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Behind the football player

University defensive lineman Haloti Ngata discussed his faith at a church event on Thursday

BY AMANDA BOLSINGER
NEWS REPORTER

Many people know Haloti Ngata as number 96 on the football team, a 6-foot-5, 345-pound force on the field. He was one of the University's highest-rated national recruits and is among the University's strongest defensive linemen.

What people may not know is that Ngata is also a dedicated member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Ngata joined elders and missionaries in a church presentation on Thursday in the EMU aimed at raising awareness and giving students an opportunity to learn about the religion. Ngata spoke and introduced the other speakers throughout the meeting. He was asked to participate because he is a public figure and because of his strong faith, said Josh Alder, a University senior and elder with the church.

"He is quiet, soft-spoken and has strong beliefs that guide his life," said T. Wayne Hunsaker, director of the Institute of Religion.

Ngata grew up in Utah, jokingly referred to as "the homeland" by other members of the faith. When it came time to pick a university, a tug of war ensued, as most Pacific-10 Conference schools, including Brigham Young University, University of Nebraska — Lincoln, Ohio State, University of Michigan and Texas A&M University tried to recruit him. Ngata verbally committed to Nebraska and BYU before signing a letter of intent for Oregon. The details of Ngata's recruitment were still blurry, but one thing was clear: The Ducks had signed the number two recruit in the nation.

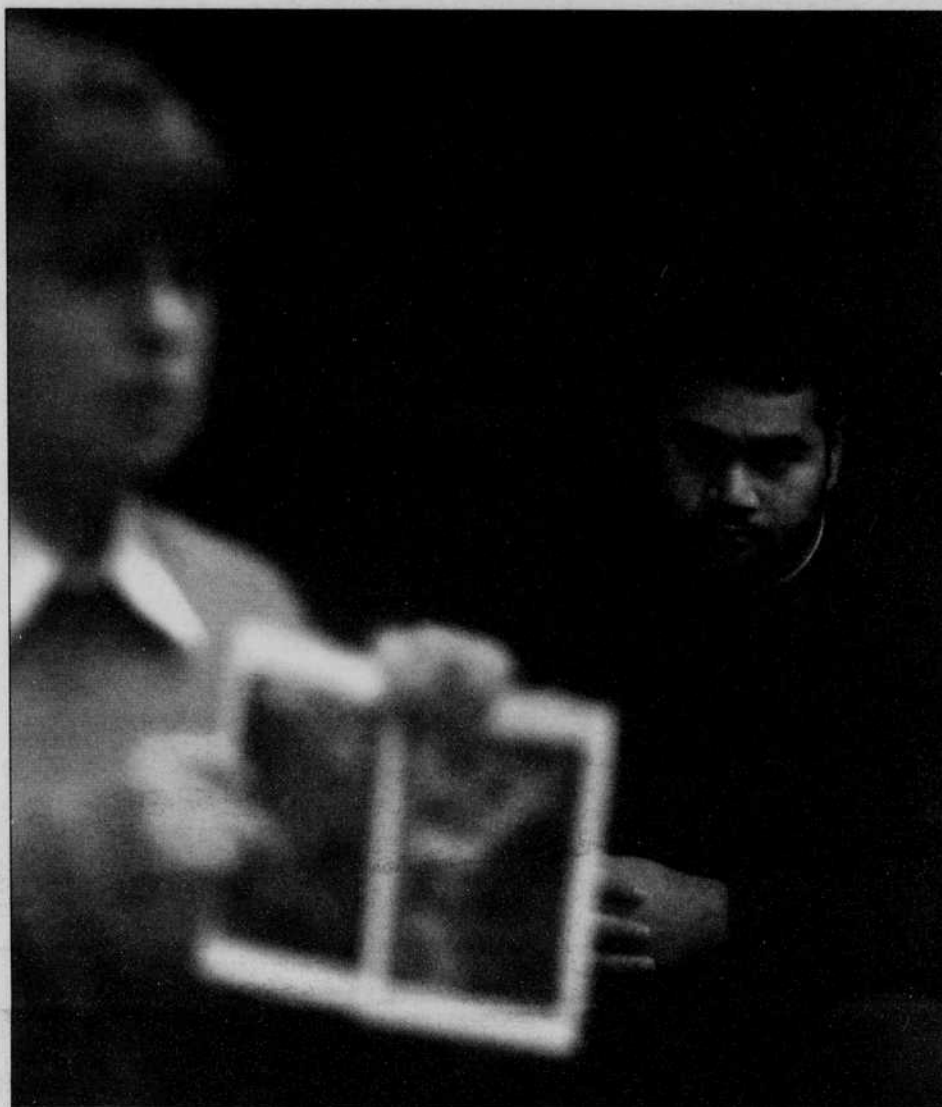
Ngata says he was very active in the church when he first arrived in Oregon, but during his sophomore year he drifted away.

"I began drifting away and that's when I had my injury," Ngata said. "The only place I could feel comfort and peace was coming back to the church."

Ngata considered going on a mission during the time he was injured but instead chose to stay at the University and continue playing football.

"Right now I'm not thinking about a mission," Ngata said. "I feel like I can show the church through athletics."

Now Ngata describes himself as "fully active" in the church. He goes to weekly meetings and



NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Haloti Ngata listens as Jennifer Potts speaks. Haloti, a University football player, and others spoke about their faith Thursday at a presentation by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

activities and attends church on Sundays.

Ngata attends the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the Institute of Religion building on East 16th Avenue and Alder Street. The Institute serves as an education program for young adults in the church and Ngata attends classes there with other University Mormon students. The Institute has about 400 University members, Hunsaker said.

The purpose of Thursday's presentation

was to offer students who are interested in learning more about Mormonism and the church an opportunity to speak with church members and learn about their beliefs and faith.

Ngata said he likes the institute because he enjoys spending time with other members.

"It's fun to be in the student world with other people that can relate," Ngata said.

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Police raid uncovers firearms, meth lab

Authorities obtained a warrant to search the campus-area residence on suspicion of drug trading

BY KARA HANSEN
NEWS REPORTER

Police found an operating methamphetamine lab in a raid on a campus-area apartment Thursday.

Police detonated a flash-bang grenade and with the aid of a SWAT team, entered apartment 14 at 1840 Agate St. around 7 a.m. They found firearms, stolen property and a meth lab inside.

Police arrested the apartment's resident, Anthony Michael Tornaquindici, 47, on charges of violating parole for a previous conviction of unlawful use of a weapon. According to the Eugene Police Department, authorities obtained a warrant to search Tornaquindici's apartment because they suspected he was trading drugs for stolen property.

The flash-bang grenade and SWAT were necessary precautions because of Tornaquindici's history with illegal firearms, according to the EPD.

Ashley Scheitel, 21, lives in a complex adjacent to the apartment and said police teams were present until early in the evening, likely cleaning up toxic chemicals and securing the area.

Police have posted signs on the apartment's door warning of possible chemical contamination, but they believe contamination was limited to the one apartment.

Meth has considerable potential to impact the communities in which it is manufactured, according to the Oregon Department of Human Services Drug Lab Cleanup Program. Byproducts from the manufacture of meth degrade environmental quality, seeping into soil, water and air, and potentially leading to health problems for people living in contaminated areas, according to DHS.

Tornaquindici was booked into Lane County Jail and will be charged with unlawful drug manufacturing and aggravated theft, according to the EPD.

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ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

A sign posted outside apartment 14 at 1840 Agate St. warns against entry to the former residence of Anthony Michael Tornaquindici because of toxic chemicals from a meth lab.

UO, city sponsor student business

With high failure rates for starting businesses, the University offers help to young entrepreneurs

BY EVA SYLWESTER
NEWS REPORTER

When starting a business, prospective entrepreneurs have many things to consider, and the University and Eugene community have many resources available to help those beginning the process.

"At a minimum, a venture must have both the creative and business elements represented," Lundquist Center for Entrepreneurship Director Randy Swangard said in an e-mail. "A great product without sound business fundamentals will not fly. Sound business fundamentals without a great product/service is also in jeopardy."

In addition to sponsoring entrepreneurship classes for admitted business majors, the LCE at the

University's Lundquist College of Business also offers business competitions, clubs, and access to mentorships and internships.

Former University student Chris Althouse said he used LCE's resources. He now owns NRG Entertainment, a mobile disc jockey company that provides music at weddings, company parties, fraternity and sorority functions, and bars. He started the company in July 2003 while still a student.

"I started the business while going to school because I figured, what better way to learn?" Althouse said. He got advice on his business from the center, and he also did class projects about his business.

"It actually provided a learning experience as well as real world ap-

plication," Althouse said.

Althouse said the most difficult part of starting a business was under-capitalization, or not having enough money.

"We're at the point where it doesn't matter that much now, but in the beginning, it was pretty tough," he said.

Althouse described his initial financial strategy as "creative financing."

"I lived off my credit cards a lot and other stuff they tell you not to do," he said.

Althouse said no banks were willing to give him loans because of the relatively high number of disc jockey businesses in the area.

BEFORE YOU START

Before starting a business, consider the following:

1. What is the product or service being offered?
2. Who will buy or use it? What are the demographics of the target market?
3. What makes the business unique? What is its competition?
4. How will customers get the product or service?
5. How big will the business' staff need to be?
6. How will the business make money?

Source: Lundquist Center for Entrepreneurship

Outside the University, other organizations in Eugene are available to help with the financial aspects of starting a business. The City of Eugene's Business Development Fund gives loans to help businesses, filling in the gaps when banks cannot provide loans.

"Because our program is focused on job creation, we look at this as an economic development tool," City of Eugene Planning and Development Department loan analyst Denny Braud said.

"A lot of what we do is more production-oriented," Braud said,

BUSINESS, page 6