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'Vandals hit charity drive by students'

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A GROUP of Sheffield students gearing up for a fundraising road trip have had the brakes put on their efforts after vandals damaged their car. Thugs destroyed charity stickers and sponsors' logos on the Ford Mondeo, ripped off a windscreen wiper, CB and television aerials and left both wing mirrors hanging off. They scratched the paintwork and stole a camera which had been installed onto the roof of the car to record the journey. Now the four Sheffield Hallam University students need to raise £400 to get their car back on the road by September 3, ready for the 1,500 mile, six-day dash across Europe. Richard Low, Dan Caputo, Richard Grenfell and Jay Parker paid £800 for the Ford Mondeo. They plan to use the trip to raise cash for the Help a Hallam Child charity. Even the charity stickers on their car, which was parked on Filey Street, Broomhall, failed to stop the vandals. Richard, a European computing student, said: "It is so obvious that the car is intended for a fundraising event because of the Help a Hallam Child stickers visible all over it, so it is disappointing to think that people would do this." It's the first year the Student Gumball Rally has been organised and there are students from universities all over England taking part as well as some from Europe. "We were all keen to take part for the experience, and because it is a chance to raise money for charity at the same time, so we are gutted." The Student Gumball Rally starts in England and finishes in Croatia, taking students through Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Croatia.