

Battalion Classifieds

Ophthalmologist says genetics is to blame for near-sightedness

By Selina Gonzalez
Of The Battalion Staff

If your mother told you not to sit too close to the television because you will have to wear glasses, she may have been wrong.

Dr. Mark Coffman, ophthalmologist, said near-sightedness is genetic. Therefore, sitting farther away from a television may not be an effective prevention tactic.

Coffman said no studies exist showing that extensive reading affects near-sightedness. The American Academy of Ophthalmology's view is that increased reading doesn't affect near-sightedness, Coffman said.

Dr. Jim Maggs, from Texas State Optical, said that although it hasn't been proven, some professionals maintain that eye damage could result from extensive reading or computer usage.

Maggs said others believe genetics plays a greater role in determining eyesight damage.

"I think it's a combination," Maggs said.

Maggs said there may not be anything to prevent eye damage. Taking frequent breaks from reading or working at a computer may be helpful, he said.

"Look out the window and focus on something far away," Maggs said. Don't hold reading material too close. He said a good measurement tool is the distance between your elbow and your fist.

Coffman said prolonged reading without focusing on far objects can result in eye strain, eye fatigue, tiredness and headaches.

Different colors of computer text are easier on your eyes than others, Coffman said. Studies show amber and green are restful. Blue is not preferred.

Inquiry ends for police who posed as pizza men

DALLAS (AP) — The FBI has closed a civil rights investigation against two Dallas police officers who posed as pizza delivery men.

But, residents alarmed at the officers' actions aren't satisfied, and an attorney said a civil suit against the city will stand.

"I can't believe it. It's outrageous," Rev. G. James Christopher, a co-chairman of Citizens Against Racism in Dallas, said. "I am not sure that we have come very far in civil rights from the '50s and '60s."

"We want some answers when cops just break into people's homes and pull guns on them," Christopher said.

Attorney Peter Lesser, who is representing the arrested men in a lawsuit against the city, said, "The city's liability remains to be seen."

In an Oct. 2 letter to the police department, the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division in Washington said, "This department has no intention of taking any further action."

The officers had donned Pizza Hut delivery uniforms and gone to an apartment where they arrested three men a Pizza Hut delivery woman claimed had robbed her.

The charges were dismissed and the men were released after spending about 15 hours in jail. Their release and the dismissal of the

charges came after a Domino's Pizza delivery man confirmed the story told by the men.

James Morgan told officers that he and two friends telephoned a pizza order to Pizza Hut and then called Domino's when the first pizza had not arrived more than an hour later.

Board suggests hike in rates of workers' comp

AUSTIN (AP) — The State Board of Insurance staff has recommended an 11.5 percent increase in workers' compensation rates, about one-third of what the industry had sought.

The three-member board, which has approved increases totaling 148 percent since 1985, is scheduled to begin a hearing Tuesday on raising the rates again.

The insurance industry is asking for a 34.9 percent increase.

Expected to last for several days, next week's hearing comes just before the Legislature convenes on Nov. 14 for another special session on workers' compensation.

Gov. Bill Clements insisted that the system should be overhauled, but lawmakers failed to do so.

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