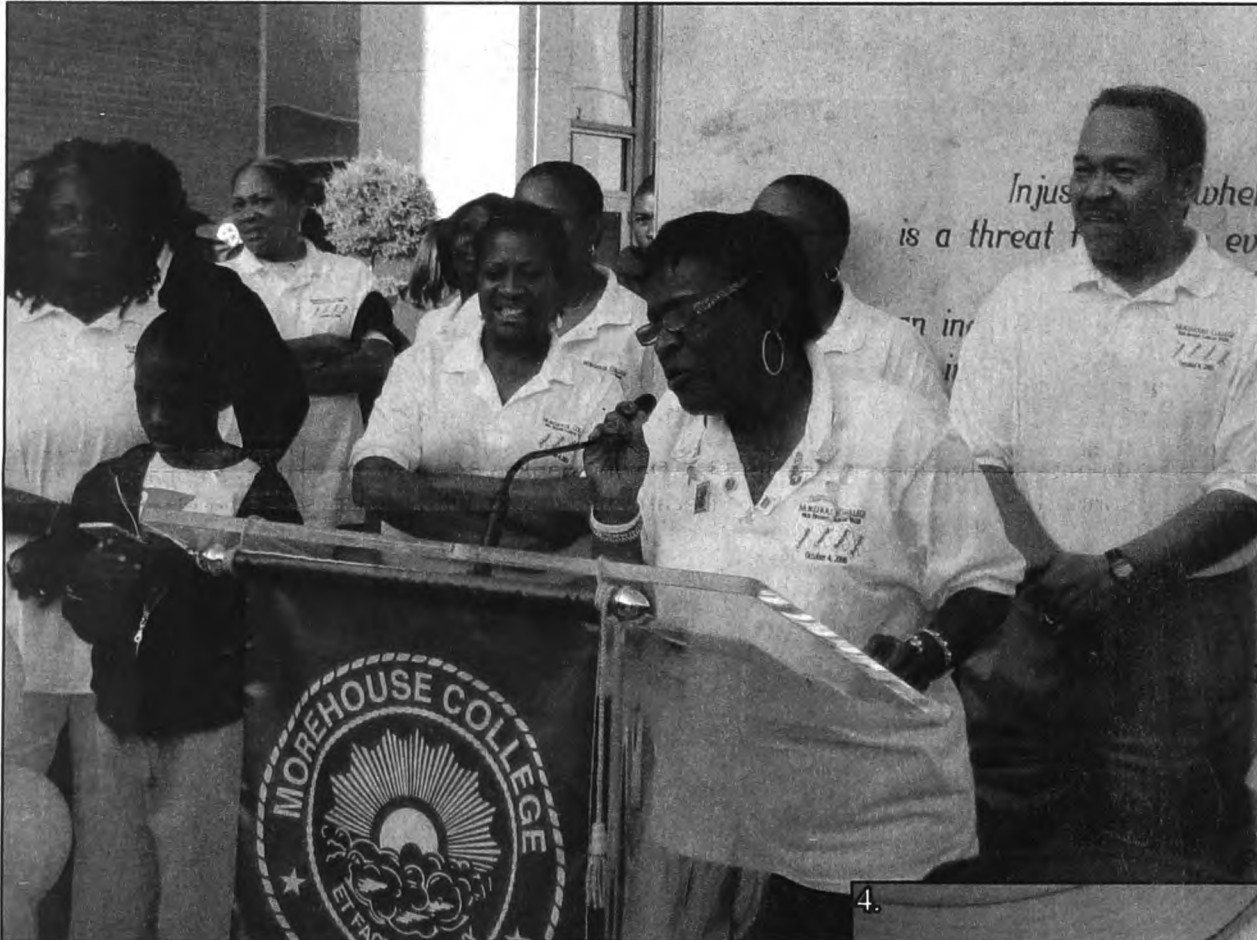
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Clark Atlanta University Morehouse College Office of Admissions

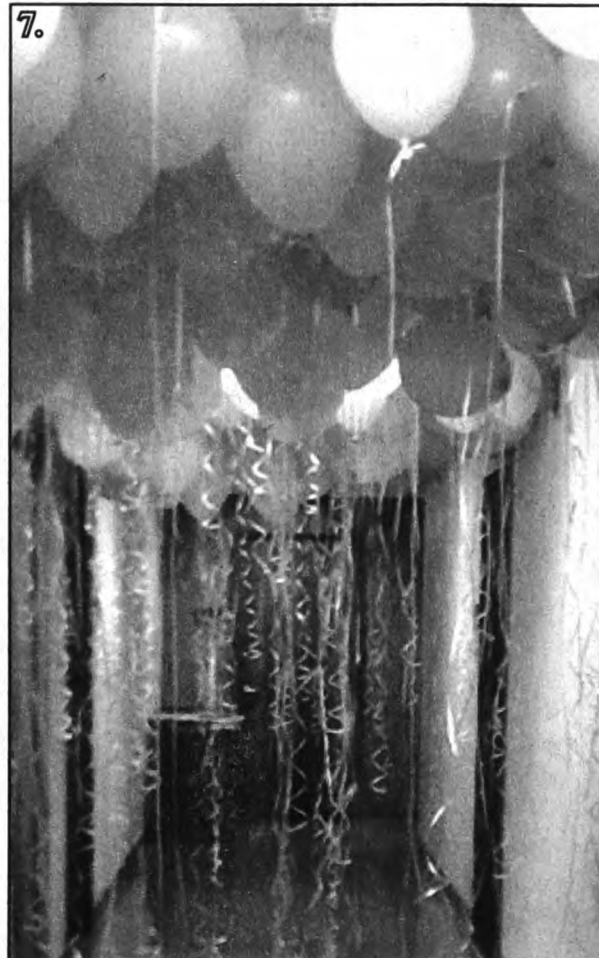
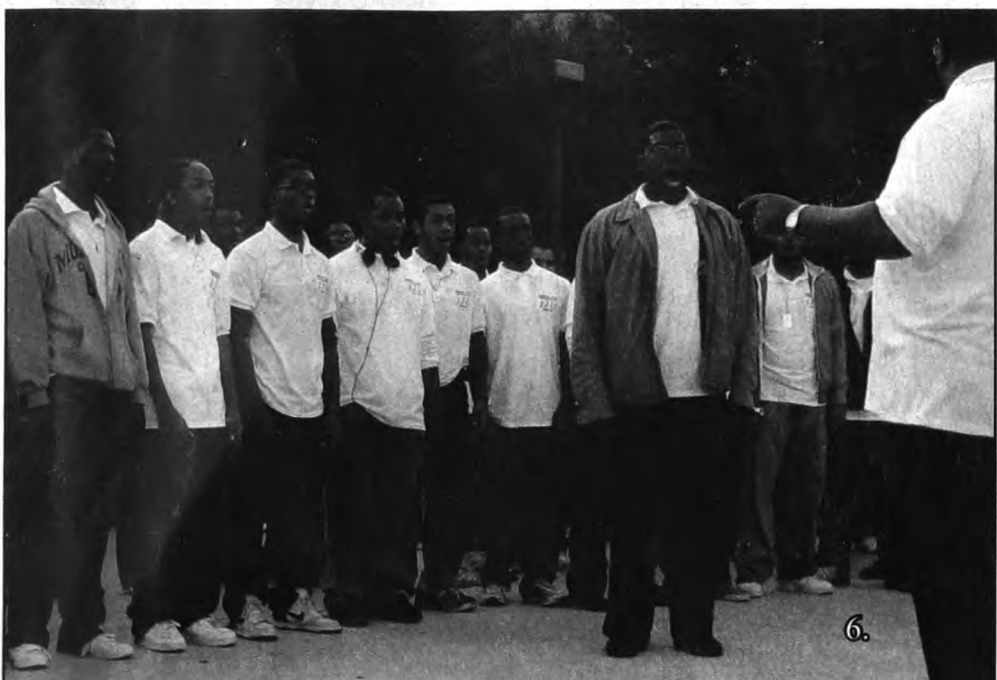
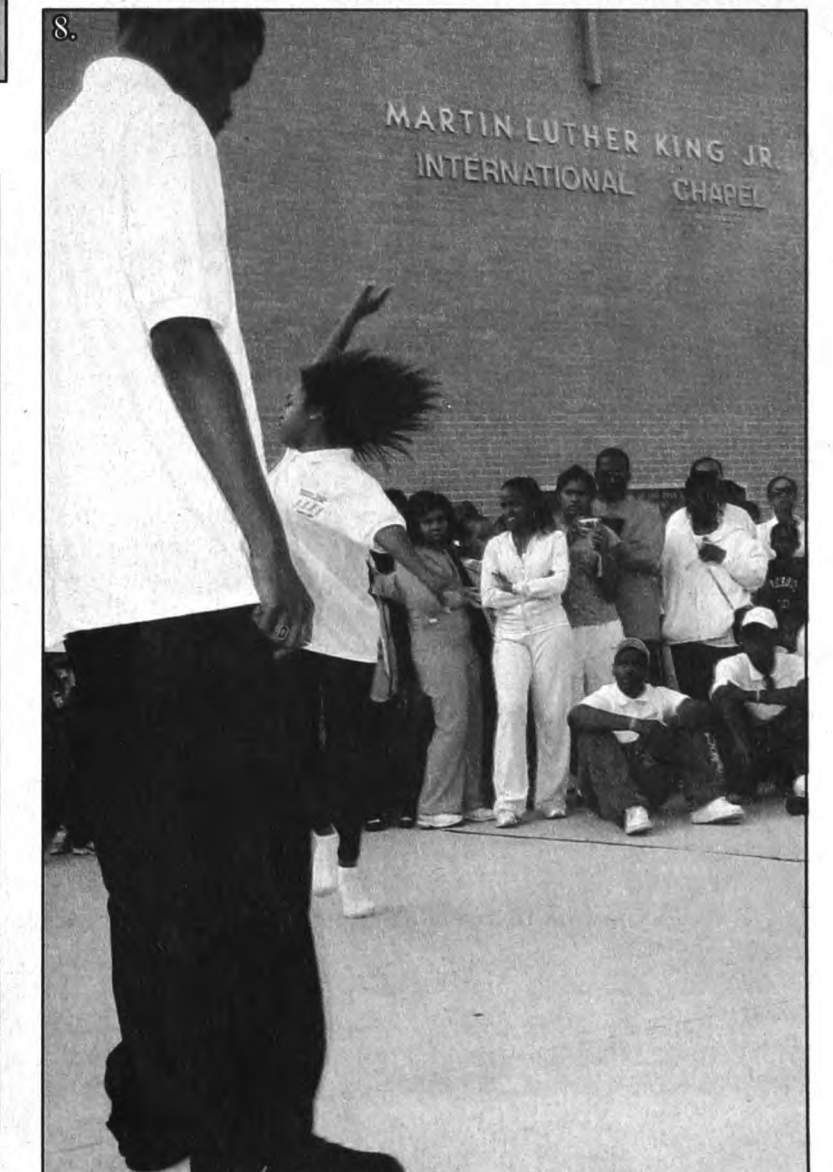
Maroon Tiger Chief Layout Editor 2008-2009

Maroon Tiger Chief Layout Editor 2007-2008

Breast Cancer Walk



For the past nine years, the Morehouse College Breast Cancer Walk has made strides against the disease by raising more than \$100,000 for the American Cancer Society. Photo journalist Phyllis Shelman-Ford takes us along on Saturday's walk around the Atlanta University Center.



Breast Cancer Walk

Princesses in Action: Young Girls Get Early Exposure to Breast Cancer Walk

PASSION HEMPHILL
Contributing Writer
phemphill@spelman.edu

A group of girls were among the youngest participants in the Morehouse College Breast Cancer Walk on Saturday, and could be the event's future hostesses.

Dressed in pink from head to toe and flaunting big crowns and round sunglasses, the Princess Book Club brought their enthusiasm, style and passion to the event.

Lionel Zachery, whose daughter, Ayanna, walked the two-mile route, took pictures of the group as he competitively cheered them on. "Let's walk, and don't be last!" he said.

The girls were among nearly 400 other participants in the event, which marked its ninth year. Illinois native, Ericka Thomas founded the Atlanta-based book club after her daughter showed an interest in reading.

"The main goal is to produce



Image: Phyllis Shelman-Ford

Members of the Princess Book Club give their full attention during Saturday's events.

civic-minded girls who are aware of what their community needs," Thomas said.

The breast cancer walk was the Princess Club's community service activity for October. The

group also had a connection to the event, since one of the girls' mothers is a friend of Sandra Walker, one of the co-founders of the breast cancer walk at Morehouse College.

Thomas said she hoped the girls' energetic spirits and radiant pink attire would attract more members to the group, which currently has eight members.



Image: Phyllis Shelman-Ford

The AUC turned in force to raise awareness about the effects of cancer on its community and American women in general.



Image: Zandra Everett

PZI Jeans models frequently promote women's health issues.

Jeans Company Sponsors Event

KIBKABE ARAYA
Contributing Writer

School and community organizations gathered on the steps of King Chapel on Saturday morning for the Morehouse College Breast Cancer Walk to raise awareness in the community. One of those organizations was PZI Jeans, an Atlanta-based jeans company, in its first year as a sponsor for the event.

"It's important for a woman to be aware of these issues and support them," Cheytoria Phillips said, a model for the jean company, who wanted to participate in the walk after receiving the information from a marketing representative.

This event, which marked its ninth anniversary, started as a walk in support of college family members diagnosed with the disease. It attracted about 400 people. The walk raised money for the American Cancer Society with sponsors including PZI Jeans and the Wal-Mart Foundation.

When designing quality denim, PZI Jeans prides itself on taking a woman's hourglass curves into consideration. PZI Jeans is part of the Perazzi Apparel Company dedicated to providing fashionable clothing to women with unique body shapes.

"There is cancer in different parts of my family, but I do realize the impact on many other families and the travesty it causes," Claire Jason said, vice president of PZI Jeans, who wanted some of the

employees to contribute their time and energy to the effort.

Thanks to their public relations department, Jason heard about the event and deemed it appropriate with PZI Jeans' mission of catering to women. Also, she said the company looks for events promoting women's health issues.

Jason declared the company wants women "believing in the beauty of themselves and promoting it."

As the organization passionately expressed their support by walking more than two miles, they said they realized the effects of breast cancer weighing on them and others.

Jason, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., said she has a line sister currently undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer.

"It's such a debilitating disease; everyone should be aware of it," Jason said.

After the walk, everyone congregated on the steps of King Chapel again to applaud cancer survivors and view performances by the Glee Club and an interpretive dance group in hopes of winning a prize from the raffle.

During the ending ceremony, PZI Jeans donated two pairs of jeans for a door prize. Also, they handed out coupons — after purchasing jeans online, one can type the coupon code in at the company Web site so that 20 percent of the proceeds will go to the event.

Campus Organizations Heavily Involved

RANDOL DAVIS
Associate News Editor
RandolDavis@gmail.com

Organizers of the Morehouse College Breast Cancer walk said that Morehouse students, faculty, and alumni showed in "record numbers" this year. Sandra Walker, one of the event founders and a breast cancer survivor, said more than two-thirds of those registered and present at the 9th annual walk were somehow involved with the college. Those representing their respective groups couldn't be happier about the participation this year.

Nicholas Bartley '04, Walker's former work-study student and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., was an essential part in the creation of the event nine years ago.

"She's become a mother figure for me," he said. "I just remember the sinking feeling I felt when she was diagnosed and when she was going through it. We decided we had to do something."

Walker, who works in the Business and Finance department at Morehouse, collaborated with Mary Peaks and the late Chandra

Price to create the walk, with Bartley's assistance as a liaison between faculty and students.



"I've...been doing my part, trying to get more students to participate in the walk," he said.

Since its creation in 2000, the walk has developed into a major event, drawing the attention of many campus organizations. Na'il Mitchell, senior chemistry major, and a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. stressed the importance of his chapter's attendance. "We're sponsored by the Breast Cancer Society, and we are recognizing October as Breast Cancer awareness month, so it's very important that we're here," he said.

Vann Newkirk, a junior Biology major who is also a member of Chi Chapter said, "Since the focus of our organization is Wellness of the Entire Community, we support the Walk because it helps raise awareness about a crucial health risk to our society, especially African Americans."

Dean Herman "Skip" Mason of Student Services, who is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc, highlighted the importance of attendance from all Greek Letter organizations from Morehouse at the event. Mason said, "Frats should be at this type of college event. You would expect Greeks to be involved because all of us have had someone who has been affected by breast cancer... There are too many things that separate us and an event like this really unites us."

Aside from Greeks, another big supporter of the walk was the Morehouse Sophomore Class Council. Their academic advisor, court, and entire elected council took part.

Isaiah Scott, Business major and sophomore class president, expressed his passion for community service saying, "As a class, community service is very important to us. As long as there's a positive service event going on, we need to be there."

Hyma Moore, a junior Economics major, added, "I think it's important as Men of Morehouse for us to be aware of the social challenges in our community. Morehouse is at the forefront of social awareness and

activism."

Also in attendance at the walk was SGA President Chad Mance

At the closing ceremonies, President Robert Michael Franklin Jr. '75 expressed his emotion about the walk as participant saying, "As I look at Mary and Sandra today, I think of the Morehouse seal. And while the clouds can represent troubles and hard times, we must not forget about the rising sun that represents a new beginning. These two tough and tender ladies are like that sun."

Other organizations represented include ROTC, Miss Maroon and White and her court, the Xi Eta Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, the Glee Club, and junior and freshman class councils. The Maroon Tiger had no account of any senior class council or CASA members present.

Bartley said the walk made him proud. "I know that being the Morehouse Man that I am, that everything is bigger than us. And every time I talk to a prospective student, I tell them that, 'When you come to Morehouse, it's not about you. It's about what you can do for your community and environment.'"



Image: Zandra Everett

Same time next year for the walk's 10th Anniversary.