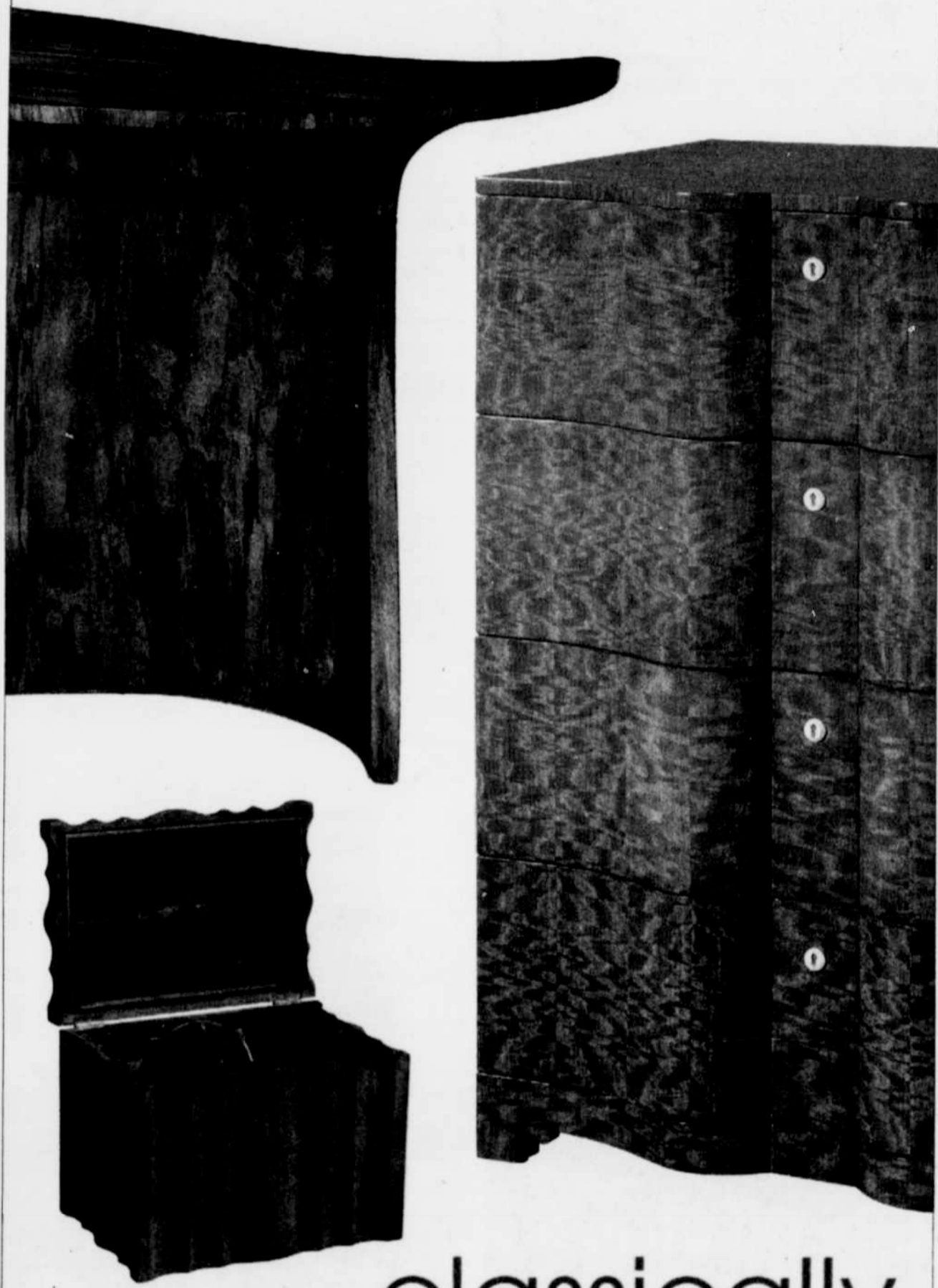


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Kick-Ass Karma

Newport man takes a beating to stop
anti-gay assault

BY ERIN ROOK

Portland Police have charged two men in a June 25 assault in Northwest Portland against a gay man and the good Samaritan who stepped in to help.

Shawn Siefke, 28, and Christian Sanchez-Villavencio, 21, allegedly stopped a 30-year-old gay man to ask for directions near NW Second and NW Flanders at about 3 a.m. Saturday morning before pushing him to the ground and hurling gay slurs, according to police.

The attack on the gay man, who told police he did not want his identity publicized, was cut short when passerby Andrew Smith, 24, of Newport, stepped in to defend him. Siefke and Sanchez-Villavencio then allegedly turned on Smith, throwing punches and kicking him in the head while he was face down on the ground, according to a report from KOIN 6.

"I stepped in to help the man because I thought to myself, what if that was my little brother?" Smith told KOIN 6.

While police don't encourage people to get directly involved in crimes in progress—being a "good witness" and calling police are the recommended approach—Simpson said if people decide to step in like Smith did, it's important that they take into account their experience and comfort level.

"He put himself at risk [in a way] that a lot of people wouldn't do," Sergeant Pete Simpson said. "He knew the risks and was willing to get involved.... By all accounts, he did the right thing."

After the other victim called 911, police questioned the men and broadcast a description of the suspects, who were arrested



Shawn Siefke (left) and Christian Sanchez-Villavencio (right) were both charged with assault in the third degree.

when they returned to the area while police were still interviewing the victims.

Simpson said the gay victim's minor injuries were treated on the scene, while Smith and Siefke were taken to the hospital for further treatment. KOIN 6 reported that Smith received a CAT scan before being released with non-life threatening injuries.

Siefke and Sanchez-Villavencio were both charged with third-degree assault and Siefke was charged with second-degree intimidation. Siefke is being held without bail at the Multnomah County Detention Center on a U.S. Marshal hold. According to Deputy U.S. Marshal Cory Cunningham, Siefke's arrest violated his pre-trial supervision in an unrelated ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) matter. Sanchez-Villavencio was being held on \$7,500 bail, but has since been released.

Assault in the third degree is a felony charge that typically involves assault with a deadly or dangerous weapon, with "extreme indifference to the value of human life" and/

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