



Yvonne Hines, from left, Florence Corpening, Chief Pat Norris, Dr. Vivian Burke, Sandra Jones, Janie Wilson, Sylvia P. Adams, Simona Allen and Beverly Graham.

Women

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M. Ivey, CEO of Reynolds American, Inc.; and Sandra Jones, founder and chairman of Segmented Marketing Services, Inc.

Local Poet Nell Davis Britton read an original piece inspired by Proverbs 31:31. Titled "I am Every Woman," which she tailored to fit the occasion. Each honoree's contribution was carefully woven into her prose.

"I am every woman, I am every woman you see; for I dwell in every woman and every woman dwells in me," she declared. "... I can be an educator that touches a child's mind, I can be an executive director of any and every kind; like the director of the Salvation Army or the YWCA, and I can be a

minister who makes a difference today; I can serve the Arts Council or the Winston-Salem Symphony, or I can be a pharmacist with my own pharmacy; I can be every woman who is appreciated as the CEO of Reynolds American, Incorporated; I can own a marketing business that is segmented, or my marketing skills may be direct mail oriented; I can reach the highest goals that every woman can see, even aspire to be the chief of police; I am every woman, going about the community, being the very best that God has planted in me."

Janie Wilson, owner of Excalibur Direct Mail/Marketing Services and one of the founders of the Women's Fund, a women's philanthropy initiative, rounded out the group.

"It's been a joy to do this and I will be taking this back to them to share as well because as far as the Women's Fund goes ... everybody's pitched in and done just such a phenomenal job," she declared. "We've gotten off to just a wonderful start in our infancy. We're looking forward to moving on as we grow and hope women in our community will join us as members of the fund."

Wilson was also recognized earlier this month at the YWCA's Leadership Awards Luncheon.

"It's a little overwhelming but I do appreciate it and it's such a wonderful group of women," she commented. "I'm very lucky to live in a situation in a wonderful town with wonderful friends, good business colleagues and a wonderful community to serve."

es and the lead detective told internal affairs every black male in the city was a suspect.

"In Darryl's case, hell yeah racism was an important part of it," said Rabil.

Rabil said he had his own biases to overcome. He assumed Hunt was guilty when he took on the case. Hunt took a polygraph and provided witnesses that confirmed his story. He did everything his attorneys asked and proved his innocence to them. But Rabil said he shouldn't have needed convincing in the first place.

"All the signs of innocence were there, but he had to convince me of that," said Rabil. "I should have walked into that room ... without a presumption of guilt. If I, as a criminal defense lawyer, am

not applying the assumption of innocence, ain't nobody applying the assumption of innocence."

Rabil said he's struggled with the racism within himself and in the legal system. He said most people don't want to admit they have racist tendencies that can create bias through the whole legal system, from arrests to trials and verdicts.

Money, or lack of it is also a large factor in wrongful convictions, the panel said. While prosecutors have vast resources to try a case, the defense's resources are based on what a client can pay. Money is vital to hiring the experts needed to prove inno-

events, target young adults ages 18-24, use sex as an angle, and promote binge drinking, said Mclay.

Part of National Council on Alcoholism's work is to implore adults not to buy alcohol for their children, nieces, nephews, cousins or neighbors, he continued. While the council still uses education as a method of prevention, it has gained more success through "environmental prevention," which is campaigning for liquor stores to place advertisements on doors, windows and walls over five feet high and out of face view of children.

"You can educate the kids but if they are still seeing these advertisements as the cool way of being, it's easier for them to blow off adults and say 'it's my life.' But if they don't have this stuff in their face all the time then it's less likely they'd go ahead and do it," Mclay added.

Last March, Kenneth Moritsugu, then-acting U.S. Surgeon General, issued a Call to Action to Prevent and Reduce the enduring national problem of underage drinking, primarily because of the potential long-term negative impact to the adolescent brain.

Law panel

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freedom. The panel was moderated by Blake Morant, dean of the School of Law.

He framed the discussion as one about the "human frailties" of the justice system. Morant said human biases and lack of resources can cause a case's outcome to not reflect the evidence.

Rabil said that happens far too often. He cited a law article that estimated about five percent of all convictions are wrongful. There are 2.3 million people currently incarcerated, which means more than 100,000 innocent people are in jail, he said.

Morant asked the panel what causes errors in the system responsible for wrongful incarcerations.

"My answer is volume, volume, volume," said Wright.

Wright said the courts are a huge system with an overwhelming number of cases. Because of this, he said, there is a reluctance to stop, restart and revisit cases.

Wright didn't discount other factors, like racism, which he said is made much more prevalent by the overloaded courts.

Rabil, who is white, agreed racism plays a part in many wrongful convictions. He said in Hunt's case, Ku Klux Klan members acted as eye witness-



Hunt

Drinking

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Hennessy Cognac, which most disproportionately exposed Black youth compared to all youth.

TV

• 72 percent of alcohol advertising spending on Black Entertainment Television (BET) targeted 10 programs more likely to be seen by youth;

• Advertisers spent approximately \$4.8 million to place ads on all 15 programs most popular with Black youth.



Moritsugu

Eddie Mclay, director of information for the National Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Addictions - Bay Area, told The Final Call the battle to end underage drinking means targeting alcohol companies and distributors, which are both well-rooted in America's political arena. Liquor stores, restaurants and bars must be held accountable for their roles in youth drinking, he said.

A majority of the ads, especially those during sporting



Photo by Layla Farmer

Actress Xavier Leak, from left, with Charles and Aisha Horton, Delores Watson and Kaci Martin.

Fledgling film company seeks local talent

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

Local actors who dream of being on the silver screen may get their wish sooner than expected.

Officials with EH2 (pronounced LH-squared) Productions, an independent film company, announced last Thursday that it would host a casting call May 3 in hopes of attracting talent for its debut film, "The Rising of the Sun."

The story is one of three screenplays penned by Writer / Director Charles Horton and the debut effort of the local outfit.

"We definitely are looking for experienced and inexperienced actors and actresses," said Horton. "We envision this film to really be big ... not only in this area, but across the nation."

Much of the movie will be shot in Winston-Salem and other parts of the state. The filmmakers want to help breathe new life into North Carolina's once-booming film industry. In the late 1990s, the state was third only to California and New York in terms of locations for film and television production. Although recent films like George Clooney's "Leatherheads" have been filmed in North Carolina, the state is not the powerhouse it once was.

LH2 hopes to draw on local talent as much as possible, according to Horton's wife, Aisha Booth-Horton, who serves as the company's chief financial officer.

"It is important as we film in this community that we pull on the strengths that rest in this community," commented the educator who has written three children's books to date.

The Hortons founded the production compa-

ny late last year along with Producer Kelly Leak. Many roles have already been cast. Kaci Martin, a former colleague of Horton's, will play Reporter Lexi Storm in the film.

"It's just a pleasure to be able to be a part of this and to see their dreams come true," she gushed. "I'm just very excited for everyone."

Xavier Leak is also one of a handful of actors who have already been cast in the full-length film.

"I have been friends with Charles and Aisha for quite some time," said Leak, who will play the role of "Mrs. Reid" in the film. "Along the way, Charles has shared with me tidbits about his dream. We've been praying for him and believing right along with him."

"The Rising of the Sun" is billed as "a legal thriller with twists and turns sure to keep the audience engaged." The film will hit home with the audience, Booth-Horton believes.

"There may be some cries out from the audience, 'Amen!' or 'Yes, that's right!'" she said. "There's a lot of relative information that people will not only gain, but be entertained while gaining this information."

"The Rising of the Sun" will begin rolling in late June, Horton says.

LH2 Productions' "The Rising of the Sun" casting call will be held Saturday, May 3 from 10:00 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express, 4305 Big Tree Way, Greensboro. The casting call is open to actors of varying degrees of experience. All candidates are asked to bring a current head shot and current resume or bio.

For more information, visit www.therisingofthesun.com.



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Ann Rowe (daughter), Gail Gordon (daughter), Linda Cox (mother)

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