

On Monday, November 12th, 2018. I woke up to find myself in a national news story. This mistake has caused pain for many people. For that, I am deeply sorry.

Prior to Prom, in May of 2018, I took part in group pictures outside the Sauk County Courthouse. Pictures were being taken by parents and family members of the Prom participants. Large group photos were being organized by a local photographer. During the photos of the boys group, a picture was taken that many have interpreted as anti-semitic. As we were about to take that photo, the photographer instructed the boys to give a "high-sign". There was confusion and a lot of laughter and joking during the course of all the photos, including this particular photo. The photographer instructed us to extend our arms out, no one knew what a "high-sign" was. I asked another student next to me "what are we doing", he responded "stick your arm out". This incident lasted about 20 seconds. There was never any mention of a salute or anything regarding Nazis or anti-semitism.

Looking at the picture now, I understand why people believe it is related to anti-semitism. As an outsider, I would have the same impression. That was never the intent at that time. In this picture are many of my friends (not everyone in the picture), that I know are not racist and do not hold Nazi views.

I want to apologize to anyone that this incident has hurt; individuals that have been victims of racism, anti-semitism, and/or xenophobia. I would also like to apologize to the people of Baraboo, Baraboo High School, and my family. I am deeply sorry.

Brock Turkington