

# Forced into Closure

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been the headlining problem for most of the negative attention directed at Reo's, Varnado feels that a darker issue lays at the heart of the matter.

"Prejudice turned everybody against us," said Varnado, who is looking for a new place to open his restaurant, but not likely in the same area. "I don't want to go back because of the way they treated me."

Varnado claims he's received multiple racist threats.

The restaurant owner says he's been spit on, approached, watched, and followed in his car by strangers. "I've felt threatened by people lurking near the restaurant," he said.

While some police officers have served him well, Varnado says he's been harassed about having a permit for his cookers by others. He also says he's

been bullied into shutting down by a health inspector.

"It made me so angry," said Varnado. People have vandalized his cookers-- broken grill pipes, urinated on them and clut-

tered them with broken bottles. impossible for him to operate his business.

In the barbeque business for four years, while his business partner, Scott Richardson, had run the main store for 16 years,

*When people use civic positions and financial leverage to oppress you and take out your business—that's problematic.*

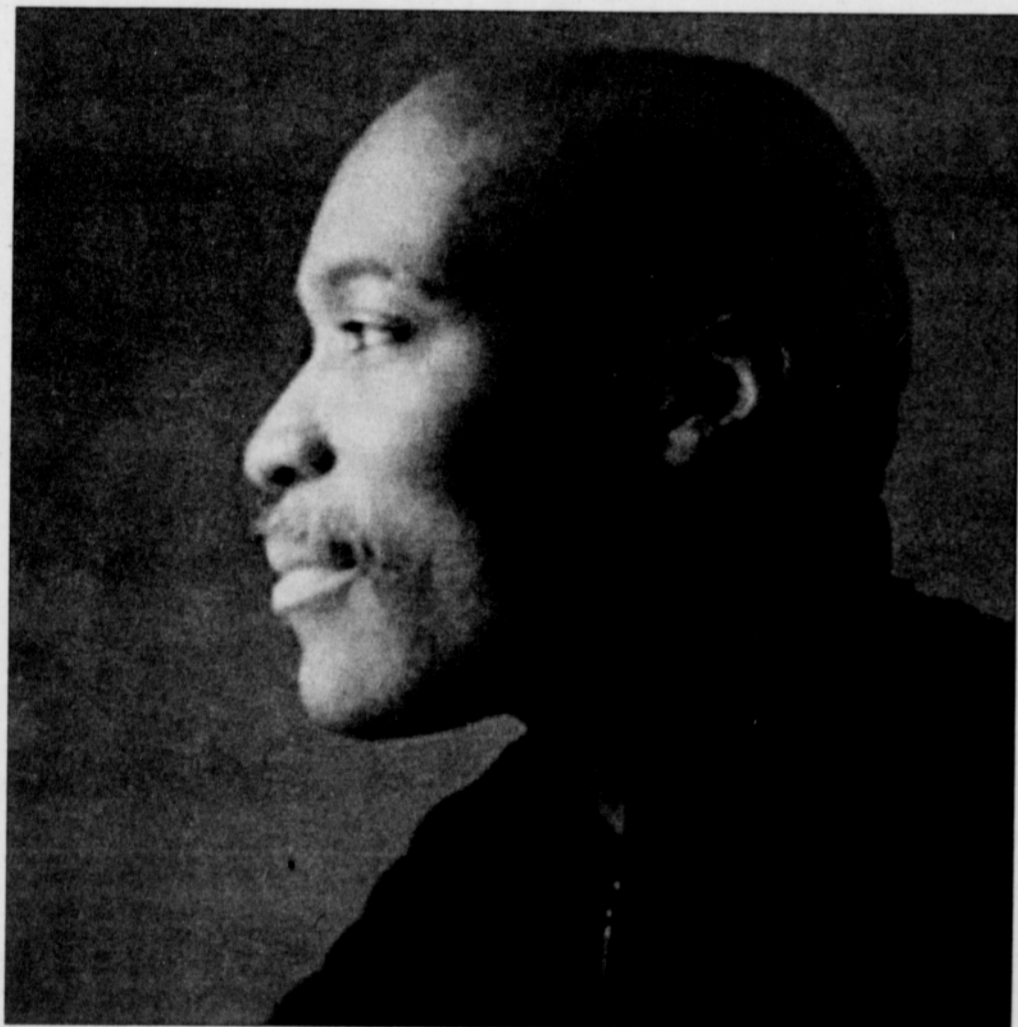
—Tim Causey, co-owner of the Arlington Mart in Gladstone

tered them with broken bottles. "I hate to be mistreated," he said, "I left Mississippi to better myself and I come out here and it's the same stuff."

Varnado, who happens to be black, is not the only restaurant owner who feels like racism played a role in their closure. Tim Causey, co-owner of the Arlington Mart in Gladstone, says people made it

Causey says neighbors filed three or four "legally meritless" cases against them before they were finally shut down by code enforcement for operating their barbeque grill outside.

"When people use civic positions and financial leverage to oppress you and take out your business—that's problematic," he said.



Darrell Grant is a PSU jazz professor and associate dean.

## Music Forward Scholarship Concert

On Friday, Nov. 30, faculty and students from the Portland State University Music Department will present Music Forward, a special holiday concert benefiting PSU Music Scholarships.

The event, a first for PSU's Music Department, will fill every corner of Lincoln Hall's Performance Hall with over 200 faculty and students performing in a 90-minute program of classical, jazz and holiday music.

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