



The Examiner.

SAN FRANCISCO'S HOME

Tuesday, April 15, 2003

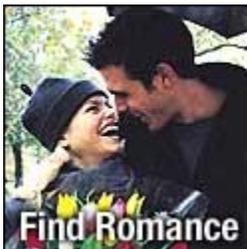
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Activists honored with green award

Associated Press

Two grandmothers who saw their families devastated by environmental damage, one in the coal fields of West Virginia and the other in the Australian outback, are among those being honored Monday with the top award for grassroots environmental activists.

Julia Bonds, Eileen Wani Wingfield and five other winners of the Goldman Environmental Prize came to San Francisco from West Virginia, Australia, Peru, Nigeria, the Philippines and Spain and took home \$125,000 and a statue in recognition for their work.

"I've been around coal mining all my life," said Bonds, whose father, grandfather and great-grandfather were coal miners in West Virginia. "But mountaintop removal is environmental insanity. They take down every tree, scrape off the vegetation, then blow the top off mountains so they can mine the thin seams of coal inside. By the time they're done, it looks like a war zone."

Wingfield, an Aboriginal grandmother from the South Australian desert, started fighting when she saw the effects of environmental devastation threatened the future of her own family.

Odigha Odigha, from Nigeria, was honored for his fight against the industrial logging that has destroyed the majority of the his country's rain forests.

Von Hernandez, from the Philippines, was awarded the Goldman prize for leading the battle to ban waste incineration.

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