

The Gibichungs



When the Dinklaker West Middle School Choir voted to stage W.R. Wagner's "The Ring of the Nibelung" for Music and Craft Day, the principal worried that the *Bühnenfestspiel* would bankrupt his little school. After all, a typical production featured a massive orchestra; a costumed chorus of Valkyries, Rhinemaidens, Norns, and Neidings; two dozen prima donnas; and a huge catering bill. Luckily, guidance counselor Jerry Pringler had written a downsized 45-minute version of "The Ring" that merely called for a handful of *Gibichungs* —or "girls in ugly dresses"—with rings. Even better, after the performance, the rings were raffled off, along with a commemorative Siegfried weasel puppet, which helped the Dinklaker production to actually *make* money!