

Portraying a Chauvinistic Outlook

ARTS
14 THE PIONEER

Portraying

WEDNESDAY MAY 17, 1995

a chauvinistic outlook



FOOTLIGHTS

Manohar Khushalani

Jama Kharch by

People's Drama League

Panchanan Pathak has been conducting a drama acting course under the banner of People's Drama League every year. The course students consist of young boys and girls who cannot afford to pay very steep fees.

He prepares a play with his students and puts up two shows at the SRC basement. It is always a low budget production with no sets and only some minor props. The show is neither advertised nor ticketed and therefore cannot be reviewed with the same ruthlessness that some of the semi-professional plays can. In fact, Pathak's forte is music and not theatre, but he does this modest exercise as a kind of social work to keep young minds creatively engaged.

This year, People's Drama League presented *Jama Kharch* which is a Hindi adaptation of the original Bangla play *Hiseb Kodi* written by Chandan Sen. The story of *Hiseb Kodi* is a typical middle-class tale full of moralising and sermonising. But it also has a touch of humour.

Ambujaksha (Vinod Panchal) is a rice merchant who is bedridden after a road accident which subsequently proves fatal. His second wife Mallika (Minakshi Malik) who is much younger than him, and his live in father-in-law Nirapad (D Goswami), pester Ambujaksha to review his earlier will which benefits Amit, his son from an earlier marriage.

Ambujaksha had already made some provision for Mal-



An honest and unpretentious production that achieves lika, but because of her so-called indifferent behaviour towards her husband, he prepares a balance sheet. He goes on deducting her sharing her for errors at sions that she made during five years of their mar-



DOONESBURY / Garry Trudeau

