

STUDENT BULLETIN
BIKE REGISTRATION CATCHES THIEF
California State University, Chico
Police Department
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Operations Captain
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In the early morning hours on 9/17/11, CSU, Chico Police Officer Marc Reed was conducting proactive patrol on the CSU, Chico campus and noticed a suspicious male subject, later identified as Carl Daris Little Bear Ward, walking around aimlessly. Ward did not have a bicycle in his possession at that time. Officer Reed later saw Ward riding a bicycle and stopped him at the intersection of West Sacramento Ave. and Hobart St. for operating a bicycle without a head lamp, a violation of California Vehicle Code Section 21201(d). The bicycle was registered to a CSU, Chico student. The student was contacted and advised officers that no one had been given permission to use his bicycle. Officer Reed arrested Ward for being in possession of stolen property, a violation of California Penal Code Section 496(a). A parole hold was also placed on Ward. The bicycle was returned to its owner.

The CSU, Chico Police Department would like to point out that the victim in this case had not even realized yet that his bicycle was missing. The victim had registered his bicycle, which allowed officers to quickly determine the identity of the registered owner, make an arrest, and return the stolen bicycle to its owner.

In addition to facilitating the return of stolen property, bicycle registration also proves ownership in cases where a bicycle is accidentally locked to another bicycle, a bicycle lock jams, or the key to a bicycle lock is lost. CSU, Chico Police Department staff is unable to cut a bicycle lock unless ownership can be proven; the most effective way to prove ownership is through bicycle registration.

Per California Vehicle Code Section 39002(a), bicycles must be registered to be operated in the City of Chico or on the CSU, Chico campus. Bicycles can be registered at the CSU, Chico Police Department. Bicycle registration costs \$10.00, and the registration sticker is valid for three years. For more information on bicycle registration, please visit the CSU, Chico Police Department's website at <http://www.csuchico.edu/up> and click on the "Bike Registration" quick link.