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DDT fictions

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Unfortunately, DDT is not the silver bullet that will eradicate the scourge of malaria, as portrayed by David Holcberg of the Ayn Rand Institute ("DDT facts & fictions," Letters, May 9 and PghTrib.com) and columnist Bill Steigerwald ("Detoxifying DDT's undeserved reputation," May 6 and PghTrib.com).

Safer and more effective methods of malaria control have been available and used successfully in many countries of the Global South for years. It is a deplorable lack of compassion and political will that has prevented more widespread deployment of these techniques.

In the name of ending the suffering caused by this preventable and curable disease, anti-environmentalists are promoting the fantasy of effective DDT-based malaria control as part of their strategy to discredit the environmental movement as a whole.

This is pure politics and has little to do with actually fighting the disease.

The people of Africa need sustainable, long-term solutions to fight malaria, not the use of toxic pesticides such as DDT that will expose them and generations to come to a slew of adverse health impacts while failing to control the disease.

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