

## Science under siege

### *Editorial*

University science is apparently under siege from industry science. There are also significant conflicts between science and religion in science education. Funding for basic research and science education in the federal budget is declining. Scientists associated with research in global warming are being subjected to controversial investigations by congressmen opposed to their conclusions.

The Data Quality Act and the Shelby Amendment — obscure riders attached to appropriations bills by Republican legislators allow anyone objecting to federal regulation of their activities to challenge every piece of evidence considered by regulators and to procure all data resulting from publicly funded research. Industry groups can attack, undermine or dispute academic research and generate uncertainty to avoid regulation.

The teaching of the theory of evolution has led to the development of creationism and intelligent design as alternative explanations for the diversity of living things. Some states have demanded these alternatives be presented alongside evolution.

These alternatives have been pro-

pounded by decent people trying to make sense of the world and to live good lives. It is sad they have come to believe they must reject modern science to do so.

The Endangered Species Act is under attack by libertarians, property owners and commercial developers. The act has forced accommodation between development and exploitation versus nature and wilderness that has made us behave in ways that lead to a healthier environment for everyone. Scientific research and development and science education underpin our economic and national security.

We cannot afford to abolish or weaken scientific research and education for temporary profits or religious beliefs. Current and future generations depend on them for their well-being and security.

Stillwater News-Press