I was very much disturbed by Harry Binswanger's defense of capitalism as read the interview article (I did not see him speak) in Friday's Tech ["Binswanger discusses the moral basis of capitalism," March 16]. As stated in the article's summary of Binswanger's talk, he defends capitalism by saying: "Preventing a man from keeping the values that he has achieved is immoral. The only system which upholds these rights, property rights, is capitalism."

It would seem to me that Binswanger has much at stake in defending capitalism. I am sure that as a graduate of MIT and the holder of a PhD degree, he has prospered greatly in our capitalist society. But what is at stake for him is not so much financial, as it is psychological. I am sure that what Binswanger values more highly than his financial gains is the fact that he has worked hard and has earned what he has. (Is this not precious to everyone?) And apparently he owes this opportunity to capitalism, which is probably true. However, in order to feel that one has truly earned something and to justify it morally, one must believe that everyone has the same opportunity. Thus, Binswanger extols the "virtues" of capitalism.

I hate to rain on your parade, Mr. Binswanger, but equal opportunity does not exist in this country. You are not black, and you are not a woman, and you are not poor. How easy it must be for you to see an example of a successful black or of a successful woman, and declare that there is equal opportunity when there is so much at stake for you, psychologically, in believing that you have fairly earned what property you have. How easy for you to say, "As an individual, I have succeeded."

And these inequalities in opportunity, Mr. Binswanger, are the result of too much capitalism. You are right, capitalism does protect the rights and well-being of those who are successful. But capitalism pays no mind to the fairness of distribution of opportunity — that is why we balance it with some socialism. In my mind, we could use a little more socialism to effect some equality in opportunity.

Unfortunately, there are many people besides Binswanger who have a great deal psychologically invested in capitalism. Not the least of whom are wealthy stock holders, corporate executives (have you seen Roger and Me?) and other economic leaders, and the majority of our government representatives — basically the people who wield almost all of the power in this country. Is it any wonder why the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer?

Curtis Barnes '90

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Binswanger's defense of capitalism ignores absence of equal opportunity**

This year's Undergraduate Association elections contained a new concept: Students for None of the Above. Our group believed that some of the candidates was "qualified" for office, and urged students to mark "None of the Above" on their ballots.

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Undergraduate Association should count votes of those who abstained

This year's Undergraduate Association elections contained a new concept: Students for None of the Above. Our group believed that some of the candidates was "qualified" for office, and urged students to mark "None of the Above" on their ballots. Those ballots were not counted, and the reason UA Election Commission, under Christine M. Coffey '93 gave was, "They aren't valid ballots, why should we bother counting them?" In what could be called a "first-choice ballots." What happened to the other 265 ballots? Were they "invalid"? Perhaps some of them were indeed invalid, having been cast for ineligible candidates: Shawn J. Mastrian '91 and Adam Bratt '91, Students for None of the Above, the Pooh, or other hack candidates. But 265 ballots is a sizable number, especially when compared to the 214 garnered by Thomas K. Kang '91/Joe D. Stoltz '92 and the 265 received by David W. Hogg '92/David M. Stern '91. A voting bloc that large should be included in the analysis, as it sends a message to the UA Council and to the voters.

It is in this light that we call for a recount of the ballots. Why, then, did one which counts the abstentions. Those who abstained did vote and have a right to see their votes counted.

Andrew B. Ellis '93

UA Council Executive Board

Ted Y. Ts'o '90

Students for None of the Above