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## Man steps forward, says he was victim of hate



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By Jeff Jaeger KATU News and KATU.com Staff

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PORTLAND, Ore. - A 22-year-old Portland man says he was shocked and appalled when a group of men attacked him simply because of his race.

The incident happened along Northeast Fremont at 42nd Avenue, in the middle of the Beaumont neighborhood.

Bao Vuong, a Vietnamese-American, said he was stopped at a light there when four white men who were sitting on a bench started yelling racial slurs at him.

"I just ignored them and I guess they were upset at me and they started throwing stuff. They started throwing bagels at my car," said Vuong.

He said he kept ignoring them but it only fueled their rage.

"One of them stood up and came over aggressively to my car and started punching my car and started swinging at me," he said.

Vuong was able to drive away uninjured but as the former president of the Vietnamese Student Association at Portland State University, he is baffled by what happened.

"More than anything, I'm just kind of sad for the community that this kind of stuff is still around," he said. "I mean, it's 2009 and in Portland. I'm really at a disbelief."

Vuong hopes talking about his experience will get conversations started.

"There's not going to be an immediate solution but by speaking about it, I'm hoping we can do something to lessen it," he said.

Portland police have sent the case to their Bias Crimes Task Force. So far, none of the suspects have been arrested.

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