



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2009

# The Seattle Times



75¢ \$1.00 outside King, Pierce, Snohomish, Kitsap counties

Independent and locally owned since 1896 | [seattletimes.com](http://seattletimes.com)  
1.6 million readers weekly in Western Washington, in print and online

## SUSPECT SHOT AS CITY MOURNS SLAIN OFFICER

### POLICE SAY UW CRIMINAL-JUSTICE GRAD FLED AND DREW GUN ON DETECTIVES



UW PHOTO, 2007

**SUSPECT:** Christopher John Monfort was a member of the University of Washington's McNair Scholars Program.

*Seattle Times staff*

While a massive memorial service for slain Officer Timothy Brenton neared its finish at KeyArena on Friday afternoon, fellow officers with the Seattle Police Department shot a man they believe to be responsible for Brenton's death.

The shooting occurred in Tukwila at 2:50 p.m., about a half-hour before the memorial service concluded.

The suspect, 41, was shot in the head and taken to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, according to Interim Seattle Police Chief John Diaz. The man was in critical condition Friday night, a hos-

pital spokeswoman said.

Sources say the man is Christopher John Monfort — a man who has lived in Alaska, California and Washington, compiling an enigmatic history, described by some as reserved, others as outgoing. Monfort's past includes stints as a volunteer for the American Civil Liberties Union and employment as a security guard.

He apparently has no felony history.

In recent years he has been a student — first at Highline Community College in Des Moines, then at the University of Washington, where he was enrolled in a program

aimed at helping minority students go on to graduate work.

Law-enforcement sources said Monfort also is suspected of the Oct. 22 bombing and arson of a Seattle maintenance yard, where three police cars and an RV used as a mobile precinct were damaged.

Before Monfort was identified, police found distinct evidence that leads them to believe the same person was involved in that crime and the Brenton shooting, sources said.

A note threatening to kill police officers was left at the bombing site, according to

sources. One source described the note as containing a general threat against police officers.

News reports at the time said fliers were left at the maintenance yard referring to an anti-police-brutality rally and citing the case of a King County sheriff's deputy accused of assaulting a teenage girl in a SeaTac holding cell.

Early Friday, Seattle and Tukwila police went to an apartment complex in the 13700 block of 56th Avenue South after receiving a tip about a car matching the description of the early 1980s Datsun 210 coupe seen near

the site where Brenton was slain, said a source close to the investigation.

Police found a Datsun, draped with a car cover. They waited until a man approached the vehicle, said Tukwila police spokesman Mike Murphy.

King County sheriff's Sgt. John Urquhart said three detectives confronted the man in the complex's parking lot and asked to speak with him. The man ran away, bolting up an exterior staircase where he turned, pulled out a handgun and pointed it at the officers.

"For some reason, it didn't  
See > **SUSPECT, A7**

## SEATTLE'S SORROW



ALAN BERNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

The remains of slain Seattle police Officer Timothy Brenton are carried from KeyArena by his brother Matthew Brenton at the conclusion of Friday's two-hour memorial service.



JOHN LOK / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Passers-by pay their respects along East Pine Street on Capitol Hill as the funeral procession makes its way to Seattle Center's KeyArena.

BY SARA JEAN GREEN AND STEVE MILETICH  
*Seattle Times staff reporters*

Timothy Brenton was a modest man, the kind of guy who would shrug off praise by cracking a joke.

He also was an excellent police officer — intelligent, tough, dedicated — but a terrible driver, often driving the wrong direction while chasing down a suspect, according to the officers who knew him best.

Memories of Brenton flooded over a crowded KeyArena on Friday as thousands of law-enforcement officers and firefighters from across the state, along with others from Canada, California, Oregon and Idaho, paid tribute to the slain Seattle police officer.

Brenton, 39, "is a hometown hero. He didn't set out to be a hero," said Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels. Brenton's wife Lisa, Nickels said, "tells me that he would be a little chagrined at the fuss we're making today —

See > **MEMORIAL, A6**

**WEB EXTRA: THE MEMORIAL AND THE INVESTIGATION**  
For photo galleries from the service and news updates, go to [seattletimes.com](http://seattletimes.com)

© 2009 Seattle Times Co.  
60% of our newsprint contains recycled fiber, and inks are reused.

