



**Cosmo
MACERO Jr.**

Yip-pee! A palatable way to treat waste water

Strange things happen at Bill Zebuhr's Ovation Products testing lab in Nashua.

The U.S. Army showed up on Zebuhr's door some time ago and cut him a check for \$30,000.

Inventor Dean Kamen has come sniffing around the Ovation lab no fewer than three times.

Big names such as Nicholas Negroponte, of the MIT Media Lab, are throwing money at Ovation – a small operation run from a split-level ranch off Spit Brook Road.

Me? I marched in there on Monday and drank my own urine. Diluted, of course.

What the heck.

I was, after all, in New Hampshire.

“We expect to be a \$1 billion company,” Zebuhr was saying Monday – minutes before my long-anticipated test of Ovation's latest water-purification unit. “I don't mind saying that at all.”

The company founder and chief executive has spent eight years refining a “microdistillation” technology that reduces your basic waste-water treatment plant to the size of a file cabinet.

And it's getting smaller.

The idea: Make the process of cleaning waste water – by most methods outsized and cumbersome – a mobile mission easily adapted for household use, military and industrial applications, even Third World villages.



PHOTO COURTESY OVATION PRODUCTS
A WHIZ: Ovation Products Bill Zebuhr, right, inventor of a revolutionary waste water purification unit, pours Herald columnist Cosmo Macero a drink of clean water reconstituted from his own urine.