



Pro Vice-Chancellor tells lecturers: “Smarten up your dress code”

Warwick Professor Susan Basnett speaks out in condemnation of academics' choice of clothing

Sally Brammall

A WARWICK PROFESSOR has condemned the dress sense of academics by suggesting they should “smarten up.”

Pro Vice-Chancellor Susan Basnett has said that in an age of fashion consciousness, lecturers should “improve their act.”

Ms Basnett has spoken out in support of the BBC programme, *What Not To Wear*'s scrutiny of “scruffy” academics.

In an article in the *Times Higher Educational Supplement*, Ms Basnett challenged lecturers to match up to other professions and wear smarter clothes. She said, “If other professions can have a smart dress code, then there is no reason that academics cannot dress smartly.”

However, Warwick professor, Colin Rourke, renowned for wearing denim cut-offs, does not believe his style of dress lessens the respect accorded him by students.

The professor himself considers dress to be “completely irrelevant in mathematics”, adopting shorts as being a practical style for his daily cycle into campus.

A number of students have supported Professor Rourke's view that dress sense does not reflect on an academic's teaching standard.

Halina Watts, a second year American Studies student said that crazy dress sense often implies that lecturers are “very in to their work.”

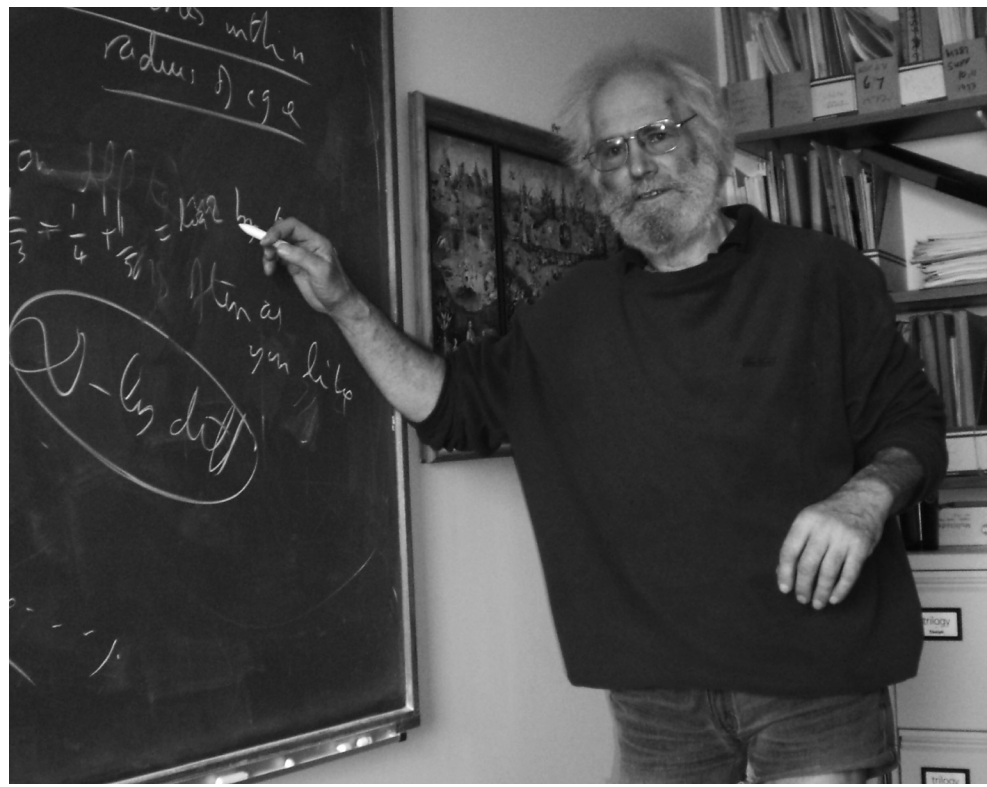
One second year French student agreed, saying that

lecturers who don't take as their teaching “seem to take a keen interest in the more important issues in university life, rather than simply fashion sense.”

One image consultant company has recently drawn attention to the poor dress sense of academics.

The Federation of Image Consultants, a company which receives commissions from their customers to provide an image overhaul, disputes the exemption of the academic profession from following an appropriate dress code.

Pippa Rees, the company's PR Director said the “Sloppy, absent professor stereotype exploited by some academics is indicative of ‘out of date ideas’.”



Professor Colin Rourke has defended lecturers' dress sense, saying it does not affect teaching



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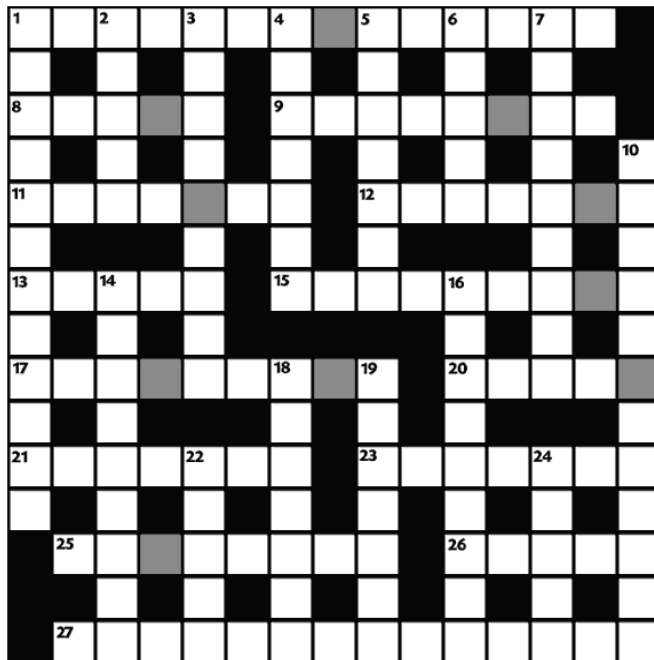
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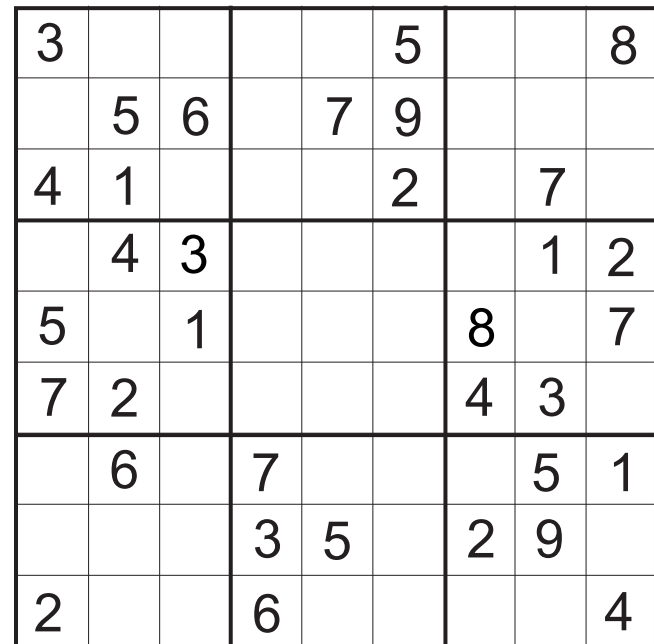
Solve the anagram of the shaded squares.

Across

- 1 A place to rock 24 -7 (6,3,5)
- 8 Perspire as special police close in on drug (5)
- 9 Blast! No it's pure, send it back without the heat (8)
- 11 Sodium and sulphur (7)
- 12 Destroy depot or missile? (7)
- 13 Originally, messy eater likes only Nigerian fruit (5)
- 15 Mary takes in John (in Spain) to produce drug (9)
- 17 Idiot paralysed by companion of "Crossbones" (9)
- 20 Memento hidden within rare lichen (5)
- 21 Delight in French chain mail, without the right (7)
- 23 Clean bishop in waste container (7)
- 25 Throttle learner inside. Bizarre! (8)
- 26 Near, and with few calories, we hear (5)
- 27 Commercials for uncivilised Vietnam deserts (14)

Down

- 1 Inattentive sailor posted explosive to daughter, around 1st December (6,6)



Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

- 2 Complies. Award goes to unknowns (5)
- 3 Madman to insert bizarre nourishment (9)
- 4 Proven principle; flying meteor will engulf hotel (7)
- 5 Hotline? (7)
- 6 Some time afterwards, dined within Leicester's outskirts (5)
- 7 A near miss, like ringing a neighbour (5-4)
- 10 Fireworks and love, but only at first, in courtships (5,7)
- 14 Severely told off meek person, like Edward (9)
- 16 Lure James to travel to Holy City (9)
- 18 Honest sort of piano (7)
- 19 Boys surround socialist ascending climbing equipment (7)
- 22 Speak to rodent in Old English, initially (5)
- 24 Meat company involved in prohibition (5)