

I am sure that the fashion designers involved in the show are highly creative individuals. Given the infinite possibilities of expression available to these designers, why would this highly offensive image be chosen, and then on top of it be featured in an *EW* photo spread? We all have the choice to empower or oppress. Fashion designers, please think before you sew.

*Jennifer Donovan  
Eugene*

**NOT HARMLESS**

Regarding Jeff Zekas' delightful letter, "Dangerous Bums" [8/9], I think it's time for some reality therapy for all those saps who think the homed are all harmless. Wards going off to work daily, while June washes dishes with her pearl necklace on and Wally and the Beav get into mischief, but not trouble. Make no mistake, the homed are not harmless.

When I first came to Eugene, in my neighborhood, cars started getting broken into and robbed. Just around the corner, a homed couple had been cooking meth and stealing to support their choice of addiction. Their home had to be destroyed. This is not harmless.

Not long ago, a woman was found killed and buried in her own backyard by the man she shared her home with. Many homed men have chosen to kill their spouses or girlfriends, in their own homes, in a choice of anger. Recently a homed police officer in our town was jailed for sexually abusing the very people he'd sworn to protect and serve. This is not harmless.

In a former town I lived in, a homed man who lived in a mansion ran a Ponzi scheme that stole millions of dollars from other people, destroying their life savings and sending them into poverty in their later years. Because of his actions, his own son committed suicide in shame. This is not harmless.

I was a social worker for a while, and regularly had to deal with children whose homed parents regularly beat them and sexually abused them, homed fathers who ran off leaving their homed families helpless and abandoned, or gambled away the family savings. These were choices made by the homed, who made themselves that way. They are not harmless.

*Walker Ryan  
Eugene*

**CLASSIC LIBERALSPEAK**

"Meth-using fence cutters are victims of failed drug policies and lack of social services." So says Gail Gould in Letters, Aug. 30. I guess these "victims" share none of the blame for their own (that's right: their own, not society's) bad decisions.

Classic liberalspeak – no personal accountability! As Ron White famously says, "You can't fix stupid!"

*Jerry Ritter  
Springfield*

**THUGS AMONG US**

I can certainly understand exactly where Jeff Zekas of Veneta is coming from in his "Dangerous Bums" letter [8/9]. A person gets tired of being robbed, cheated, harassed and manipulated by scumbags, drunks, thieves, drug addicts, convicts and downright dangerous thugs.

I have had all the same ugly experiences throughout my life. I've been robbed and cheated out of more than \$80,000. I've been physically attacked. I've been threatened. An arsonist burned my house to the ground. My own uncle was a drunken bum all his life.

But there is one difference between Zekas and myself. Everyone who robbed me — my drunk uncle, the man who destroyed my house and those who threatened me — were wealthy landowners with big houses. They committed these lowlife behaviors and crimes with suits, ties, polished shoes, fancy cars, big fake smiles and ink pens.

Zekas describes the homeless as "narcissistic, selfish, immature folks." Maybe they aren't the only ones. Just maybe we all need to look at issues with a little more depth and compassion. Just maybe our failure to exercise compassion is "narcissistic, selfish and immature." Food for thought.

*Eli Cutler  
Eugene*

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