

Former student abducted in Wildcat Store robbery

Two men are being sought in connection with the robbery of Chico State's Wildcat Store Tuesday afternoon and abduction of one of its customers.

Davin Bonette, 22, of Twentynine Palms was found unharmed, but tied to a tree near a Paradise-area campsite at about 10 p.m. Tuesday, said Interim University Police Chief Christopher Nicodemus.

Bonette was a customer at Wildcat Store and was one of about 10 people in the store during the 2 p.m. robbery, Nicodemus said.

After ordering cashiers to turn over the store's money, the two men grabbed Bonette and left the store, Nicodemus said.

"I guess they thought they needed a hostage to aid their getaway or in case police were waiting outside or something," Nicodemus said. "He was at the wrong place at the wrong time."

Witnesses described the men as being nervous, which Nicodemus cited as a possible motive for the abduction.

Following several tips, investigators tracked the suspects to the campsite. The men were with Bonette when police arrived, but ran as officers approached and have yet to be apprehended.

"People had seen a car fitting their description in the area of the campsite," Nicodemus said. "Plus, one of the suspect's family members said he often camped in that area."

Bonette was cold and scared, but had not been harmed by his abductors, he said. He was transported Enloe Medical Center and expected to be released Friday.

A former Chico State student who was in town visiting friends, Bonette said he had stopped by the store to purchase a new T-shirt and was standing in line when the men robbed the store.

"I was so surprised when the guy grabbed me and pulled me out and shoved me in a car," he said. "They had their money. I don't know why they took me."

Bonette was scared, particularly because he had seen the faces of both of his abductors, he said. The men made no attempt to disguise themselves during the robbery, however, so Bonette realized others had also seen their faces.

"I guess I really didn't think they would kill me," he said. "But I was worried they would just leave me there."

The incident was downplayed by Wildcat Store manager Alana Wills, who said she expects no major changes to the store's operating procedures.

"I really don't see this happening again," she said. "Our problems are with shoplifters, not robbers."

As for Bonette, it's unlikely he'll be returning to the Chico State Wildcat Store anytime soon.

"I think from now on I'm just going to order my Chico State T-shirts online," he said.