

## Document Citation

Title	<b>Bostonians add their voices to film protest</b>
Author(s)	John Impemba
Source	<i>Publisher name not available</i>
Date	
Type	article
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Je vous salue Marie (Hail Mary), Godard, Jean Luc, 1985

# Bostonians add their voices to film protest

By John Impemba

THE OUTCRY in Boston over the film "Hail Mary" is the latest in a series of protests that have dogged the French film since it landed on American shores.

In New York last month, thousands of outraged Catholics picketed the film's premiere screening at the New York Film Festival. And last January, Catholics in France sued to bar the film, but the Paris Supreme Court threw out the case and rejected any ban.

Here in Boston this week, A. Alan Friedberg, president of Sack Theaters, capitulated to the mounting protests by canceling the movie's scheduled run at his theater chain.

But that sparked the management of the Orson Welles Cinema in Cambridge to make a bid for "Hail Mary" - and they plan to show the film "no matter what" starting today.

The Boston controversy climaxed last weekend when Cardinal Bernard F. Law condemned the film because, "It does violence to a cherished belief."

Directed by Jean-Luc ("Breathless," "Weekend," "First Name: Carmen") Godard, the film has outraged Catholics because of its "worldly" depiction of the Virgin Mary.

In the movie, Mary works in a French petrol station, plays girl's basketball and spends portions of the movie writhing in spiritual ecstasy in the nude.

One of the Hub's most vocal critics, William A. Rogers of Hyde Park, has termed the film "humiliating, degrading and sacrilegious," but Rogers admits that he has not seen the film.

At the Archdiocese of Boston, the Rev. Peter Conley, a spokesman for Cardinal Law, said his office "has never received so many calls" about a movie.

Even the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith has thrown its support behind the Catholic protesters.

But at the American Civil Liberties Union in Boston, attorney John Roberts said he was glad to see that the film would be shown in Cambridge even though it was "banned in Boston."

In West Germany, the film won an award from the Catholic Bureau, which called it "the creative work of one of the world's great filmmakers."