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**ASH CAN IMPROVE RELATIONS IN SIXTH WARD (Paid Election Letter, Published  
Columbia Daily Tribune, April 5, 2003, p. 5A) - 4/5/2003**

2711 Mallard Court  
Columbia, MO 65201

April 3, 2003

Dear Editor:

Recent vitriol from the East Campus establishment only serves to further illustrate the need for the civic leadership skills of Brian Ash.

Those of us in the Sixth Ward's other neighborhoods hold no enmity toward the East Campus neighborhood. However, to many of us, the Sixth Ward's current councilman appears to have stopped listening to residents whose views differ from his. On some issues of importance to residents of other neighborhoods, he even refuses to publicly acknowledge hearing dissenting voices and expresses shock when those views come forth to ripple the calm waters of the artificial consensus he promotes.

These misguided efforts toward enforced consensus within neighborhoods must stop. Even though Brian Ash and I don't agree on every issue, Brian is a friend, and I know he is committed to at least listen to all viewpoints and to attempt to forge compromise between opposing views. That's what "Balanced Leadership" means.

Brian Ash's leadership is sorely needed on the Columbia City Council. While Ash's opponent is an honorable man, he is also the hand-picked successor to the status quo. Ash's opponent claims to have honed his political skills in the East Campus Neighborhood Association, which displays its commitment to democracy by charging residents a hefty fee before allowing them to vote their conscience.

So, voters, your choice is clear. If you want more democracy and a positive political atmosphere in our neighborhoods, vote for Brian Ash. If you support the continuation of negative politics, vote for his opponent.

Sincerely,

Jim Muench  
2711 Mallard Court

