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Fear no factor in student/faculty contest

by Elly Jimenez
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Niles West held its first Fear Factor competition on Friday, May 5, featuring four faculty members and four students participating in a variety of events based on the NBC series of the same name.

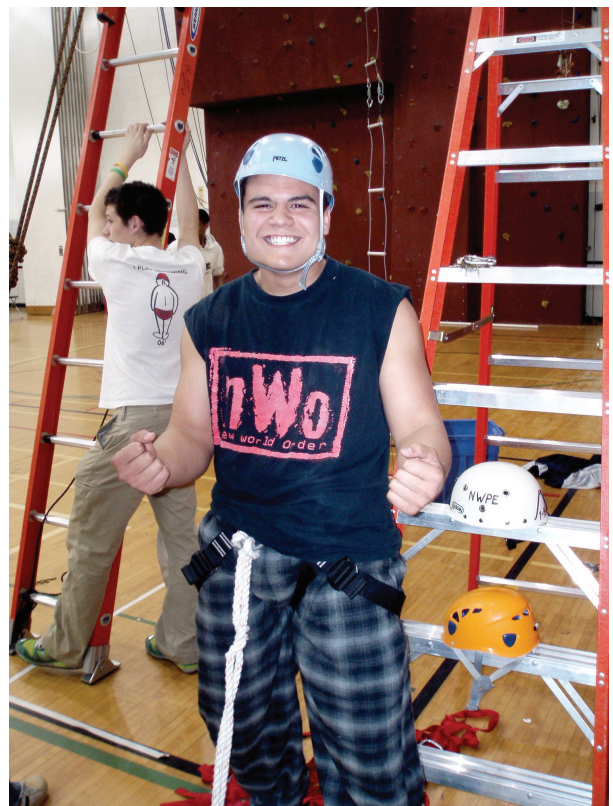
From the faculty math teachers Tim Miller and Andrew Roche, German teacher Sarah Schaeufele and PE teacher Teri Langston participated. Students involved included senior Michael Cardona, junior Kelly McDermott, sophomore David Lee Gould and freshman Lauren Montoya. The contest included typical facets of the program, such as intimidating timed stunts and, of course, eating unusual and disgusting food items.

The first round took place in the pool. The contestants had to swim through waves made by students standing on each side with kickboards. Following that, the contestants had to carry a brick from the end of the shallow end to a crate placed in the deep end and then swim through a hoop in the water and touch the corner end of the pool. Chosen at random, Roche competed first and finished with a time of 35.9 seconds putting him in third place. Gould finished in 32.8 seconds, putting him in second place. Cardona, who competed last, beat Gould by tenths of a second, winning the first round.

The second round involved the dreaded food items. In the field house four hula hoops, representing four food items, were placed on one side of a volleyball net. The remaining contestants had to serve volleyballs and attempt to get them into the hoops to avoid eating each food item. The food items included sardines, raw oysters, caviar and anchovies and they had to be eaten in under five minutes. Cardona, as winner of the previous round, got to choose the order and decided to go last. Roche, the only contestant to serve into a hula hoop, didn't have to eat the anchovies. Everyone finished within the five minutes time, and even though there was a garbage can handy, no one vomited.

All contestants moved on to the third and final round. This round took place in the contest gym on the rope courses. The contestants had to go across the a beam and rip off six flags along the way. The order was once again chosen at random. Montoya went first and finished with a time of 22.66 seconds, eventually putting her in second place. Cardona went last and completed the challenge in 14.73 seconds. In doing so, he won the overall competition plus a \$100 gift certificate for Dick's Sporting Goods.

Of his victory Cardona said, "It feels great! Tremendo!"



Senior Michael Cardona exults after Fear Factor victory.
Photo by Elly Jimenez