TALKING
POINT: Last week's Fathers 4

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debate

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Fathers 4 Justice

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before children's

FamilyMatters

N reply to the comments from Fathers 4 Justice East Midlands co-ordinator Fraser Chatburn in

The point that I was trying to make that does

not appear to have been highlighted by Jill Gallone, is that, at four years of age, my daughter

Jane (not real name), is already displaying signs that she does not wish to go to her father for

access visits. However I am bound by a court order that has been imposed by my ex-husband to

more or less force her to go against her wishes as she is deemed too young to have reasonability. As I mentioned, her father provides no more

than that which is ordered by the CSA, either

financially or in time or effort between visits. Simply showing interest in her life may go a

to be dragged out of bed and driven through

8:45am is most definitely detrimental to her

mind could see that

rush-hour traffic for an hour before school at

long way towards improving my opinion of him and his family. And yes, for a four-year-old child

well-being. Any person with the child's welfare in

last Monday's Family Matters

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welcome I'm used to but, after four days of living on versity of Derby students I was meeting might actually be con-

## templating eating me. My arrival at their digs in Uttoxeter New Road, coincided with their main meal of the day, which, by combining resources, the four students man-

by combining resources, the rour students man-aged to put together for  $E_2$ . One supplied pasta, another a tin of tomatoes, another a loaf and another – luxury of luxury – some cheese. They also allowed themselves a

For five days at least, from March 5, around 30 University of Derby students did the same.

As well as underlining the world's inequalities, the event, part of Derby's Fair Trade fortnight, will

But the students were not simply making

statement. They also gained sponsorship and

"It's great because we can follow this through from beginning to end," said David. "And, as

students on our course go to Gambia every year, we will be able to find out how the money has

"At least we have plenty of shops and markets

In fact. Derby's Guildhall market has seen a lot

of the students in recent days. They swear by it for

bargains and, with money so tight, have had to count every penny. "We could only have survived

on £1 a day as a team" explained David "You

couldn't afford to do it otherwise. We have met

every night to share a meal together." Nevertheless, by day four of their five-day \$2 a

day challenge, they were hungry - very hungry -particularly David and Kevin Mundy.

can't have," said Kevin. "I've almost run out of

"You do start to obsess about the things you

mind could see that. Frustration, irritability, aggression, retaliation and militancy, all words used by Mr Chatburn, are in their inception filled with negativity, and are never going to lead to a satisfactory outcome for clove of garlic to brighten up a bland sauce. "This is what we've been living on for the last four days," said David Twomey (32), president of the university's People and Planet Society, which any of the parties in this situation, particularly the led a \$2 (£1.06) a day challenge to demonstrate just how tough life is for people in poorer countries. Let's not forget that they, after all, are the most Some two billion people in the developing world survive on the paltry sum of \$2 a day.

end of term.

important people in these scenarios. Throughout Mr Chatburn's reply his focus has been on the adult (himself?)and not the needs of the child involved, and this appears quite obviously to be the focus of Fathers 4 Justice.

This is the reason I find them so infuriating. My point quite simply is this. That in continuing in the same manner, the group continues to remove the focus from the child to highlight their help the university in its bid to become the 10th university in the country to gain Fair Trade status – something David hopes will be confirmed by the own plight. I suggest that a swallowing of over-inflated pride by those "adults" involved whether the absentee be father, mother or grandparent, will have a more beneficial outcome in the long run.

What does it matter that any parent has a legal What does it matter that any parent has a legal right to see a child, if that is diametrically opposed to the needs and wants of that particular child? This should be the case ONLY if it is in the best interest of THE CHILD.

I am appalled that Mr Chatburn continues to extol what I believe to be the myth that the resident carer is almost always vindictive.

I truly believe that the basic mothering instinct benefited people. The Widows' Association wants is one of protection towards their offspring. Would not a fox bite back if her young were to use the money to buy a herd of goats to enable people to have milk and cheese threatened? The sheer fact that Mr Chatburn admits that F4J high jinks threaten these people's nearby to buy food and drink. You forget that other people haven't." own cases, suggests that their loyalties do not rest with their own children but with their own

pompous egos. Again I state, these children grow, and develop in response to their experiences. They become thinking individuals with opinions of their very own. I support the notion of equal responsible parenting, but fail to see how this can be achieved when one of the parents is wearing his underpants over his tights! So, Mr Chatburn, I gracefully turn down your most gracious offer of joining Fathers 4 Justice. I have a child to concentrate on!

Josie (name and address supplied). week. To join the debate, e-mail family@derbytelegraph.co.uk or write to: Family Matters, Derby Telegraph, Meadow Road, Derby DE1 2DW

HANK goodness you're As part of Derby's Fair Trade fortnight, which has nere on time - we're just drawn to a close, 30 University of Derby kind of pre-interview students survived on the equivalent of \$2 a day (£1.06), the amount two billion people live on in next to nothing, I feared the Uni- the developing world. Jill Gallone found out how

## a group of them got on.

tobacco and soon won't be able to smoke

but it was all uphill.

"This has really brought it home to me how

tough life must be for a lot of people."

e've walked miles and miles," said Beth



when all the cash has been counted, hope to have £3,000, which David and fellow Third World TEAMING UP: University of Derby students, from left, Kevin Rayson, Beth Sherlock, David Estodo, which David and relief Mundy (23) and Development students Kevin Mundy (23) and Kevin Rayson (21), will personally deliver to a Widows' Co-operative in Gambia, which they are due to visit as part of their course next month. Twomey and Kevin Mundy tuck into a pasta dish they cobbled together for £2 by pooling resources during the \$2 a day challenge. Picture: Jan Hogdkinson JH080305D-1

and pasta," said David. "We haven't been able to "It's a lot harder than I thought it would be. If the afford meat at all. money was just to cover food you could manage but that £1 has to cover transport and university "One of my meals was a 7p can of beans on toast without butter. Not nice. And when I rang my mum

costs too. I had to pay to get an assignment printed and we have to buy folders to present out work in on Mother's Day all she did was munch chocolate biscuits down the other end of the phone." so the money's been really stretched." The students, who normally live on between £30 "This has really brought it home to me how tough life must be for a lot of people," said Kevin

Mundy. "And we only had to do it for five days. You also take for granted that you have the option of medicine and doctors. It highlights how resilient people in poorer countries are.

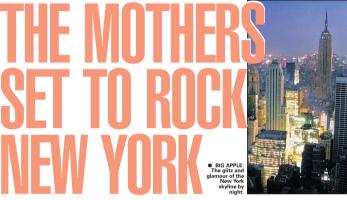
"We've succeeded in showing global inequal-Sherlock (21). "I turned up at one lecture ities in a simple way," said David very red-faced. It was only a 35-minute walk "And everyone can make a difference simply by

aying Fair Trade products," said Kevin. "One trip on the student bus is £1 so we've been If you see the Fair Trade mark on goods it means suppliers have been paid a fair price for their walking everywhere," said David. "And that's made us even hungrier," laughed products, enabling them to develop a better stand-ard of living. Most supermarkets now sell Fair Beth. "One thing I have noticed is that you can't afford to live healthily on such a small amount Trade tea, coffee, chocolate and bananas, among because veg is so expensive. "It's back to basics - staple foods like bread, rice

other items. Ann Hart of Derby Fair Trade group has been delighted by the students' efforts and pointed out: "Buying just one item a week, such as a bunch of bananas, will make a difference and encourage supermarkets to stock more Fair Trade produce.

 LIVES OF CONTRAST: Right The Mothers a their debut gig last May. From left, Henry Hinds on bass, Nicci Wilson and Clair Armstrong on vocals, Izzy Drury on drums an on drums and Beth de Lange on guitar. Left: A different side of life for Beth de Lange, seen in Normanton's Arboretum Parl with her so Oliver de Lang





ERBY mums who rocked A punk rock band made up of Derby mums have their way into the national received a dream invitation to take their music to limelight after starting their own punk band - because America. Wendy Roberts reports. they wanted a break from

childcare chores and dirty nappies - are nursing a golden moment. Aptly named punk rockers The Mothers, who formed last year, have been invited to perform in

America The five-strong band will go to New York in May to join the fourth annual Mamapalooza – a festival for mothers who rock. They plan to sing a selection of their self-penned songs, which cover aspects of being a mum, including pregnancy, having twins, being a step-mum, nits and cooking the tea. The women hope to stay in America for a week, and some of them will take their children with

them 'We are really excited," said singer Claire Armstrong (37), of Moss Street, Derby, "We recently found out that 'mum rock' was big in America, and then we got this invite. "It's great for The Mothers and it is great for

Derby. We're putting this city on the map and we're really pleased about that. "Obviously we've got to find the cash to go and that's going to be tough for us, but it's important that we go. We really want to meet the other bands and share our music with them." The Mothers, who describe themselves as a raucous but tuneful bunch, performed their debut

gig in Derby last May. Since then they've played everal more gigs, the last one being on Mother's Day a couple of weeks ago. The mums aim to meet up every week to rehearse but that rarely happens. Between them they have

eight children and that inevitably means other commitments get in the way. Beth de Lange (36) of Chestnut Avenue, Derby, is the group's guitarist and backing singer. She has a 10-year-old son, Oliver, who will accompanying

her to New York "I don't think many people sing songs about dirty nappies and burning the tea," she smiled. "As far as we know, we're the only all-mothers punk band in

the UK. We got together because we felt we needed a complete break from all our maternal duties. "We've been meeting in my cellar every week so we can sing and play our instruments. We absolutely love it."

As yet, The Mothers haven't secured sponsorship for their trip, but they're hoping readers might help. They estimate that they will need around £2,500 to fund their flights to New York. Band member Henry Hinds, who has a wo-year-old daughter, Jasmine Cope-Hinds, has made it her mission to find funding

"I contacted pet shop Pet Mart in Beeston, and the manager said the store would give us a donation. I don't know how much it might be, but we're grateful for that," she said. "All we've got to do is find money for our flights.

Some of the American band members have offered to put us up when we get there, so we're not going to need hotels. It's really exciting."

fter the Evening Telegraph broke the story about The Mothers' first gig last May, the band have been inundated with press attention. An article appeared in The Guardian and the women were

invited to appear on GMTV. Local radio and TV covered their first gig at The Vic Inn, Derby, and, following that, the band recorded a CD and set up their own website. Drummer Izzy Drury (32), of Fleet Street, Derby, is a full-time mum to two-year-old twins Frances and Louis, and Floyd (four). Despite having three

"I don't think many

## people sing songs about dirty nappies and

burning the tea.

kids and a busy life, she aims to never miss a rehearsal. And now they're set to perform in America, she's even more committed. "When we got the invite, I didn't know what I

was going to do," she said. "With three kids, I knew I couldn't easily jet off to New York. But I have great family back-up – thank goodness for grand-parents. I've just about got my childcare sorted out. Now all I have to do is pay for my flight."

n top of their money worries. The Mothers have another cause for concern - what they're going to wear. They've decided they need a style consultation, or donations in the form of funky

punk gear. "We were considering wearing stereotypical clothes that a mum might wear," said Beth. "Like rollers, and hair nets and pinafores and feather dusters, but we didn't think that was particularly attractive. So any suggestions would be greatly appreciated. I think I'm worrying the most because

riends and shared their personal experiences of being parents.

"I'll be taking Elvin with me," she said, "I opportunity."

www.themothers.co.uk

Monday: The doctor says my sore throat is

infectious so I can't go to school today or tomorrow. Hooray! I am sure my teachers will miss me. Not! God is smiling down on me. Gave me oodles of time to dwell on my great weekend, which was a blast! My team won at football, and then I went to watch Derby County play at home. Had to make notes, as I was writing the fan's view of the match for the Evening Telegraph. But devotion to duty has its drawbacks. I insisted on staying to the very end, then dad got stuck in the usual after-match city centre gridlock - for one and a half hours! He wasn't pleased. Anyway, back to me being off school and perilously ill (tee-hee). Today I finally received my Livestrong and Stand Up. Sneak Up. wristbands, as did my brother and sister – and mum, and dad. For anyone who doesn't know, these are fashionable wristbands sold for charity. Mum says they look like they are fror the swimming baths. They do but they're cool. Tuesday: Did nothing all day – again. Still far too poorly to venture to school with my terrible infection. Just following doctor's orders! Spent the day watching Monty Python and the Holy Grail over and over again, which my brother thought quite sad. Having reflected on it a little. I can see his point. But I can't help watching hilarious films. It keeps me out of trouble with mum, dad and stepdad. After that, had a game of Football Manager 2005 and won the Champions League with Derby and signed David Beckham for a bargain price. Rams chiefs, you know where I am if

"Still far too poorly to venture to school with mv terrible infection."

the doc signs me off sick and today, when I should have gone back to school, it's a teache training day. It feels like Christmas. Me and brother are off, yet again but my sister's school is open as normal (ha! ha!). She's not a happy bunny. She is in one of her very sullen ods anyway because she's jealous of mine and dad's new mobile phones. She often sits staring at them in awe. Tough! Anyway, with another day of leisure to enjoy, I went down to the local driving range, where I ended up hitting five golf balls about five yards, and then did a "Happy Gilmore" and ran up to the ball whilst swinging. The ball ended up over the trees and I never saw it again. Oh well, I

got one ball into a target at least Thursday: All good things come to an end. had to go back to school for another dose of Sats fright. This is a particular teacher torture which involves scaring you witless about the tests before forcing you to sit mocks. Had to do a mental maths test in which I got 22 out of 30. The person who sits next to me gloated as he got 28. Mind you, I was feeling extremely

poorly. All say "aaaah". Friday: Football training was cancelled due to bad weather, so I stayed in the warm, feeling quite sorry for my friends who HAD to train.

because they had an important match in the morning. Mmm... it was nice and toasty up against the radiator watching their faces turn ice white as they battled the elements. Saturday: Won again in football (we're fourt in our league). Afterwards I managed to overcome my sore throat problems be devouring a huge McDonald's. Suppose that awful antibiotic medicine mum has been ramming down my throat all week, has worked. Trouble is, it's not only when it goes into your body that it stinks!

you need me. Wednesday: Can you believe my luck? First

I don't really have many clothes." Over the years the women have become firm

They've helped each other cope with the stresses and strains of motherhood and have always stuck one another.

For them, this trip to America marks a special time in their lives because it's such a great achievement.

Vocalist Nicci Wilson (35) of Beeston, is step-mother to 11-year-old Tallissa, and has a nine-month-old son, Elvin. At their debut gig, she was eight months pregnant and celebrated imminent motherhood by cutting a huge hole in her dress so her belly was revealed to the audience. couldn't possibly leave him behind. It's a great