

# Crime, inflation bothering you? Check blood pressure for 50 cents

By LYNN ORR

Crime in the streets, inflation spiraling and political hassles—that is what's making your blood pressure rise? If so, you can find out at the Livonia Mall.

By fitting your left arm into a cuff on the Viatostat machine in the Sears court, Shoppers can get a 60-second reading for 50 cents without visiting the doctor's office.

For 50 cents, the pressure check guarantees an accurate reading with the most sophisticated electronic computer yet developed according to the inventor. The mall is the second Michigan location to offer such a machine.

Bedford residents Alex and Louise Scherba of Livonia spent \$10 to check the machine's accuracy and found it to be 98 percent.

Mr. Scherba's reading was normal.

He added that body weight and height are important factors in getting a blood pressure reading, but he was impressed with his own accurate reading.

In some cases, the blood pressure can be difficult to detect. To prevent false readings, the machine is designed to display a 500 over 000 reading when the 50 cents is returned.

Elizabeth Harris of West Bloomfield was shopping at the mall when she decided to check her blood pressure.

"I wanted to see how close it was to the doctor's and it was pretty close," she said.

David Jackson and friend Carol Seberg of Livonia also decided to check the machine.

"I am concerned about what people will do when they get the information," said Jackson, who is a practical nurse. "I'd like to know if they're going to check it if it's not normal."

All the users were accurate, she said.

But she isn't sure the machine will prove valuable unless people take it seriously, but she's convinced of the machine's future success.

"As long as it's computerized, people will put in their money."

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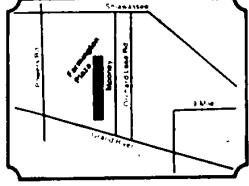
With his left arm firmly in the grip of the pressure checker, Dave Jackson (seated) and Carol Seberg await the results of a 60-second blood-pressure reading recorded on the Vita-stat machine. (Staff photo by Art Emanuel)

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