

# No 'Nunsense' Allowed

## Marian Speech team sweeps District, State competitions

Kathleen Gerber

**“H**ello, my name is Sister Mary... oh, for a moment there I thought I remembered my real name,”

recited freshman Haley Minnick, otherwise known as Sister Mary Amnesia, for the hundredth time.

She stood among the other Oral Interpretation of Drama (OID) members performing their comical piece for the Marian Speech team. This time, however, she and four other Marian girls stood in the Marian choir room in front of two judges. They weren't performing for any ordinary tournament, though.

They were performing for Speech Districts. Minnick, senior Carla Gibbs and juniors Sarah Ervin, Tyesha O'Neal and Hannah Toohey make up the OID team performing their piece, "Nunsense," by Dan Groggin.

They sing and dance, all while staying in character as five crazy nuns. Their script was adapted from the musical comedy, also called "Nunsense," which is now playing at the Omaha Community Playhouse.

OID is one of the many categories that competed in Districts for and at Marian this year. Minnick was the only freshman, among 18 other Marian students, who competed at the State competition in Kearney on March 24.

This year is the largest group of Marian girls to continue on to the State Speech tournament in many years.

"At first, it was really intimidating. Then I got to know everyone on my team, and it became a lot easier. I got much more comfortable," Minnick said.

In order to be a part of the OID, Marian Speech girls had to audition in December in front of Speech coach Mrs. Jen Christen and assistant coaches Amanda Goodrich and Emily Von Dollen.

Thirty girls auditioned, and only 12 girls were accepted into four different pieces, two OID pieces and two duets. Each team has been practicing since the beginning of January and even during spring break.

The long hours of practicing didn't bring Minnick down; her love for Speech continues to grow every day.

"Speech is one of those things where what you put in is what you get out, and I put

everything I had into it-my heart and soul," Minnick said, "and what I got out of Speech was a family."

There are a few rules that the members of any OID team must follow. The piece has to be less than 15 minutes, and the team members cannot look at or touch each other. The performance can be humorous or serious, and everyone has to hold a book when performing. The rules may seem daunting to outsiders, but to the OID team, it's no setback.

What many Marian girls do not know is that the Speech team has undergone a few changes this year. One major change is the switch from Class A to Class B. Throughout the season, the Marian team still competed against many Class A schools.

The class switch helped significantly, but it is not the main reason that a majority of the members of the Marian District Speech team qualified for State.

In Class A, there is the potential for four State qualifiers per category, and in Class B, there is only an opportunity for three, which makes it more selective. "The reason so many of our girls are going to State is because the District tournament was set up really nicely, and we rose above the competition," Coach Christen said.

Some of the schools Marian competed against in Districts were Mercy, Duchesne, St. Peter Claver and Plattsmouth. In State, however, they competed against a multitude of other schools, including Gretna, Minden and Gothenburg.

Under the direction of Coach Christen, who has been coaching for the last 10 years, Marian won the State competition on March 24, beating Gothenburg by two points. Marian had never won a State Speech title before this year.

"Nunsense" proved to be successful, receiving first place in Districts and fourth place at State.

"Wait a minute! Wait a minute! It's all coming back to me-I was in a contest, a big contest- and I remember walking out onto this huge stage. Sister Mary Paul. Sister Mary Paul! I remember who I am! I am Sister Mary Paul," Minnick said.



### Breaking the Habit.

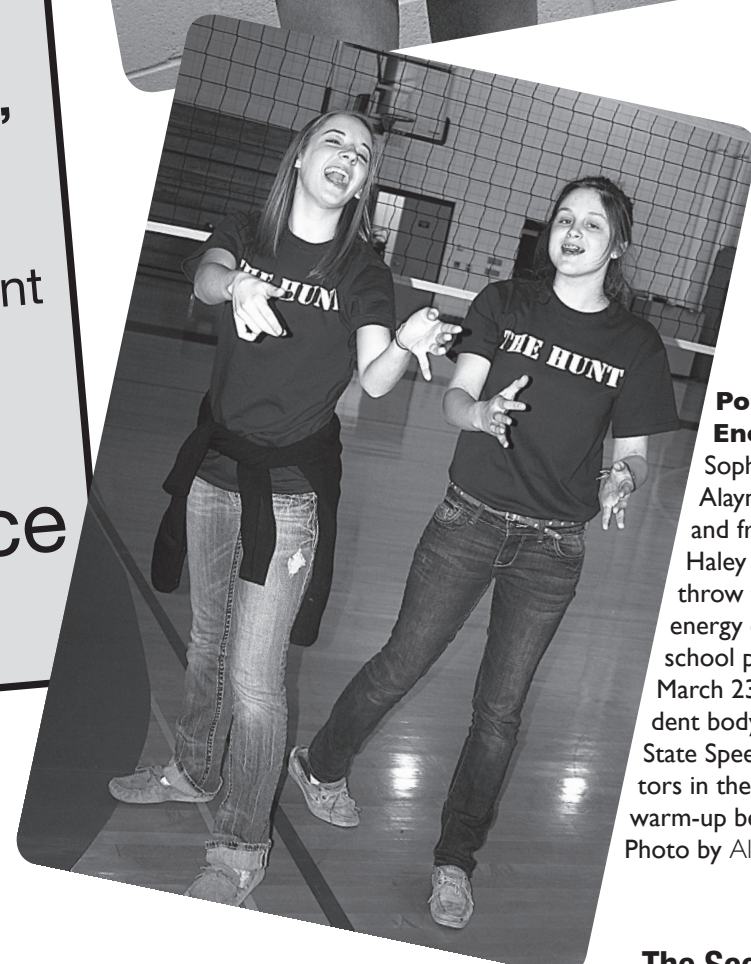
(From left to right) freshman Haley Minnick, juniors Hannah Toohey, Sarah Ervin and Tyesha O'Neal and senior Carla Gibbs act out their OID piece, "Nunsense," on Guest Night on March 20. The team placed fourth in the State competition on March 24.

Photo by Abbey Furlow



### Getting Emotional.

Sophomore Jackie Jensen, a member of the Novice Speech team, performs her piece "Paper or Plastic" during Guest Night. The event provided an opportunity for members of the Speech team to showcase their speeches for friends and family. Photo by Abbey Furlow



### Positive Energy In.

Sophomore Alayna Stokes and freshman Haley Minnick throw their bad energy out at an all-school pep rally on March 23. The student body joined the State Speech competitors in their traditional warm-up before meets. Photo by Alex Eilers

## State Speech Results

Mary Pistillo- 2nd place in Serious Prose

Tyesha O'Neal- 2nd place in Poetry

Kayleigh Lewandowski and Mary Pistillo- 4th place in Duet Acting

Carla Gibbs, Sarah Ervin, Haley Minnick, Tyesha O'Neal and Hannah Toohey- 4th place in Oral Interpretation of Drama

Kelsey Murphy- 4th place in Entertainment

Joy Leick- 5th place in Persuasive

Overall: Marian- 1st place  
NSAA Class B

Graphic by Erin O'Brien