

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Johnny Cowan: My Humble Apology

Lawrence, Kansas (November 16, 2015 at 10:30am) - Greetings to all students, staff, faculty, administration, donors and every other title of any individual involved with the University of Kansas, my name is Johnny Cowan. I am the privileged white male holding a hunger strike on campus since Friday, Nov 13th at 10:30am. This statement marks the 73rd hour of my hunger strike.

I was hoping to clarify a few things, as well as deeply apologize for my actions last year on Nov 5th, 2014.

First, I would love the opportunity to make it unavoidably clear that my actions this year are completely and exclusively in attempts to keep victims and survivors of sexual and racist violence and discrimination (as well as any and all other forms of violence or discrimination that are experienced on this campus daily) at the center of the overall discussion. None of my actions this year are in hopes of garnering attention for anyone other than them.

Secondly, I would be so graciously appreciative of the opportunity to apologize for my actions last year. I never intended to bring fear to anyone but the rapists and their sympathizers. Arguably I broke no laws when demonstrating last year, however I caused a certain level of fear and panic. Not only that, but I had unintentionally shifted the focus from survivors to myself, because of my lack of experience in dealing with these highly sensitive issues.

Because of my lack of understanding of this, and a passionate urge to do something about the issue, I complicated things for and frustrated the members of this university who had already dedicated countless hours to fighting this fight through the professional channels. For that I am greatly sorry.

Lastly, I apologize to any honest reporters who I am unavailable to speak with any longer this year. This is because of the actions of a few reporters who attempted to sensationalize their stories by making their reports about something other than the heart of the issue: victims and survivors.

I thank each and every one of you who have so graciously offered your support this year. I could not have done this without it. You are all the real heroes. I'm just some kid sitting on his white ass.

This is why I am choosing to cease my hunger strike. It's not my place to act without guidance of oppressed people.

**I am not affiliated with Rock Chalk Invisible Hawk or any other groups.
I am unavailable for further comment. Refrain from contacting me with press opportunities.**

END