



INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW INSTITUTE

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF DUE PROCESS AND EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW, IN THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

March 17, 2015

Dear Leon Irby,

Prison Legal News is helping the International Humanitarian Law Institute (IHLI) to bring the same 12-week, one pill-per-day non-Interferon based Hepatitis-C treatment with a 95% cure rate, adopted by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) in June 2014, (see excerpt enclosed), to state and county incarceration facilities.

An estimated 3-5 million Americans have Hep-C virus and most don't know it. Hep-C kills more people than HIV/AIDS. Most Hep-C positive people are not incarcerated, but if people in jails and prisons are Hep-C free when they get back to the world, everyone benefits. Curing prisoners helps everybody.

Enclosed is also information about the FDA-approved drugs that are the new standard of medical care for Hep-C in the BOP. The new, non-Interferon based drugs have been adopted by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC); the Veterans Administration (VA); the U.S. Public Health Service (Surgeon General); Medicare; and, private health insurers like UnitedHealth, Anthem and Aetna.

Some states have begun small "pilot" programs and all are aware of the safer, more effective treatments available. Costs are often used as a reason not to adopt the treatment, but recent studies by Stanford U. show the treatments actually save money on long-run healthcare costs and needless suffering.

State prison authorities' "deliberate indifference" to the 12-week, one pill-per-day Hep-C cure has opened up possible legal relief on behalf of Hep-C positive inmates that did not exist before the BOP treatment Guidelines were adopted in June 2014. In all institutions, it is necessary that Hep-C positive patients request the new "BOP or equivalent" treatment and to exhaust internal remedies before considering legal action.

Hep-C status is a personal matter, of course. As a PLN reader, the first step is to let anyone who might be Hep-C positive know about these recent developments in Hep-C treatment. We cannot provide legal advice by mail but we can provide more information to help bring Federal BOP treatment protocols to your facility.

The Institute is in contact with medical experts and legal counsel to assist in applying the 12-week, Hep-C "cure" Federal BOP protocols in the state and local incarceration context.

Respectfully,

Director,

Prof. Peter Erlinder
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BY: LEON IRBY



MARCH 24, 2015

From: Walter Lippmann (walterlx@earthlink.net)
To: CubaNews@yahoogroups.com;
Date: Fri, March 8, 2013 9:15:51 AM
Cc:
Subject: [CubaNews] Danny Glover on death of President Hugo Chavez

From: early1947@aol.com
To: wlk@infomed.sld.cu
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2013 9:43 AM
Subject: Danny Glover on death of President Hugo Chavez

**STATEMENT FROM ACTOR DANNY GLOVER
 REGARDING THE DEATH OF HUGO CHAVEZ FRIAS**

The announcement of the death of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez Frías has occasioned numerous media calls to me for comment.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt sorrow and prayers to the entire family of President Chávez.

Through my social justice work with Afro-descendants, Afro-Venezuelans and other marginalized and poor peoples, I had the opportunity to meet President Chávez in Venezuela in 2003. In my capacity as Chairman of the Board of the TransAfrica Forum, he invited me and my fellow board members to attend the inauguration of an exhibit of photographs of Martin Luther King, Jr. – an event complemented by the extraordinary naming of schools around Venezuela in honor of Dr. King.

I join with millions of Venezuelans, Latin Americans, Caribbeans, fellow U.S. citizens, and many more millions of freedom-loving people around the world who embraced Hugo Chávez as a social champion of people-centered democracy, material development, and spiritual well-being.

As his ideological and political opponents continue to wrangle, I ask all honest proponents of equality, justice, and peace in Venezuela and across the world to temper divisive disputes and find genuine ways to support those Venezuelans who seek to continue the course of participatory democracy and programs of social development, social security, and efforts to achieve equality that were and continue to be the goals of Hugo Chávez's policies of education, health, and a livable income for all. I ask everyone to listen to and respect the expressed democratic will of the Venezuelan people who supported, in unprecedented numbers, the recent re-election of Hugo Chávez.

There is no doubt some will continue to vilify Hugo Chávez in death as they did during his governance and his terrible illness. Others, inside and outside of Venezuela, will unfortunately seek to overturn his progressive national political development agenda and the policies of solidarity and internationalism he established and sought to extend. This, despite the fact that programs like Petro-Caribe, the Bank of the South, and the New Community of Latin American and Caribbean Nations have so greatly benefited the region, as has Chávez' emphasis on South-South cooperation.

In this moment of mourning, I return to the spirit of Dr. King, who foresaw:

"A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. With righteous indignation, it will look across the seas and see individual capitalists of the West investing huge sums of money in Asia, Africa, and South America, only to take the profits out with no concern for the social betterment of the countries, and say, "This is not just."

Let us remember Hugo Chávez Frías and support his fellow Venezuelan citizens who will carry forth the Bolivarian Revolution.

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WALTER LIPPMANN
 Los Angeles, California

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: MARCH 26, 2015



Babies practice talking before they actually do.

The science of baby talk

A young child's first words may seem spontaneous, but a new study has found that infants actually practice speaking in their minds months before they start talking. The study involved 57 children aged 7 months, 11 months, and a year old. Researchers played syllables in English, the babies' native language, and Spanish, while using scanners to monitor their brain activity. With both languages, 7-month-olds showed increased activity in the parts of the brain that control the facial movements that produce words. Older infants, however, showed more brain activity in response to foreign syllables, which indicates that because they were more familiar with their native tongue, they therefore required more effort to process—and try to mimic—the unfamiliar sounds. "The baby brain is engaged in trying to talk back right from the start," Patricia Kuhl of the Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences tells *LiveScience.com*. Her advice to parents: "Talk to your baby. Hearing us talk exercises the action areas of infants' brains."

A family of friends

If you consider your friends to be like family, you may be onto something. Researchers at the University of California, San Diego, and Yale University have found that friends have more DNA in common with one another than they do with

strangers. In fact, the similarities in gene signatures equate to 1 percent of a person's total genetic makeup, which means friends are roughly as "related" as fourth cousins, relatives who share great-great-grandparents. "The striking thing here is that friends are actually significantly more similar to one another than we were expecting," UC San Diego geneticist James Fowler tells *NPR.org*. The study drew on data from more than 1,900 people and found that friends were most genetically similar in areas affecting the sense of smell, which researchers say may serve to draw people with similar tastes to congregate in the same place. Friends do, however, tend to have different kinds of immune systems. But such divergences may have evolutionary advantages, since a person who is susceptible to a certain type of disease would lower his or her risk of catching it by associating with others who are fortified against it. "The biggest implication is that evolution can't be studied as a *Robinson Crusoe* phenomenon," Fowler says. "We didn't evolve isolated. We evolved with our friends."

Health scare of the week Antacids' hidden danger

People who take antacids for heartburn should beware: Prolonged use increases the likelihood of vitamin B-12 deficiency, which can contribute to health problems including depression, nerve damage, and dementia, *NPR.com* reports. An examination of the records of 26,000 patients at Kaiser Permanente clinics between 1997 and 2011 found that those who took a class of drugs known as proton pump inhibitors—sold over the counter as Prilosec, Prevacid, and Nexium—for two years or more had a 65 percent higher than normal risk of B-12 deficiency. Those who took the acid-inhibiting drugs called histamine-2 receptor antagonists, contained in brands such as Pepcid and Zantac, also experienced an increased but more modest risk. Unlike chewable tablets that neutralize stomach acids, the medications examined in the study shut down cells in the stomach responsible for producing acid. Those same cells also make a protein that helps with vitamin B-12 absorption. "It's not that people should stop the medication," says Kaiser gastroenterologist Douglas Corley. "They should check with their physician to be screened." Vitamin deficiencies can often be effectively treated with vitamin supplements.

THE WEEK December 27, 2013

■ For the first time since 1947, America's most common age is no longer part of the Baby Boom generation. New Census Bureau data shows that 22-year-olds are now the most numerous age group in America, followed by 23-year-olds and then 21-year-olds. In fourth were 53-year-olds.

TheWire.com

■ Americans are saving for retirement sooner than ever. A survey by the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies found that 70 percent of Millennials started saving for retirement at age 22, compared with the average Gen Xer, who started saving at 27, or the average Baby Boomer, who began saving at 35. Per the report, the average Millennial has already set aside \$32,000 for retirement. *Time.com*

■ Eighty-nine percent of male American workers say it is important for employers to provide paternity benefits, a Boston College survey has found. Younger workers felt particularly strongly about paternity leave, with 93 percent of workers under 30 saying it was extremely, very, or somewhat important to get paid paternity benefits. *WSJ.com*



■ In its annual time use survey, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that on average Americans spend 8.74 hours per day sleeping, 5.26 hours per day engaging in leisure activities, and just 3.46 hours per day doing "work and work-related activities." *USAToday.com*

■ In a recent Gallup poll, more than half of Americans said the economy, particularly unemployment, is the country's top challenge today. *Forbes.com*

THE WEEK July 25, 2014

Noted

■ A majority of American women—52 percent—report having experienced physical violence at some point in their life. In Sweden, it is a quarter of women; in Italy, 18 percent. *Vox.com*

■ Mental illness reduces life expectancy by 10 to 20 years—more than smoking a pack of cigarettes a day, a new study of 1.7 million people found. *NPR.com*

■ Your high school GPA is strongly

THE WEEK June 6, 2014

BY: LEON IRBY DATED: MARCH 26, 2015