Five-star pinballer Zimmy "Zappy" Zmrha poses with trophy after winning the National Invitational Pinball Title. Trophy is a giant black pinball machine built for Zimmy. Zmrha, official pinball of the National Pinball Association. Zimmy’s trophy has been specially equipped with two finger heaters and a thumbwarmer, nickname by Zimmy’s indigenous phalangal condition which requires him to keep his fingers warm and moist at all times.

MIT's Zmrha proves he's top US 'baller

By Jock Schwartz

Well, jock fans, the results are in, and the National Intercollegiate Pinball Individual Title has gone to Tech's own Zimmy "Zappy" Zmrha, as he is affectionately known, is a 27-year-old junior in Sanitary Engineering whose hobbies include pinball and debating.

"The only people I've ever debated, though," Zimmy claims, "have been the people on CAP. But Coach always made me aware that we had Zappy."

"Coach" is MIT pinball coach Bob "Quarters" Robinson. Under Coach, the mighty pinballers have used their hot digits to amass an impressive string of victories. The pinballers from the Balls were being overcome by the defending regional champion, the Cambridge Urchins. But after just three months of intensive training under "Quarters," the squad was able to cream the Urchins.

Robinson remembers Zimmy's early years in the game. "I remember Zappy's early years in the game," he says. "I remember when we started working on the regional title, Zimmy had won in 1969. Now Zimmy is National Collegiate Champion."

1970 was Zimmy's triumphant year. After several years of respectable play, averaging around 1500, he turned in a record average of 12,444 in regular season play last fall. He then led the Tech 299 to victory in the Boston Invitational, managing to set both an average record of 13,002 and to score a high game of 14,516, despite a hangnail on his left index finger. Tech then matched Rensselaer in the Pittsburgh Open and knocked off the Ballard Invitational to qualify for the prestigious National Invitational Pinball Tournament in the final round held in Zanesville, Ohio. In this tourney, Zimmy dropped into a crackshot crew from Bronx Science.

But Zimmy's winning run earned him an invitation first to the Pinball Allstar Tournament in New York, New Jersey, and finally to the National Individual Tournament in Bayonne, New Jersey. He "ought his way into the finals, eventually defeating former national heavyweightflipper champion George Gronk of Ozark, Missouri, in a hotly contested match. The match went thirteen hours into the second month overtime, ending at last when Gronk smashed the glass of his machine (which had begun to sizzle and ten) and bled to death through a severed femoral artery.

Though proud of his championship, Zimmy retains his native humble. "I'm the greatest, but it's only a little ball," he says, strolling off to the auxiliary entertainment area, his flipper fingers beating out the rhythm of "Tommy" on his mop handle.

Feudonius Munk

These three MIT freshmen and an ex-coistant yesterday claimed credit for last month's robbery of the handwritten National Individual Title Company, which netted thieves $40,000 in small change. The quartet announced in an anonymous communiqué printed in the Boston Student that they had pulled off the "perfect crime" when they raised the $80,000 in small change and fled in dimes, but, added Olive, "so "looked like a US Army MXXXVI-B Quadruped Shitk

No one was injured in the robbery, but three TV cameras and a photo- engraver were offered by the MIT-16-bit-banking.

Under extreme pressure from Boston Police, who have kept up around-the-clock harassment of his office, Campus Patrol Captain James T. Olive has tentatively identified the culprits as Reinhard Hardin, James J. James, and Jocelyn Zaftig, all Class of '73, and William Wagnall, formerly Class of '60.

Wagnall was a freshman in 1957 when he robbed a bank in his home town of Boulder, Nebraska. He claimed that he had done it to spare his parents from a malnourishment incurred while trying to put him through school. Despite testimony from 257 Department of Defense character witnesses, Wagnall, a building guidance-system genius, was given 5-to-20 for armed robbery and sent to the state pen. He was paroled last year after serving ten years of his sentence.

Despite his tentative identifications, however, Olive took The Daily Reamer, "We have absolutely no evidence against them that would hold up in court."

James James paid his estate tuition and commons bill in dimes, but, added Olive, "Joe Picatinchkin. [Ed. note: Picatinchkin, a 23-year-old grad student in the Slam School of Management, is the mastermind of the pinball cartel at MIT."

Dean for Student Affairs J. Daniel Swinehart noted that "Miss Zaftig's alleged participation in the stunt indicates well-coordinated living is working."

By Felonius Munk

A martyr sweeps the Institute's halls

To see the blind look on his face, one would not think that George Ralph was a war hero many years ago. However, his heroism is not forgotten by those who see the slight, stooped figure pushing a broom in Building 10.

Ralph, now 41, underwent a life-saving operation during the Korean war, in an attempt to save the lives of hundreds of Korean children. While the attempt (Please turn to page 5)