



# A friend remembers George Krolikowski

by Aaron Spikol

Walking through Parkland's crowded hallways, it is impossible to tell that one of its students is no longer here. Trying to jam through a congested intersection, the absence of a person can be the farthest thing from one's mind. But the truth is that on Monday, March 1, 2010, Parkland's halls permanently became one student short. That morning, over the PA, Mr. Lessel announced that while everyone else had been enjoying their weekend, George Bruce Krolikowski had died.

Having known George since the 3rd grade, the news came as a brutal shock. Not more than a week ago I had exchanged a few words with George before gym class. I cannot remember what we talked about but I know for sure that it did not cause me to think about death. In fact, it probably did not cause me to think about much at all. In almost ten years of knowing George during which I have always counted him as a friend, I had come to take his presence for granted. When I heard that he had passed away it seemed, not impossible, but improbable, as if it had been announced that the moon had just fallen out of orbit. When I found out about the cause of death, only a few seconds later from a friend, it was just another cut in an already fresh wound, though the more important and much sadder fact remains that George is gone and will not be back again.

Anybody who knew George understands just what a loss this is. While I do not want to sound clichéd, and understand that people rarely speak ill of the dead, I honestly mean it when I say that George was a great person. He was sincere and he was honest, which is more than I would say about most people. When you spoke with George you always knew that he spoke from the heart. For two years I spent the majority of my bus rides sitting in a seat across from George or behind him, talking about the news, school, sports or whatever was happening at the time, as

the bus rattled along towards Parkland. Some mornings we just sat quietly and enjoyed the morning sun. I have always associated those bus rides with the changing of the seasons. You could keep the time of the year by looking out the bus's windows and seeing how high the sun was at the same point every day. There was a rhythm to it that harkened back all the years I have attended school, since kindergarten. Through it all there had always been George. Each year we would note the passing of the seasons together on that short bus ride to school. One of us would comment on the warmer temperature, we would agree Spring was coming, the other

would agree. It was a small, simple thing, but it went back a long time between us. I can still remember some conversations we had on our way to Kernsville, and much of it makes me smile now. Morning talks with George were almost a tradition, a good way of starting each day.

But this year, for the first year I started driving to school every day. I saw George less and less. I knew that the bus still came to Parkland and that George was still on it, and I assumed that those bus rides would go on the same way without me, that George would still be there, the same way I assumed fall gave way to winter gave way to Spring. But the fact remains that I was not there.

I do not know what caused George to do what he did and I do not know enough to even begin to speculate. All I know is that there are plenty who now miss him. For me personally, his death has made me see that you cannot take a person for granted and that nothing guarantees anyone's existence from day to day. Though I will never mark the seasons with George again, I feel proud and privileged to have known him for the time I did. There was no skill or talent or gimmick that drew people to George; it was simply that he was a genuinely good person and you wanted to be around him because you could sense how valuable that was. There are so few people like that.

*I will miss him dearly.*



photo courtesy of Frank Mitman

*George Krolikowski will always be remembered at Parkland High School.*

## The Spain trip 2010 guarantees to be an invigorating experience

by Victoria Smith

The Spain trip's duration is April 1-10 and chaperones include PHS teachers Mr. Nunamaker and Senora Barrett, as well as assistant principal Mrs. Steckel. A total of 40 students and six chaperones left from school at 12:30 April 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to a rather large ocean separating PHS from Spain, the trip over is presumably a process.

The group will first head to the Newark airport, their flight departing at 5:50 PM and landing in Frankfurt, Germany around 7:25 AM. Then they will take an additional flight out of Frankfurt at 9:55 AM and land in their starting point, Barcelona, Spain, at about 11:50 AM.

Four days and three nights will be spent in the colorful and dynamic city of Barcelona, Spain's second-largest city and the capital of Catalonia. Among their many planned adventures are a walking tour down Las Ramblas, seeing the masterpiece of La Sagrada Familia firsthand and excursions to the ancient Roman town of Tarragona and scenic town of Montserrat.

Subsequently, two days and three nights will be spent in Spain's well known capital, Madrid. Their second day there, the group will take a guided excursion to the old, but culturally rich Toledo, the former Spanish capital where Muslims, Jews and Christians once coexisted in peace. They will view many important religious monuments and famous artistic masterpieces. That evening they will also be entertained by the traditional and unique art form of the Flamenco, which

combines the guitar, vocals, dancing and handclapping. Back in Madrid, they will devour as many of the city's sites as

is the capital of Andalusia, was host to the 1992 World's Fair and is home to some of the world's best



photo courtesy of www.wordtravels.com

possible, including the Royal Palace. Afterwards, they will take a guided excursion to medieval Segovia, famous for its 2,000-year-old Roman aqueduct. Students are given free time and then will conclude their stay with an evening enjoying Spain's famous tapas (snacks: "finger foods").

Next, two days will be spent in Cordoba and then Seville with an overnight in Seville. In Cordoba, the group will be able to walk through the Patio de los Naranjas and enter the beautiful Mezquita. Seville

some of the world's best oranges during spring. There the group will see sights ranging from the Old Tobacco Factory to the aesthetic overdose of the Barrio de Santa Cruz.

The final day and night in Spain will be spent in the Costa del Sol, with its whitewashed villages and olive groves and its stunning coastal treasures.

The group will return home, beginning with a flight out of Malaga, Spain at 11:35 AM to London, England, arriving at about 1:15 PM. Then they will take another flight out of London at 5:30 PM and arrive back in the U.S. in Newark at approximately 8:35 PM.

From there they will take a bus to PHS, where individuals will be picked up by their families hopefully by 11:00 PM.

Two students who will be on the trip were asked how they felt about going. Senior Amanda Rosenfeld said, "The Spain trip is an opportunity for students to finally experience the culture they have been learning about in their Spanish classes for the past four years."

Senior Meghan Laky said, "I've never been to Europe and have always wanted to go. It is a dream come true!"

## ATTENTION PARKLAND DRIVERS:

### Allentown bans cell phone use while driving

by Sahar Khan

Allentown council members unanimously voted to ban use of devices such as cell phone while driving. Anything that can be used to call, text or browse is banned as of now.

The law went into effect 10 days after Mayor Ed Pawlowski, who was in support of the law, signed the bill. The penalties for breaking this law would result in fine \$150 to \$300. Also if seen using such a device, police can use it as a reason to pull the driver over.

Ban on cell phones is not limited to only drivers, it also applies to people on skateboards, inline skaters and bicyclists. Also one would be allowed to use cell phone if he or she is in an emergency. Another exception to the law are hand-free devices.

Similar bans have already been passed in Philadelphia, Erie and Harrisburg.