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**My Sweet Lord? - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/3/31 12:43**

Has anyone heard of this? A pop culture artist created a chocolate, nude sculpture of Jesus and aimed to display it at an art exhibition, but it was shut down due to fierce Roman Catholic opposition. My question is why is Rome protesting this? I wonder if it were not made of chocolate would there still be the same uproar? Anyone who knows anything about the Catholic dogma of transubstantiation would find this protest paradoxical! Or is it the fact that Jesus is *not* wearing a loincloth and is totally nude? The hotel intending to host the exhibition actually received death threats. Brethren, I can't help but think that if we would rise up and protest sin and devilish dominion as much as Rome has against some stupid chocolate sculpture...would revival still tarry?

NEW YORK - A planned Holy Week exhibition of a nude, anatomically correct chocolate sculpture of Jesus Christ was canceled Friday after Cardinal Edward Egan and other outraged Catholics complained.

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The "My Sweet Lord" display was shut down by the hotel that houses the Lab Gallery in midtown Manhattan. Roger Smith Hotel president James Knowles cited the public outcry for his decision.

The reaction "is crystal clear and has brought to our attention the unintended reaction of you and other conscientious friends of ours to the exhibition," Knowles wrote in the two-paragraph cancellation notice.

Matt Semler, the gallery's creative director, resigned in protest.

The six-foot sculpture was the victim of "a strong-arming from people who haven't seen the show, seen what we're doing," Semler said. "They jumped to conclusions completely contrary to our intentions."

But word of the confectionary Christ infuriated Catholics, including Egan, who described it as "a sickening display." Bill Donohue, head of the watchdog Catholic League, said it was "one of the worst assaults on Christian sensibilities ever."

The hotel and the gallery were overrun Thursday with angry phone calls and e-mails about the exhibit. Semler said the calls included death threats over the work of artist Cosimo Cavallaro, who was described as disappointed by the decision to cancel the display.

"In this situation, the hotel couldn't continue to be supportive because of a fear for their own safety," Semler said.

The sculpture was to debut Monday evening, the day after Palm Sunday and just four days before Christians mark the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday. The final day of the exhibit was planned for Easter Sunday.

The artwork was created from more than 200 pounds of milk chocolate, and features Christ with his arms outstretched as if on an invisible cross. Unlike the typical religious portrayal of Christ, the Cavallaro creation does not include a loincloth.

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