

Seattle Times Blog, 3/2/09

## The Blotter

The Times' criminal justice team looks behind the scenes and behind the headlines.

### [Bicyclist robbed, assaulted by thugs in hockey masks](#)

Posted by [John de Leon](#)

-- *From Times staff reporter Mike Lindblom:*

Cycling activists are wondering how to protect themselves after a bike commuter was robbed of his wallet last week along the Interstate 90 bike route in Seattle.

The crime happened just after 5 p.m. Thursday, as the victim, a Beacon Hill man, was riding through [Sam Smith Park](#), west of the I-90 Mount Baker bike tunnel. The cyclist said he was yanked off his bike by "two hoodlums in all black wearing hockey masks," one of whom punched him in the face.

After contacting police, he wrote a detailed account to online forums at the [Cascade Bicycle Club](#) and [point83.com](#). Between condolences, other cyclists suggested riding in groups, carrying a baton weapon, or going to neighborhood anti-crime meetings.

"If automobile drivers were regularly being pulled from their cars and beaten, there would be a tremendous response from media and police," wrote bicyclist Ben Feigert of Seattle.

Seattle police will assign the case to robbery detectives, spokeswoman Renee Witt said today.

A [similar crime](#) happened along the route last May, when a Seattle University professor was attacked by three teenagers who stole his wallet.