RMC Continues Sunday Series; ‘Desire Under The Elms’ To Be Next

By MARK MONTGOMERY

After cancelling the cinemасope film, “The Three Faces of Eve,” (no more cinemасope until February) and further jostling its schedule for Josh White, the Student Center Board improved on its spotty debut, “The Young Lions,” by flawlessly reeling of “The Lavender Hill Mob” to an appreciative mob of 150 Sunday night.

NEXT WEEK the screen version of Eugene O’Neill’s successful play (1924-25) “Desire Under the Elms” will be shown. Based on a screenplay that O’Neill himself wrote thirty years ago, the film is another treatment of the Oedipus theme (more recent entries — “Hud” and “Phaedra”). This time the setting is rural New England before the Civil War. Tony Perkins, Sophia Loren, and Burl Ives are the players in O’Neill’s Freudian game.

Some critics have maintained that the film, although faithful to the stage play, has lost some of its dark emotional pressure under the cruel objectivity of the camera. “O’Neill set out to write a Yankee ‘Oedipus Rex,’ but what came out might more appropriately have been titled ‘Sex Rex,'” according to “Time’s” extreme view. With Sophia under the elms, most won’t care anyway.