Al Seckel’s subpoenaed Cornell records consist entirely of info pertaining to the three semesters he spent there (‘Summer Session Special 1976,” Fall 1976 Semester and Fall 1978 Semester).  In the summer session for 1976 he took “Physics I Mech & Heat” and got an “F.”  For the Fall 1976 semester (it indicates he was in the Engineering Dept.) he got a B+ in “Science in West Civ” and an “NA”(not attending) in calculus.  He also repeated the physics course he flunked in the summer session and this time got an “NGR” (“No Grade Reported—instructor has not turned in a grade for this course”).

For the “Extramural Division Fall 1978” session he took only one course “GERLA” (German language?) and got a D+.  That, according to these records, is the extent of his stellar career at Cornell.

Admission Committee Action notes indicate that he was admitted 8/26/78 as a “Special Student,” but this appears to be some sort of provisional admission rather than an indication of any advanced standing. In Nov. 1976 the notes indicate that he applied for transfer to Arts for the Spring 1977 semester, but in Jan 1977 that transfer was denied.  A July 1976 letter to him from the Associate Dean indicates that he was admitted The College of Engineering as a Special Student in the Division of Basic Studies and states that he needs to fully understand what that means.  It states:

“As a Special Student you have been admitted without progressing through the usual admission procedures, and without having your qualifications considered by the Admissions Office or by Admissions personnel in the College of Engineering. There is no assurance that you will be able to continue at Cornell beyond the Fall semester 1976. As a Special Student, you are not a candidate for any Cornell degree, and there is no assurance that courses that you take will be accepted in the future toward any Cornell degree.

I am assuming that you will be applying for admission to the College of Arts and Sciences or elsewhere within Cornell. If and when you are accepted elsewhere, you should petition that the courses that you have completed be accepted to meet the requirements of the appropriate degree.

I wish you every success in the Fall semester, and hope that you will be able to gain admission to the college of your choice.”

He ranked 698 out of his 792 student high school graduating class.

In his application for admission he writes:

“I hope to be accepted here in the fall as a special student, whereupon I shall do my very best to excel in very subject.  In the fall of 77 I wish to transfer into the regular program at Cornell and go in for a double major of Physics and Math {where have we heard that before?} Physics and Math is [sic] my life and I am considered by all my teachers and my fiends to be very well conceptually [sic] orientated [sic] in both diclpins [sic].”  The admissions office circled these numerous misspellings.