

I am writing this letter as to why I support EO129, which eliminates the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers. I don't know about the other boards on the chopping block, but the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers is a festering blob of dishonesty and stupidity and must go.

This situation reminds me of a situation my father went through in WWII. He was in charge of an infantry division and had an Australian company in attachment. Their bivouac setup was always a pigsty. They tried reorganizing the camp, demands for cleaning the whole mess up several times. Nothing seemed to work. After trying everything and that it was HIS reputation and career on the line this situation was simply not tolerable. Finally, he sent every last man in that company on a field mission. While they were gone he called for some machine gun drills. He had the targets moved to the far side of the camp and called for tracer rounds to be used for the drills. The Aussie camp accidentally caught fire and burned to the ground. They were issued new equipment and set up their site again. He explained to me that this company had the most squared-away bivouac site of the entire battalion for the remainder of his assignment. I believe there is a lesson there for us all to learn. This lesson is that the more you do of what you're doing the more you'll have of what you've got. Sometimes you must simply start over with a thing.

Two specific idioms have guided me through a successful career in the beauty biz for the past 46 years, which includes being in business with my beauty school in Alaska for the past 30 years. Only 5% of all businesses survive thirty years. Part of the reason we're still around is due to following these two idioms. And...(in reference to the second idiom) I really like big, fresh, healthy salads!

"Idiots have two speeds. Lethargy and hysteria."

I moved here in 1992 and tried applying for an instructor's license. The Alaska board of barbers and hairdressers was working on establishing an esthetician license. Instead of designing this license from the ground up they chopped up the cosmetologist license into a hairdressing license, a nail license, and an esthetician license. When I called them at Juneau they said they'd be done with these changes in about three months and to send my credentials. They told me that after they were finished with the changes they would contact me. When I hadn't heard from them I called. They told me that the changes were done and told me to send them my credentials. Since I had already sent them I asked what they did with them. They told me that they threw them away, "We don't keep those you know!" I had to have the governor contact them and make them let me take the state board exam.

This is how I was introduced to the idiocy of the state board.

I was required to teach my hairdressing students facials to test them on facials, to prepare them for the state board exam on facials, my students had to complete a certain number of facials, but when they finally got their license, it was illegal for them to do facials.

The idiocy continued.

When I took my instructor's exam, it was illegal for a school owner or a school employee to administer this exam to me due to the conflict of interest, but that's how the state board did things and I was tested by the owner of a completing school anyway. My instructor exam was hijacked by that school owner for racist reasons as I had to draw the topic for my test from a hat. I drew the topic of "perming". I did not draw the topic of "relaxing", but I was subjected to about 20 minutes of questions regarding relaxers. I guess me being a stupid white boy they thought that I would flounder. I explained relaxers, including three that the examiner had never heard of, broke the products down chemically on the black board and finished my exam.

More idiocy.

I trained my wife as a hairdresser, an esthetician, and an instructor. When she took her state board exam for instructor her test was also illegally administered by the owner of a competing school. This examiner arrived about an hour late and during my wife's exam she was told that they were running late so she needed to wrap things up and conclude the presentation preventing her from doing a summary. When she got her test results she was marked down for not doing her summary.

More idiocy.

At one point there were a couple of school owners on the state board that enacted changes to the state board exams. They had knowledge of these changes because they were the ones making the changes. The other schools were not notified of these changes making it more difficult for the other schools without this secret information to prep their students for the state board exam.

More idiocy.

I tried to get to the bottom of this and I filed a Freedom Of Information Act request but the state board rejected my request and told me "they didn't like doing those", and it invaded the PUBLIC board member's "right to privacy".

More idiocy.

Then, two students contacted me to warn me that "somebody was out to get me" when they attended a party in Wasilla where the chair of the board and another member of the board and a state board examiner declared that they were going to do everything in their power to flunk MY students, thereby giving their students an unfair advantage.

More idiocy.

The chair of the board inserted a big warning on the board's web site warning everyone NOT to do Brazilian Blow Out treatments because they released formaldehyde. That same month this state board member put a \$50 off coupon on their FaceBook page for Brazilian Blow Outs.

More idiocy.

It came to my attention that the chair of the board was renting rooms for licensed professionals, and, taking apprenticeship students, except the non-trained, non-licensed students were the ones renting these rooms. I called the state board to complain and they told me to contact the chair person. I told them that this was idiotic and they responded by explaining to me that "Well, that's the way the system works".

More idiocy.

The state board ALWAYS receives my student's checks but frequently loses the applications attached to these checks. This wastes dozens of my wife's hours of time, the student's time, and increases the stress of these students. Then they say "Ha, that's funny, we found these applications in a different folder". Funny to whom?

More idiocy.

I complained about how the board chopped up the cosmetology license in such an incompetent way since 1992 every-time I had contact with the board. I had many, many reasons, and many, many examples. These didn't matter to the board. Then in 2012 the board started talking about recombining the three licenses back into a cosmetology license and they seemed to have many reasons to do so. (Face-plant!)

More idiocy.

I had a student who never got a score on their requirements of less than a 98%. They took the state board hairdresser exam and got a 0% on the haircut portion of the exam! She took the exam again with the same model, the same comb, same cape, same scissors. This time she got a 3% on the haircut exam. I called the board and told them that I would be attending the next exam since it was being held at my school anyway. During the grading portion of the exam (which isn't even supposed to happen), instead of simply sending in three independent scores they were colluding with each other to come up with matching scores. A new examiner asked about what scores the other examiners got for my student and they both said "zero". She was shocked. She explained that my student showed up, that she brought a model, that she completed the haircut, how could she get a zero, and why did she have to give her a zero? They explained that one of the other examiners that wasn't there for that exam because "he was at home planting flower bulbs", had explained that "You can't layer long hair, so if the student does a haircut on a model with long hair that they must give them a zero." This downtown salon owner said "That is the stupidest thing I ever heard. I layer long hair every single day in my salon. Now I have to give someone a zero because their model has long hair? What are the length requirements?" The other two examiners explained that there weren't any. Since I was standing right there they asked me what I thought. I asked them what score they would have given if this was a blunt haircut and they said a zero "because there were way too many layers to be blunt." I told them that there couldn't be any layers because the hair was long. They laughed and my student got a 98% which is what she should have gotten on the first haircut. Again, same model, same cape, same comb, same scissors.

More idiocy.

There was the time where the board invalidated all of the manicuring licenses in the state which could only be reinstated by taking a nail course at a specific school in Wasilla. Guess who's school? And now the board is discussing revisiting this same nail licensing scenario with only one school in the entire state of Alaska who is licensed to provide this program. Guess who's school?

Idiocy and flagrant dishonesty.

I believe that people working illegally in this industry without a license is even more terrifying than allowing people to order a red flashlight on Amazon for \$8.99 (including shipping) that have no FDA warnings or claims of physical damage or that need medical treatment! I complained about a person that opened a sketchy school that was and is doing illegal services

and I complained about a person who is running eight businesses with only an expired esthetician license, not even a business license. Still, nothing was done then I learned that one of the board members didn't have a valid license. Things started making sense to me.

More idiocy and more dishonesty.

It was also against regulation for an instructor or owner to be an examiner all, because it put them in the position to test their own students or students from a competing school, but this was a common occurrence. I could explain about a school owner bringing in items just for their students in case they forgot something, or the examiner that showed up a hour and a half late at my school who wanted to further delay the test to reorganize where the students had set up their equipment. I could explain about my student's haircut test being interrupted seven times by the same stupid examiner who locked themselves out of the building SEVEN times with the same self-locking door to smoke. I could go on and on. (A squirrel would have figured this out in just four attempts)

Pure idiocy.

The thing is that for decades the board has been run around key associates that are affiliated to one specific salon/school in Wasilla and one salon in Fairbanks. This has been done to either give this clique of friends economic benefits or to damage any competitors of theirs.

This brings me to the second idiom I mentioned.

"The more you do of what you're doing, the more you'll have of what you've got."

Reorganizing the state board with the same foul members is just, well... idiotic. They are foul, they are dishonest, they are dishonorable. This idea is as stupid as trying to fix a rotten salad by reorganizing the rotten lettuce, the rotten tomatoes, and the rotten dressing. There is no way to reorganize this salad without making yourself sick. The only way to fix this is to throw the rotten salad out and to start fresh with new ingredients.

Same with the state board. If you try to reorganize the same people who are friends with the last people who are friends with previous people, with the same cliques, the same alliances, you are simple going to end up with ONE BIG GIGANTIC ROTTEN SMELLY SALAD!

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