

## Editorial

By Sonya Trepp Fuller

Those of you who are seniors remember your first day at Northside High School (NHS) very vividly, but not for the reasons which are so obviously connected to that first day of high school. It was the beginning of what would last throughout your whole high school career: the construction along Veterans Parkway.

At first it started with deforestation along the Southbound lane, where treasures hidden for decades finally surfaced and made the headlines of the local newspaper. The triangle shaped house led people to reminisce about times past when it had been subtle and how the vegetation engulfed it to be hidden away until the road construction started.

Furthermore, there were the never ending long lines of parent pick-up awaiting to leave the NHS parking lot, squeezing into established lines or have someone nice enough to let them merge. After a full twenty minutes the parking lot was finally cleared. This wasn't the end of "merging" with traffic: at American Way or Cooper Creek Road the patience had to be tested furthermore.

Right when patience seemed to be overrated, the construction on Veterans Parkway with the various lane closures, delays in both directions, and at times the police officer in vain trying to direct the traffic to appease the already enervated drivers, patience, once again, needed to take front stage, especially at the end of a high or middle school day. I have often asked myself why would they do it during those times? To top this all off, it has lasted for four years with no end in sight.

The city informed the citizens of the contractor's assurance for the construction to be over before the school year would start, only to see it still going on. It isn't the first time road work in Columbus inconveniences drivers for multiple years. And it isn't the first time citizens of Columbus rise to the occasion and inquire as to whether the city is going to hold the contractor accountable for the multiple delays, confusing road signs, and all of the wear and tear it causes to the cars. And it isn't the first time valuable taxpayer money is squandered on contractors who don't see the necessity of holding their end of the agreement.

Veterans Parkway is actually finished, although the finishing touches - middle lines, turning arrows, pedestrian cross sections, traffic lights, and final paving, which causes lanes to be uneven - have to be completed. The drivers to and from NHS still have to endure one lane traffic, long lines while leaving the school grounds, confusing lane changes and signs and continued obstruction on the road between Hancock and Moon/Williams Road.

My dear Seniors, although this should have been your best last year in high school, it will be remembered as the year with the continued never ending road improvements along Veterans Parkway, the long waiting times to get onto and off the school grounds, and the exasperating time it just took you to drive yourself to school within 15-20 minutes instead of 5-10 minutes. I can promise you one thing: Veterans Parkway will be finished on your last day of high school.

Aside all of this, I hope your time with us has been marked by positive memories rather than the aggravation of the construction along Veterans Parkway. Make the last few months count and remember: we will miss you!