Stress and the Leaving Cert

Madam. - During the coming exam season, I hope that the media will exercise restraint and forgo the hype with which in recent years they have surrounded the Leaving Cert.

In recent years, we have had news bulletins and newspaper articles daily, a surfeit of information which seems to serve no useful purpose. We are told about what subjects are being examined each day, and after every exam eager journalists ask pupils for their (purely subjective) opinions on whether the exam was "easy" or "hard" or "fair". Is it any wonder that we hear of high levels of stress among pupils and parents?

The equivalent of the Leaving Cert takes place in other countries without the media obsession which we experience here. This year, please give us all, especially students and their parents, a break. Yours, etc.

E. HAUGHEY,
Muff,
Co. Donegal.

US justice on trial

Madam. - "We want the terrorists that we capture to stand trial for their crimes," said US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice when speaking in defence of American justice during her recent visit to Britain.

"Many of the terrorists who are captured, who have committed crimes, are not even charged, never mind being tried. They are not given the basic rights to a fair trial.

M.D. KENNEDY,
Mount Saint Anne's,
Milltown,
Dublin 6.

Ethnicity and the census

Madam. - Fintan O'Toole's column regarding a racist agenda by the Government is well-timed. The census is only another attempt to undermine the self-identification of people and to impose a paternalistic agenda on the population.

Yours, etc.

In defence of SUVs

Driving and the environment

The government's proposals to ban the sale of black market petrol in the EU are a step in the right direction. However, the real solution is to reduce our dependence on oil and invest in renewable energy sources.

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