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YORK VISION

TOP BOSS £90K EXPENSES WRITE OFF

EXCLUSIVE

BY **ADAM THORN**

Vice Chancellor Brian Cantor has blown £90,000 of university money on flights, hotels and car hire – in just three years.

The VC and his team of nine senior bosses have racked up a total of £150,000 in expenses since 2003, according to figures revealed to *Vision*. This year alone Cantor is planning foreign business trips to China, India and the United States.

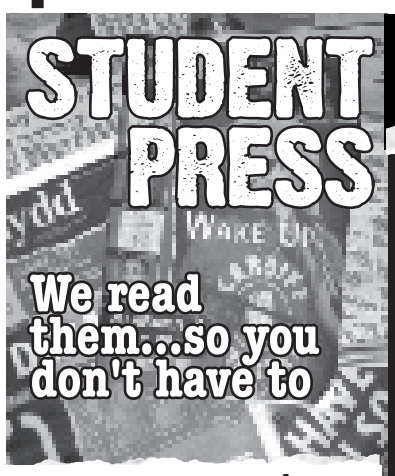
It is the first time that the accounts have been broken down to show individual expenses claims for each of the top university administrators. The news comes as catering staff across campus are threatening to resign due to poor pay deals and 10 weeks after 14 porters quit over contract disputes.

Responding to the revelations, the university said in a statement: "The Vice Chancellor's expenses result mainly from the international missions he leads several times a year with teams of senior academic staff."

But other leading industry figures have expressed outrage at the massive expenses claims, which make Cantor one of the most wasteful university bosses in the country.

FULL STORY PAGE 4-5

HOW HE SPENT OUR MONEY ON HIS LUXURY LIFE



Kebab Arrest

Two students were arrested by their friendly local kebab seller on a night out in Oxford, according to student newspaper *Cherwell.*

Kebab man Ahmed Mohammed chased them down the street and performed a citizen's arrest after one of the boys tried to steal his petition campaigning for longer opening hours.

"Ahmed was quite angry," said one witness. "He's actually incredibly fast for a short man."

Safe House?

Three housemates fell four metres through the floor of their student home in Sheffield - a year after one of them used the house as a case study of a dangerous building for his architecture degree.

The students landed in the cellar after the damp porch of their university-owned accommodation gave way, reports the *Sheffield Steel.* One was hospitalised and the the rest of the house had to be evacuated.

But the essay about buildings with structural failings, which took the house as its main example, got a first.

And you thought Goodricke was bad..

A Hall of Residence in Exeter has had to be fumigated after nine students reported being bitten by bed bugs, writes student paper *Exeposé.*

Uni bosses were forced to spend £15,000 spraying the whole block with pest control fluids to eradicate the insects.

A university spokesman blamed students for bringing the bugs with them in their luggage.

Smartening Up

A Warwick Pro-Vice Chancellor has spoken out against "scruffy" lecturers in the top-ten ranking university, writes the *Warwick Boar.*

"In this age of fashion consciousness, lecturers should smarten up their act," said Professor Susan Basnett after an episode of BBC programme What Not to Wear targeted middle-aged academics.

PR Director Pippa Rees agrees:

"The sloppy, absent Professor look exploited by many lecturers is indicative of out-of-date ideas."

Vote RON President

One would-be student politician at Exeter University is nursing his bruised ego this week after losing out in the SU Presidential elections - despite being the only candidate.

Voters chose to Re-Open Nominations rather than elect James Bennett to the position, after a widespread facebook campaign backing RON.

"At least it shows that Exeter students understand the voting system and know how to make their voice heard," said the optimistic loser in Exeposé.

EXPOSED: HOW THE UNI'S TOP BOSSES

BRIAN SPENDS OUR MONEY ON THE JET SET LIFE..

>Continued from page 1

BY **ADAM THORN**

Information gathered by *Vision* under the Freedom of Information Act offers for the first time a glimpse into the luxury lifestyles of the university's most senior executives.

In three years, Vice Chancellor Cantor spent £50,000 on air travel alone, plus a further £40,000 on other transport and accommodation.

Other members of his team filed a massive £60,000 expenses bill between them.

Pro-Vice Chancellors Trevor Sheldon, Chris Henshall and BA Gilbert are amongst the university's top spenders with a combined expenses payout of over £30,000.

Responding to the revelations, the university said in a statement: "Much of the university's business relates to international relations, including teaching, research and other academic links with organisations overseas. As the leader of one of Britain's major universities, it is the Vice-Chancellor's job to seek, maintain and increase these links."

The university has admitted that Cantor plans to fly to China, India, Japan and the United States later this year in a series of expeditions to help international student recruitment and generate income. Money is also being spent hosting a series of lavish meals for top academics.

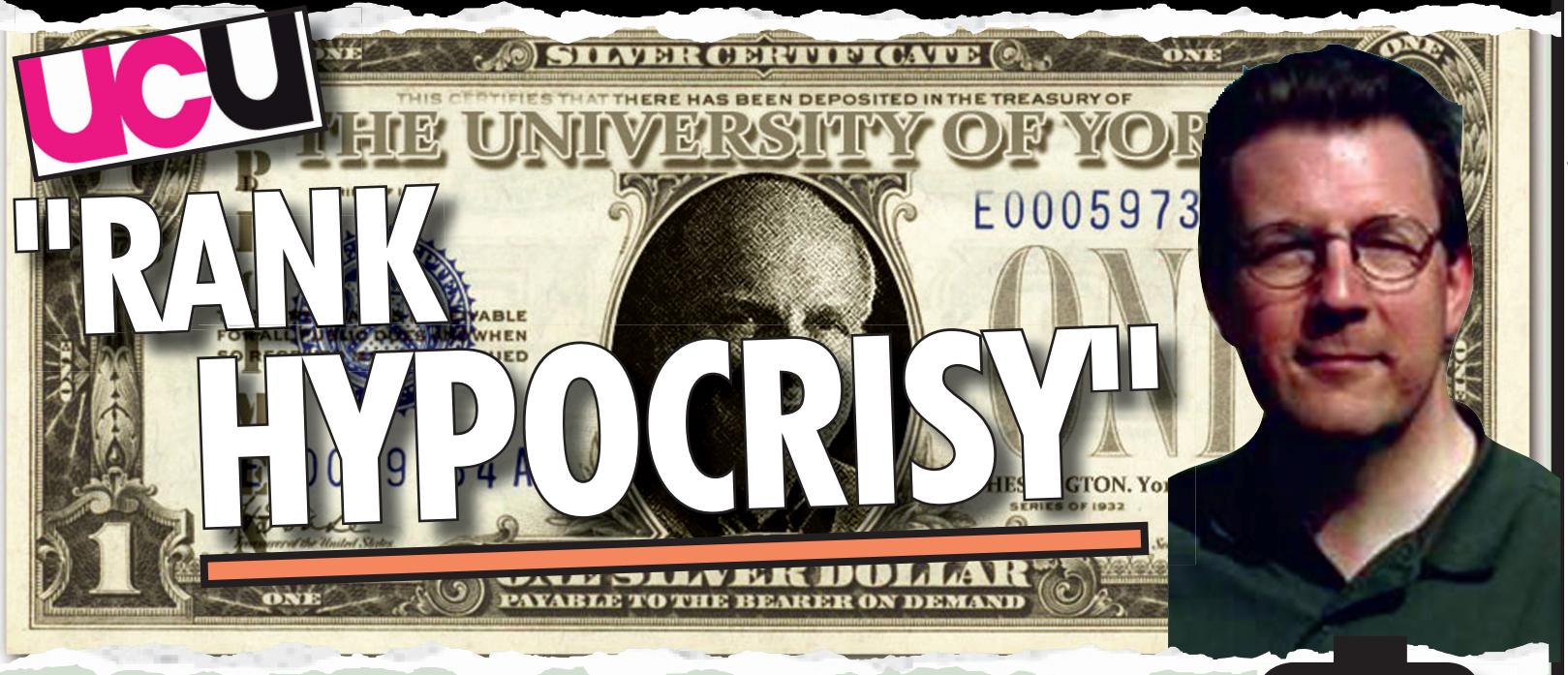
A spokesman added: "The Vice Chancellor hosts dinners and other events at the University for UK educationalists, researchers, funders, benefactors, policy-makers and alumni, who all help the University in its teaching and academic affairs."

Brian Woods, the York representative of lecturer's union UCU, told *Vision* in a statement: "Given the apparent staffing and budgetary difficulties that we have been told the university currently faces, UCU York would hope that the VC's Office has judged its priorities appropriately and is able to justify such expenditure on the grounds that these activities have both brought in additional income, which outweighed the initial cost, but more importantly have also raised the reputation of the University of York."

Vice Chancellor Cantor has refused to speak to Vision about these issues personally, and has also yet to make a statement on the current porter's crisis which has seen 24 hour portering removed from the university.

Last year Brian received a 16% pay rise taking his final take home salary to £176,000 – which is only marginally less than the annual salary of the Prime Minister.

BLEW £150K ON HUGE EXPENSES CLAIM



>UCU PRESIDENT STEVE WHARTON ATTACKS WASTEFUL VCs'

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

BY **ADAM THORN**

The leader of the country's biggest lecturers' union, the UCU, has attacked the culture of massive expenses of the UK's top university bosses, calling it "rank hypocrisy".

Steve Wharton criticised VCs' "incredible salaries" after it emerged two weeks ago that Brian Cantor is now earning £180,000 after a 16.8% pay rise. "The whole issue is seeking to justify the unjustifiable".

His words come less than a year after he triggered a nation-wide marking boycott which caused fears that students wouldn't graduate.

Talking exclusively to *Vision* he said: "The weasel words that they use to justify their salaries beggars belief. It's a sad reflection on the situation of Vice Chancellors that they think they are captains of industry. If they were that good then they would be out there."

Wharton told *Vision* that Vice Chancellors are become increasingly separated from their staff and that they are increasingly thinking that they are running large businesses.

Speaking on the role of Chancellors as businessmen he added: "The fact that VCs' are not really academics is absolutely stupid" adding that they need to "communicate respect".

"There's a complete divorce between academics and leaders," he added. "VCs' are would-be CEOs of large businesses.

"No VC should be earning more than twice the salary of the top earning lecturers".

Wharton also highlighted the secrecy of Vice Chancellors pay rates - which are buried in most university's end of year accounts.

He attacked the huge differences in staff pay: "There has been a 40% decline in lecturers salaries in relative terms – amounting to £3bn."

He added that: "Vice Chancellors decided to play the three foolish monkeys, see no union, hear no union, speak no sense".

Figures published this month show the nationwide salaries for UK Vice Chancellors. London business school's Laura Tyson was named as the top earner, earning around £322,000 a year.

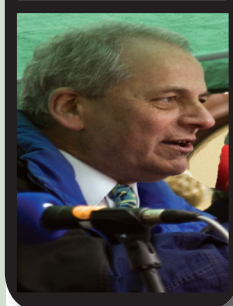
Oxford's John Hood took home £229,000 a year with a £36,000 pension as well.

Cantor's take-home pay has increased by a third in just two years.

CANTOMETER

86 DAYS AND COUNTING...

...SINCE OUR VC BRIAN CANTOR SPOKE OUT ABOUT THE PORTERS' CRISIS.



WHAT £150K COULD BUY YOU:

52,941 PINTS OF CARLING

120,643 DUREX CONDOMS

125 THIRD YEAR STUDENTS

..AND NOW HE'S VISITING CHINA, INDIA, JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES

NEW DEPARTMENT CHIEF SPEAKS OUT

BY **IAIN WITHERS**

Andy Tudor, Head of Theatre, Film and Television at York, has given a robust defence of the rationale behind Heslington East's most daring proposed department.

The new department will start running MA courses from October of this year and hopes to offer an original take of theatre, film and television from its founders' backgrounds in the departments of Electronics, English and Sociology.

Andy Tudor rejects the criticism levelled by academics in the more traditional subjects that the proposed department is an attempt to get a slice of an already saturated commercial market at the expense of more traditional subjects.

Whilst he admitted that the move was a daring one, he stated that the proposals had gone through a "rigorous process of approval like all new programs of study" and would bring something new to the field. "What is new is that we will bring high academic standards to the practices of film, theatre and television."

He argued that the university was far from going into the field cold. "I've been persuading the university to set this department up for twenty years as a Sociology lecture. We already teach successful drama related material and English and have academics there that have been trained at the New York Film School."

Whilst Andy Tudor may allege that the department was chosen according to academic criteria, the University's corporate plan stated that the main rationale behind the new departments was to be areas where there is "strong applicant demand". According to the UCAS website, courses in the area of media received 246,000 applications last year, compared to 80,000 applications for courses in the Physical Sciences.

The other new department on Heslington East will be Law.

STUDENT BUSINESS TAKES ON EBAY

BY **BEN MATTHEWS**

A University of York student is already one step ahead of the internet giants Ebay by launching a unique advertising auction website.

The site, www.adsbay.co.uk, was founded by third-year Electronic Engineering student Ross Fobian and has already found success both here in the UK and in the states.

The internet auction site, Ebay, decided this month to set up a similar service for TV advertising, but Fobian has a head start, as well as several additional unique ideas planned for the site, which he hopes will stand his business in good stead in the upcoming future.

Fobian, 22, started the website in March last year and expects to create a turnover of about a million pounds within the next 3 years if everything goes as planned. He is also looking to get societies from the University of York to use the website as a way of generating extra income for themselves, through selling advertising and sponsorship deals.