Most people think Futuretronics went into receivership because it ran out of money. Mr Alpar, a director of Futuretronics states, in a report on the front page of the Financial Review on November 22, that the National Bank had no reason to appoint receivers. To quote the Fin Review: 'According to Mr Alpar . . . no circumstances have arisen which would entitle the bank to appoint receiver managers to run the affairs of Futuretronics . . .

' "We're saying that the appointment (of receiver managers) is null, ineffective, and void," he (Mr Alpar) said last night.'

Clearly Mr Alpar is not impressed. He is reported in the paper to have also said: "It was like a military takeover. You would have loved it."

So, general opinion is that Futuretronics ran out of money and Mr Alpar reckons the National Bank shouldn't have moved in.

Chip Chat isn't going to offer an opinion (preferring to sit safely on the fence and avoid any possibility of falling foul of either party in this matter). But Chip Chat has used all this by way of introduction to its suggestion that Futuretronics may have been heading for hot water anyhow with its teany, weany bit naughty advertisements. Now it's time to direct your attention to the picture of 'Mr T' elsewhere on this page. Remember seeing him on your TV screen? Remember Mr T telling you about those other turkeys and how absolutely terrific Atari graphics are (were?)? Futuretronics kindly provided us with a purported demo on disk to plug into our Atari. And to no-one's great surprise, Mr T appeared to have lost his sparkle. In fact, he even lost his ability to move. The demo, Chip Chat assumes, was the best that could be achieved on the Atari. It bore, however, virtually no resemblance (in terms of animation) to what was being shown on TV ostensibly from the Atari micro also shown on TV. The advertisement was not aimed at computer literates who might know to question the ability of an Atari to produce the animation shown on TV (and it was implied to be directly out of the Atari shown in front of the monitor on the commercial, wasn't it?) It was aimed at novices, who might bolt down to the local Atari outlet and purchase a machine with the express purpose of creating something akin to the Mr T animation and who would likely be bitterly disappointed/annoyed to find it can't.

Guess who?: Here's a Chip Chat quiz courtesy of our American correspondent David Ahl. There are no prizes, so, on with the questions.
(1) Who used to be in charge of the largest microcomputer manufacturer (some years ago), and is now farming and taking courses in medicine?
(2) Which Hollywood film editor wrote a word processing package with customisation for 72 different hardware configurations?
(3) Which expert blackjack player is now making a living writing computer books?
(4) Who held key positions at Commodore, Apple, and Victor, and is now with NNA?
(5) Who founded or financed Chuck E. Cheese Pizza Time Theater, Sente Software Distribution, Androbot, and one other company?

And now the answers:
(1) Ed Roberts — founder and chief executive officer of MITS, maker of the