

February 10, 2009

Mr. Paul V. Sheridan  
22357 Columbia Street  
Dearborn, MI 48124-3431

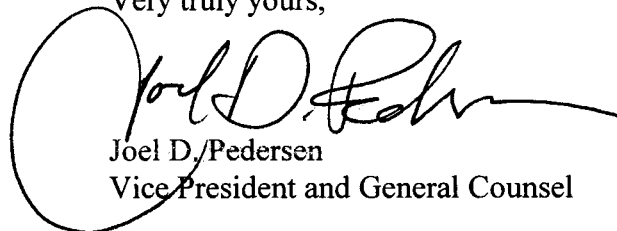
Dear Mr. Sheridan:

The President's office referred your letter concerning the University of Nebraska to me for review. I sincerely apologize for the delay in responding and the oversight was entirely mine.

I do thank you for your shared concern about the University, and we appreciate your sincere intentions for protecting the reputation and well being of this institution. I have tried to contact you by phone to acknowledge your efforts in this regard, but we have not yet been able to have that conversation. Please accept this letter with my gratitude for your attention to this matter. I will take your concerns and the information you provided under advisement.

I thank you again for your interest in the University of Nebraska.

Very truly yours,



Joel D. Pedersen  
Vice President and General Counsel

Sheridan Response 02102009 JDP

22357 Columbia Street  
Dearborn, MI 48124-3431  
313-277-5095  
[pvs6@Cornell.edu](mailto:pvs6@Cornell.edu)

14 July 2008

VIA FEDEX AIRBILL 8618 – 8909 – 1758 <sup>A</sup>

[Dr. James B. Milliken, President](#)

University of Nebraska  
3835 Holdrege  
Lincoln NE 68583  
(402) 472-8636  
[president@nebraska.edu](mailto:president@nebraska.edu)

**Subject: Confirmation/Denial of Claim Made in Film, “Who Killed John O’Neill?”**

Dear Dr. Milliken:

Thank you for serving at one of the finest institutions of higher learning. Many owe gratitude to our university system. As a Cornell graduate much of [my gratitude is focused](#) on service to common citizens.

Deployment of education, individually or collectively, for the primary purpose of “success oriented” self-aggrandizement is [unethical](#). Such behavior leads to individual pusillanimity and inveracity. This in-turn leads to social discord and potentially national collapse. Many are concerned that academia, particularly the so-called elite academia, has ignored or even encouraged this improper deployment. I am familiar with the common citizens of the heartland including Nebraska; it is well known that self-aggrandizement is not intrinsic to their values. It is in this context, among others, that I request the subject.

Enclosed is the documentary film, [“Who Killed John O’Neill?”](#) At the beginning, the voiceover states:

*“On July 3, 1979 the C.I.A. gave birth to Islamic Fundamentalism, when President Carter signed a directive for United States intelligence to provide radical Islamic thinking and arms to Afghan fighters, before the Soviet Union invaded. This is documented in a 1998 interview with [Zbigniew Brzezinski](#), Carter’s National Security Advisor.”* <sup>B</sup>

Later, at approximately nine minutes, the main character states:

*“The C.I.A. created Islamic Fundamentalism in 1979. It was a way to draw the Soviet Union into a war with Afghanistan. It gave the Soviets their Viet Nam War. It destroyed their economy and dispelled support of Communism. During the war the U.S., U.K. and Pakistan all supported a group of Arab fighters known as the Mujahedeen. Two of the freedom-fighters were Ramzi Yousef, and Osama Bin Laden.*

***Books printed by the University of Nebraska, and paid for by the U.S. Department of Education, taught the Mujahedeen radical theories of Islam and treated them to math problems and literature exercises riddled with allusions to guns, bombs, tanks. Just overall general killing! You know, they trained them to be violent, and then they wonder why they become terrorists.”***

The subject focuses on the **“Books printed by the University of Nebraska”** statement/claim.

14 July 2008

Dr. James B. Milliken, President  
Page Two of Two

The enclosed DVD has been in the public domain for several years and viewed by millions worldwide. To the best of my knowledge it is the only film that specifically identifies a connection between the terrorist(s), officially declared responsible for September 11, 2001, and academia: the University of Nebraska.

[Recent events in Pakistan](#) and [Afghanistan](#) confirm the imbroglio of the so-called “war on terror.” The Bush Administration recently declared that we would be “safer” with the capture of [Osama bin Laden](#). In light of these ongoing events, the connection to your university as presented in *Who Killed John O’Neill* must be addressed. High-level politically motivated diatribe must also be dispelled.<sup>C</sup> Assuming this connection has no credibility, it is in your professional interest as university President to correct the public record. I am confident that a similar interest exists with your Board of Regents, staff, student body, alumni body, and the common citizens of Nebraska.<sup>D</sup>

### Specific Confirmation Request

Please confirm or deny the portent of the statement made in the film, “*Who Killed John O’Neill?*” Specifically, please confirm or deny that funds from the Department of Education, or any other internal or any other external source, were forwarded to and deployed by the University of Nebraska for the purpose of printing books or any other printed materials, using University printing assets or the printing assets of an agent, which contained training information for use in Afghanistan and/or by the Mujahedeen. Again, the statement which defines the issue in-question :

*“Books printed by the University of Nebraska, and paid for by the U.S. Department of Education, taught the Mujahedeen radical theories of Islam and treated them to math problems and literature exercises riddled with allusions to guns, bombs, tanks. Just overall general killing! You know, they trained them to be violent, and then they wonder why they become terrorists.”*

Please address the claim, which has been broadly disseminated into the public record, that your University was involved, in some way, with the training of the Mujahedeen, al Qaeda and/or Osama bin Laden.

### Conclusion

The events relevant to the subject occurred prior-to your duties as President at the University of Nebraska, and therefore presumably do not involve any member of your administration. I recognize that a reasonable amount of research time would be prudent prior to your response. My intention is to follow-up within 15 business days after SPOD receipt of this letter. Please accept my thanks in-advance, and do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Respectfully,

Paul V. Sheridan

Enclosure/Attachments

Courtesy Copy List

<p><a href="#">Mr. Paul Rieckhoff</a>  <a href="#">Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America</a>            770 Broadway, 2nd Floor            New York, NY 10003            (212) 982-9699</p>	<p><a href="#">Dr. Robert M. Gates</a>            Secretary of Defense            1000 Defense Pentagon            Washington, DC 20301            (703) 545-6700</p>
<p><a href="#">Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI)</a>            269 Russell Senate Office Building            District of Columbia 20510-2202            (202) 224-6221</p>	<p><a href="#">Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI)</a>            506 Hart Senate Office Building            District of Columbia 20510-4904            (202) 224-5323</p>
<p><a href="#">Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY)</a>            476 Russell Senate Office Building            District of Columbia 20510-3204            (202) 224-4451</p>	<p><a href="#">Sen. James Webb (D-VA)</a>            144 Russell Senate Office Building            District of Columbia 20510-4604            (202) 224-4024</p>
<p><a href="#">Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL)</a>            713 Hart Senate Office Building            District of Columbia 20510-1305            (202) 224-2854</p>	<p><a href="#">Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)</a>            241 Russell Senate Office Building            District of Columbia 20510-0303            (202) 224-2235</p>
<p><a href="#">Mayor Michael Bloomberg</a>            City Hall / 2 Lafayette St            New York, NY 10007            (212) 639-9675</p>	<p><a href="#">Governor David A. Paterson</a>            State Capitol            Albany, NY 12224            (518) 474-8390</p>
<p><a href="#">Ms. Lynne V. Cheney</a>, Chairman Emeritus            American Council of Trustees/Alumni            1726 M Street, NW - Suite 802            Washington, DC 20036-4525            (202) 467-6787</p>	<p><a href="#">Ms. Anne D. Neal</a>, President            American Council of Trustees/Alumni            1726 M Street, NW - Suite 802            Washington, DC 20036-4525            (202) 467-6787</p>
<p><a href="#">Mr. Larry Silverstein</a>  <a href="#">Silverstein Properties</a>            7 World Trade Center            New York, NY 10007            (212) 490 0666</p>	<p><a href="#">Dr. David J. Skorton</a>, President            300 Day Hall            Cornell University            Ithaca, NY 14853            (607) 255-5201</p>
<p><a href="#">Dr. France A. Córdova</a>, President  <a href="#">Purdue University</a>            Hovde Hall / 610 Purdue Mall            West Lafayette, IN 47907-2040            (765) 494-4600</p>	<p><a href="#">Dr. Mark Huddleston</a>, President            University of New Hampshire            Thompson Hall            Durham, NH 03824            (603) 862-2450</p>
<p><a href="#">Ms. Katie Steiner</a>, Editor            Daily Nebraskan            20 Nebraska Union / 1400 R St.            Lincoln, NE 68588-0448            (402) 472-1763</p>	<p><a href="#">Mr. Michael Nelson</a>            Journal Star            926 P Street            Lincoln, NE 68508            (402) 473-7334</p>
<p><a href="#">Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX)</a>            203 Cannon House Office Building            District of Columbia 20515-4314            (202) 225-2831</p>	<p><a href="#">Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH)</a>            2445 Rayburn House Office Building,            District of Columbia 20515-3510            (202) 225-5871</p>
<p><a href="#">Mr. John Feal</a>            FealGood Foundation            144 Shenandoah Blvd            Nesconset, New York 11767  <a href="mailto:Feal13@aol.com">Feal13@aol.com</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Mr. Jon Vanderford</a>            News Anchor/KOLN/KGIN-TV            840 North 40th            Lincoln, NE 68503            (402) 467-4321</p>

## Endnotes

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<sup>A</sup> The instant letter is also available at the following internet addresses which provide the links included (indicated by underline) but not conveniently addressable in the hard-copy edition: <http://links.veronicachapman.com//NebraskaMillikenSPOD.pdf> or <http://links.veronicachapman.com//NebraskaMillikenSPOD.doc>

<sup>B</sup> In 1979 I was one-of-four graduate students that represented Cornell University at the [Washington Campus Program \(WCP\)](#) in Washington, D. C. The primary theme of WCP was the Big Business/Big Government interface. WCP included seminars, coursework, and visitations to live sessions of the federal government, including the White House. I graduated from the Cornell University [Johnson Graduate School of Management](#) in May 1980. On this basis and several others, [I am very familiar with the events of that 1979/1980 era.](#)

<sup>C</sup> Ironically, Second Lady Lynne Cheney, co-founder of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), recently declared in a widely distributed report that American academia was [“the weak link in the war against terror.”](#) In its original mission statement ACTA states that its purpose is:

*“ . . . to support liberal arts education, uphold high academic standards, safeguard the free exchange of ideas on campus, and ensure that the next generation receives a philosophically-balanced, open-minded, high-quality education at an affordable price.”*

This ACTA mission statement is based in-part on the 1915 [AAUP ‘Declaration of Principles on Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure.’](#) In this context please note that I am forwarding a courtesy copy of this letter to the Second Lady at her ACTA address.

<sup>D</sup> It is well-known that a majority of the American patriotic men and women in-uniform are from the ranks of the common citizenry. In this context please note that I am forwarding a courtesy copy of this letter to [Iraq War veteran and Director of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Mr. Paul Rieckhoff.](#)



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