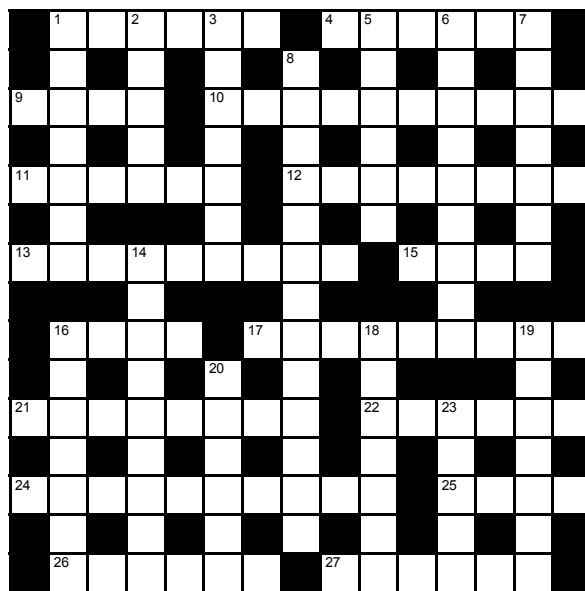


Across

- 1 Endlessly talk and talk about dance (3-3)
- 4 Thing loses front to get a base (6)
- 9 Low one is pretty (4)
- 10 Encountered Head of Department in charge - a learned leader who is orderly (10)
- 11 Waste energy and never finish (6)
- 12 Exploit prisoner to hide a bone (4,2,2)
- 13 Pompous brag about qualification I started commercialising (9)
- 15 Zulu harpist regularly finishes off (4)
- 16 Received back a piece of clothing (4)
- 17 Blundered along, shocked (9)
- 21 Buy footwear here at community fair? (4,4)
- 22 Tears up menu after bill insight (6)
- 24 I'll get two of us somehow to do the same (6,4)
- 25 Sense of personal exclusion? (4)
- 26 Dig out barrier with medic booting out husband (6)
- 27 Go cold at announcement of high decoration (6)



Down

- 1 Cupboard love is near (5,2)
- 2 Eastern Cape village is a mass of insects (5)
- 3 Stink over certain bone (7)
- 5 Top book to see employment (6)
- 6 Take out, one mile back, a net of chaos (9)
- 7 Leaves in these containers paste to make repairs (7)
- 8 Small parasite on terribly thin bird gets disregard initially from boring old foggy (5-2-3-3)
- 14 Trifle late with bagel unfortunately (9)
- 16 Double II and collapse (7)
- 18 Good idiot, let be your last hunt (2,5)
- 19 English cross English at 'charming' do (7)
- 20 AI grew amazing insect (6)
- 23 I hesitate? No, *we* give the finger (5)