

VIEWPOINTS

No Grain In The Silo

BY PAULA DAMON

Suddenly and without warning while peering through the tiny pinhole of my past, I recalled our old waterbed. Why? I don't know.

Actually, I had forgotten about it since we traded it in for an Oprah Pillow-top Mattress from Nebraska Furniture Mart at least 15 years ago.

At first, I wasn't sold on the idea of a waterbed, but my husband really wanted one. Waterbeds were all the rage at the time.

Plus, I was inspired by columnist Dave Berry's wisdom: "Don't be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark, and a large group of professionals built the Titanic."

Okay, I went along. And at first it was exciting.

When it came to our decision to buy a waterbed, you could have said we were a few clowns short of a circus or a few fries short of a Happy Meal. Or more like no grain in the silo - if you know what I mean.

Nevertheless, ours was a New Englander Hybrid - top of the line. Most waterbeds were like giant water balloons. Not ours. It came with a box spring, soft-side mattress and a standard metal frame.

One of the many down sides of waterbeds was it didn't matter what you placed on it, any amount of pressure or weight sent it rocking and rolling - sometimes right off the bed, including me. The slightest motion created a self-contained tsunami.

With a waterbed, not only did I have to contend with my husband's loud snoring (on which earplugs have no effect), I had to deal with his six-foot physique tossing and turning, tossing and turning, tossing and turning all night long.

It was like trying to fall asleep in a Magic Castle Bounce House without any of the magic or fun. I wonder how many times I suffered whiplash. Talk about nightmares!

Back then, having a waterbed was one of those things you'd mention at parties to impress others. A form of namedropping, only better.

It's hardly a thing I'd brag about today. When it came right down to it, having a waterbed was a pain in more ways than one. Take my aching back, please.

Not only did it require running a dirty old garden hose through the house to fill and empty, it had to be patched periodically. NEWS FLASH: waterbeds do have a tendency to leak.

There's nothing in the world like waking up wet. Soaking wet to be exact. Brought back bad memories of my bedwetting as a kid.

And then, try finding one those teeny weensy holes in the middle of the night.

After finally remembering where we put the patch kit, fixing the hole, changing the bedding and putting on dry clothes, I'd lay there wide awake at 2 a.m., racking my brain as to why in the world we ever bought that thing.

Wait a minute: I remembered. My darling husband really wanted one.

Comedian George Carlin once quipped: "If a man is standing in the middle of the forest speaking and there is no woman around to hear him, is he still wrong?"

Obviously, yes, if he wants a waterbed!

Should I have followed Carlin's advice when he said, "Don't sweat the petty things and don't pet the sweaty things"?

No. Not at all. There are no ifs, ands or buts about it. Waterbeds are both petty and sweaty.

Thinking back, there were two great days in our waterbed ownership: the day we bought that thing and the day we paid someone to get rid of it.

CHOOSING WHERE TO LIVE

I want to let the people of South Dakota know that when you grow older and you cannot live alone anymore by yourself, the law says that the State has the right to tell you that you have to go into a nursing home or assistant living center.

What I don't agree with is that you don't have the "right" to choose where you can live. If you are in a safe environment, good food provided, and excellent care given to you, the State shouldn't have that right to say "you can't live there." You need to be in a nursing home.

I know this is how the law states now because I have a home in Milbank called Rita's Home Care. I have three residents that the State Board of Health says that they have to leave my home and they have to go into the nursing home. If the families can't find a placement for their loved ones, they will place their family members wherever they can get them into.

Does this mean that when our

family members or ourselves get to a point where we can't stay home by ourselves anymore, do we as Americans loose that right of choice to where we want to live? I feel that the right of choice should be up to the individual and their family members. We do not have that right as the law exists in the State of South Dakota today.

What I am asking for is that every military member and their families write to their state Representatives, the Governor, and the Attorney General to get this law changed. I'm also asking anyone that has an older family member or getting over age 65 to please write into the state and the representatives to get this law changed.

This law can affect everyone. It needs to be changed!! The Capital's Address at Pierre is 615 East 4th Street, Pierre, SD 57501-1700.

**Rita Wellnitz
Owner of Rita's Home Care
Milbank, SD**

LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

The Plain Talk encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it asks that a few simple guidelines be followed.

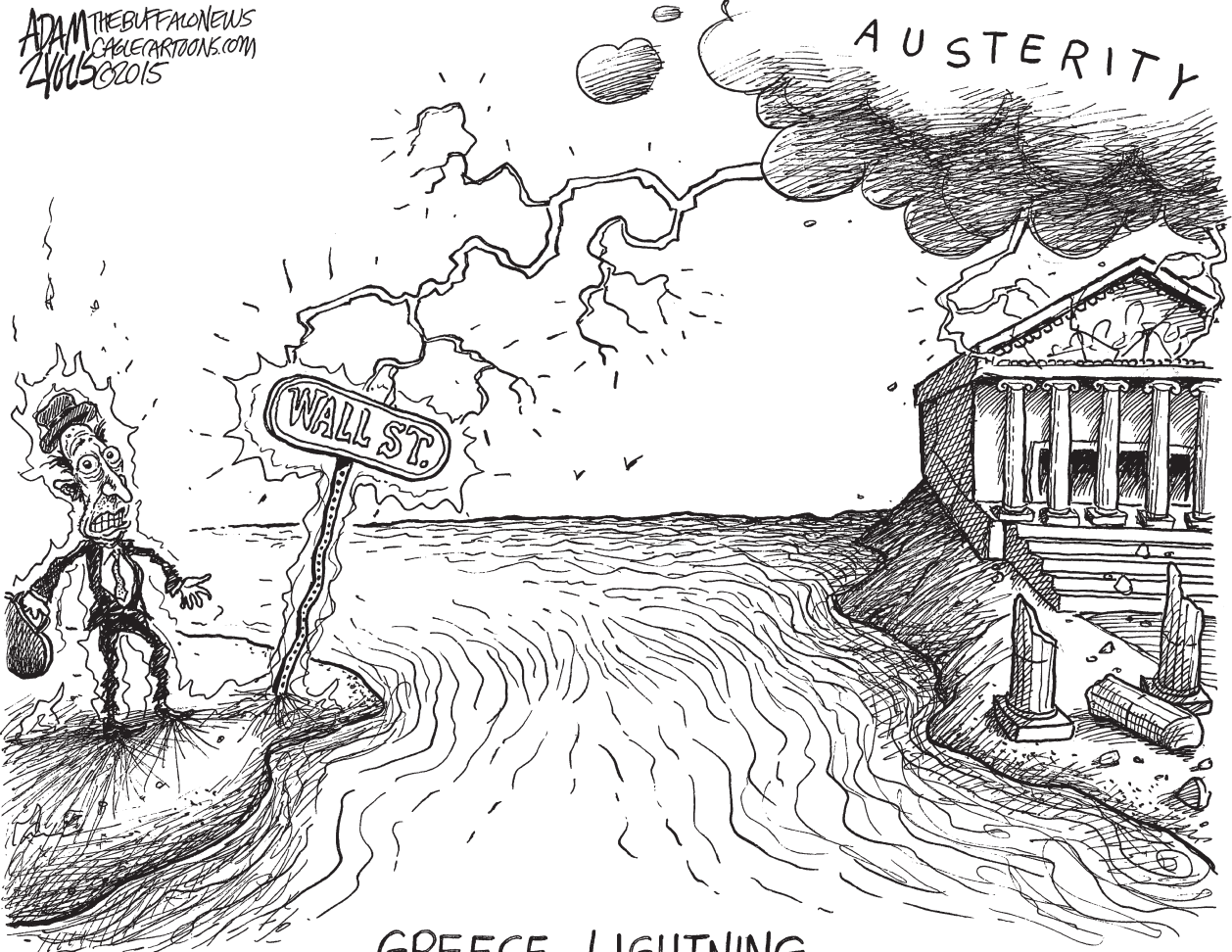
Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.

In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the Plain Talk will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

Specific individuals or

entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters to the Editor, 201 W. Cherry St., Vermillion, SD 57069, drop off at 201 W. Cherry in Vermillion, fax to 624-4696 or e-mail to shauna.marlette@plaintalk.net.



GREECE LIGHTNING...

Curiosity And Rabies: Discovering Vaccinations

BY RICHARD P. HOLM MD

The sum of all the world's knowledge in medical Science comes from people with open minds who look with curious eyes at the messy world about them. Louis Pasteur, born in rural France late in 1822, grew up to become one of those scientists whose curiosity made all the difference.

Starting with a knowledge of chemistry and a new tool called the microscope, Pasteur showed how different kinds of microorganisms were present when beer and wine ferment, when milk turns sour, and when meat decays.

He helped the French beer and wine industry understand why their

beverages sometimes turned bad, how to prevent contamination, and how to culture the right organisms for the best beer and wine. He showed how to heat milk in order to extend time before souring, which is still called pasteurization.

Not long after that, Pasteur rescued the French silkworm industry from a bacterial worm disease that had been decimating the silk producing worm crop.

Pasteur came to understand a method for vaccination almost by accident. Overworked while studying how chicken cholera can be given from one chicken to another, he took a week off, leaving his vials of infected chicken feces in the window. When he returned he used the old and weakened mate-

rial to infect more chickens. When this didn't make the chickens very sick, he had to start over with newly infected material, and discovered that the chickens already exposed to the weakened material were resistant to infection.

This and another experiment with anthrax in cattle brought Pasteur to refine the process of vaccination, which protects by stimulating the individual immune system.

He is most known for his "vaccination rescue" from rabies and certain death when in 1886 he first saved a young man and then countless people from the bites of rabid animals.

Louis Pasteur, a great and curious man, indeed.

CHAMBER CHAT

CHAMBER CHAT CHAMBER BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Coming this fall: Welding Boot Camp-introductory course for basic welding skills. Tentative start date: Oct. 1, 2015. Classes meet Tues. & Thurs. evenings (approximately 2 hours per class) for a total of 35 hours at the Vermillion High School. Tuition is \$250. Tuition reimbursement is available for those who obtain a welding job with a Clay County employer. Register early to save your spot—class size limited to first 10 applicants. Call the Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Co. at 605-624-5571 or email: vcdc@vermillionchamber.com. Sponsored by VDCD, in partnership with Masaba and the Vermillion School District.

THIS WEEKS HAPPENINGS ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Give a rescued cat a loving home! Heartland Humane Society (HHS) offers cuddly cats ready to go home with you during "4-Legged Felines for \$40" Adoption Event. HHS has a variety of cats and kittens with unique personalities. They are having a special for the month of July to encourage adoption: 4-Legged Felines for \$40 from July 1-Fri., July 31. For more information on this event, contact HHS at 605-664-4244 or email hhs@midconet-work.com. View all animals available for adoption on www.heartlandhumanesociety.net or on Petfinder.com.

• The Clay-Union Foundation is seeking youth age 5-17, and adult volunteer mentors. Three matches have been made recently, and volunteers spend 2 hours/week with

their match. Apply online at www.clay-unionfoundation.org or call John Gille's cell: 605-421-5050. All volunteers are background checked and interviewed, both adults and youth gain from being in the program.

• The Main Street Center will again be having a coupon fundraiser in cooperation with Vermillion Hy-Vee for the benefit of the Center. Take one or more coupons to the store and hand to the cashier when ready to checkout. The cashier will record your total groceries purchased on the coupon and the Center will then receive a percent of the sale. The grocery receipt is yours to keep for your record. Use a coupon anytime items are purchased at Hy-Vee from Thurs., July 9-Sat., July 11. Printed coupons will be available at the Center on Thurs. & Fri. until 3:00 pm. The executive board & members of the Main Street Center wish to remind you that all donations and contributions to the Center throughout the year are very much appreciated. The continued success of the Center depends upon our community- and support from each of you.

SATURDAY, JULY 11
• Vermillion Area Farmers Market, Sat., July 11 at Ratingen Platz in downtown Vermillion from 9-noon. Call 605-659-3399 or email VAFarmersMarket@gmail.com for more information.

• Overeaters Anonymous: Sat., July 11 @ 9:00 am. Location: Newman Center-USD Campus, 320 E. Cherry across from the MUC at the corner of Rose & Cherry St. (West Door-straight through double glass doors on left & first door on left; North Door-down hall to left & first door on left). Description: Overeaters Anonymous is a

12 step program for people with eating disorders & struggles.

• Musical variety show at Gayville Hall in Gayville, SD, Sat., July 11 @ 8:00 pm featuring "The Hay Country Jamboree." Call 605-267-2859 for ticket information.

NEXT WEEKS HAPPENINGS SUNDAY, JULY 12

• Pancake Sunday at the Main Street Center, 320 W Main Street; 9:30 am - 12:30 pm; July 12 (2nd Sunday of Month)

• East River & Missouri Valley Bluegrass Music Association to feature "Monthly Open Jam," Sun., July 12 (2nd Sun. of each month) from 1:00-6:00 pm at Washington Street Arts Center, 202 Washington St. All levels welcome-open to pickers & listeners. Event is free & open to the public. For more information, call 1-877-621-4118 (toll free)

• USD Dept. of Music hosts USD Summer Music Camp for middle & high-schoolers, Sun., July 12-Fri., July 17 at Warren M. Lee Center for Fine Arts
MONDAY, JULY 13
• Spiderman Science at Vermillion Public Library, Mon., July 13, 11-12:00 pm. For more information, call 677-7060

• Welcome Table serves a free meal on Mondays at the First United Methodist Church, 16 N. Dakota St. Public is invited to enjoy fellowship & food prepared & served by volunteer groups, Mon., July 13, 5:30-7:00 pm. Groups interested in volunteering to serve at the Welcome Table can contact John Lushbough at 605-670-0958 or email: jlushbough@gmail.com. For more information, visit: www.welcometable.org

• Al-anon meeting at St.

Paul's Episcopal Church, Mon., July 13 @ 7:30 pm. For more information, call 624-9764

TUESDAY, JULY 14

• Speaker Glenn Shepard will be presenting a half-day seminar "How to Supervise People and Lead a Team" at Mount Marty College Roncalli Center in Yankton on Tues., July 14 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. The Yankton Chamber is hosting the event and has extended the discounted price of \$129 per person for Vermillion Chamber Members, non-chamber members cost is \$149 per person. If you are interested in participating in this training opportunity please call the Yankton Chamber at 605-665-3636.

• Vermillion Rotary Club meeting, Tues., July 14 @ 12:00 pm in the Al Neuharth Media Center conference room. For more information, visit: www.vermillionrotary-club.org.

• Superhero Movie at Vermillion Public Library, Tues., July 14 @ 1:00 pm - Kozak Room

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

• The Dakota Classic Cruisers Car Club and SODAC's Cruise Group are hosting the Tri State Drive In Cruisers in Downtown Vermillion. The "Cruise In" is Wed., July 15 beginning at 5:00 pm and will bring in 100 or more classic, antique and hot rod cars to Downtown Vermillion. Come on out to enjoy the classic cars! Main Street will be closed from the Bank of the West entrance to Market Street.

THURSDAY, JULY 16

• Vermillion Area Farmers Market, Thurs., July 16, 3:00-7:00 pm at Clay County Fairgrounds. Call 605-659-3399 or email VAFarmers-Market@gmail.com for more information.