On knacks and homecoming

By CHARLES DEMITZ

In the midst of charges of social aridity and fraternal do-nothingism here in the peat bog, we investigated and found that no wasteland is apparent. As proof, we offer the following official Thresher list of unmissables/unmentionables:

Item: the River Oaks' latest contribution is "The Knack." Following in the wake of "Hard Day's Night" and "Help," the film compares more than favorably. The Cannes Festival Winner portrays a corporally impoverished school teacher, Colin, who rents out a room in his London brownstone to friend Tolin, a social lion of near-legendary stature. Colin, tormented by the procession of women to Tolin's quarters, sets out to remedy his trials.

Better Bed

For one reason or another, an impartial observer-artist moves into the ground floor; Colin decides that Tolin's secret is his superior bed and determines to obtain an even better one; artist and Colin push a Victorian brass bed through the London streets, picking up a small-town girl in the process. The girl, played by Rita Tushingham, becomes the object of contention between Tolin and Colin, and provides the film's resolution. "The Knack's" script and photography are effectively handled, and very enjoyable in the viewing.

Item: the Alray Theatre continues its Antonioni festival through Wednesday with "The Night" and "The Eclipse." You missed "L'Aventura."

Item: Saturday, November 6, is administratively sanctioned Parent Day. Gold owl stickers in the windows, please.

Item: "The Bare Hunt" continues at the Rivoli. Ladies free, as usual.

Melodrama

Item: "Li'l Abner" comes to Hamman this weekend. See Bullmoose defoliate the Dogpatch rainforest.

Item: Friday, November 12, marks the social program to usher in the millennia, worthy of the great Goodman himself. Hanszen, indomitable to the last, melodramatically presents the Hanszen Playhouse, its traditional (as of this year) homecoming offering. Later in the evening, when all have recovered, charismatic culture-hero Roy Head will have 'em rolling in the alley at the Monarch Lanes. No gutterman he.

Item: November 13, Everybody comes/ goes home.