

Dear Students of Penn State Harrisburg,

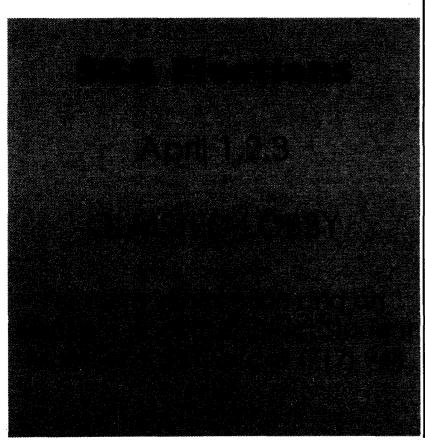
I am writing in response to a letter published recently about my colleague and friend, Parul Luthra. I was both saddened and ashamed to read this letter, as it lacked any hints of merit, professionalism, or even maturity.

Student Government is an extremely tough business to be a part of, as leaders must many times put their academics, personal life, and family on the back burner to continuously work for the betterment of student life at Penn State, despite the constant criticism and administrative roadblocks. I can say without any hesitation that from what I have seen, Parul Luthra is nothing short of an excellent leader, who has brought clarity, accountability, and class the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments. Harrisburg has not always had the best presence at CCSG, yet this year, Parul has led the way and has established Harrisburg as one of the most respected and influential locations on our council. I have no problem saying that the slanderous remarks about her in the letter I mentioned are a fabricated and malicious attack on a true and honest public servant. Parul deserves our basic respect, as she has made a sacrifice, one that most students would not have made, to be a part of the solution and not a proponent of the problem.

In a Democracy, regardless of whether it's our federal government or Penn State's SGA, it is our job to constantly question our leaders and hold them accountable for their actions and words. But to publicly insult them, in a cowardly way nevertheless, shows nothing more than a lack of class. It's too easy to sit in the shadows and point out all the problems, yet do absolutely nothing to change the system or advocate its change. I am confident that the majority of students at Penn State Harrisburg can see your Student Government President for what she has done and accomplished, and not what others can fabricate in anonymous letter's to the paper. The truth is, we are 20 locations, but only one University. Let's stay true to our tradition and history by going out and making a difference in the campus community, or at least show respect and consideration for those who do.

For the Glory

Mike Cooper President The Council of Commonwealth Student Government mikecooper@psu.edu





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