

# WELWYN & HATFIELD Review



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## dock over ing attack

with kitchen knives used as weapons



A court case alleging that six people caused affray in Welwyn Garden City town centre has started at St Albans Crown Court.

Picture: 03E1309: PIPPA DOUGLAS

group by threatening them with an air rifle, but, when this failed to frighten them off, produced two kitchen knives.

A fight in which two of the defendants were stabbed followed.

The defendants fled the scene with Jabulo NCube, who suffered injuries to his leg, but left an injured Tinashe Sibanda on one of the building's balconies.

Four of the defendants were later arrest-

ed at the QEII Hospital in Welwyn Garden City, while the remaining two were arrested following treatment for their serious injuries.

Tinashe Sibanda is unable to attend the trial due to the injuries suffered in the attack and the psychological effects, but the jury will consider his role based on the evidence heard throughout the trial, expected to last ten days.



Artist's impression of what a rocky planet orbiting the red dwarf Gliese 581 may look like.

Picture: The European Southern Observatory

## Students helped to see the stars

STUDENTS have been given £2.75 million to take part in a leading astronomy project.

The budding astronomers at the University of Hertfordshire are taking part in a major new European collaboration to search for and study planets around other stars.

The funding, from the European Commission, will help the pupils focus on the search for rocky planets around stars. This will then be used for the development of future space-based technology to study extra-solar planets.

The team of university students are led by Dr David Pinfield of the Center of Astrophysics Research, who is pioneering the research.

Dr Pinfield said: "The fast moving field is at the forefront of modern astrophysics, and is moving towards a goal of discovering terrestrial planets like the Earth around stars other than the Sun.

"Learning about the diverse range of planetary systems that exist around other stars allows us to better understand our own place in the universe, and will reveal the extent of possible habitats for life elsewhere."

The project is built on the team's international collaboration with leading research institutes in the UK including Cambridge and in Spain, Germany and Ukraine.

For its duration from December 2008 and November 2012, the initiative will employ 15 young doctoral and postdoctoral researchers to carry out new research work on technology development and receive training through a range of science and technology activities.