

The following Letter to the Editor by Jessie Stone appeared in The New York Times on October 16, 2007.

To the Editor:

Re "Distribution of Nets Splits Malaria Fighters" (Oct. 9): The importance of malaria education is overlooked when nets are given away. In Uganda, where I run a malaria education and prevention program, most rural Ugandans do not have access to education and do not understand why and how they need to use a net.

We provide that education and subsidize long-lasting insecticide treated nets. We have sold 20,000 nets at malaria education sessions, and people willingly pay. Our follow up visits to net buyers show that 74 percent use them properly.

Human nature shows that people do place value on purchased products. If Dr. Arata Kochi spent time in the field, he would know that people buy Coke in the most remote and poor places, and they will pay for a net once they understand its purpose.

Jessie Stone, M.D.

Purchase, N.Y.