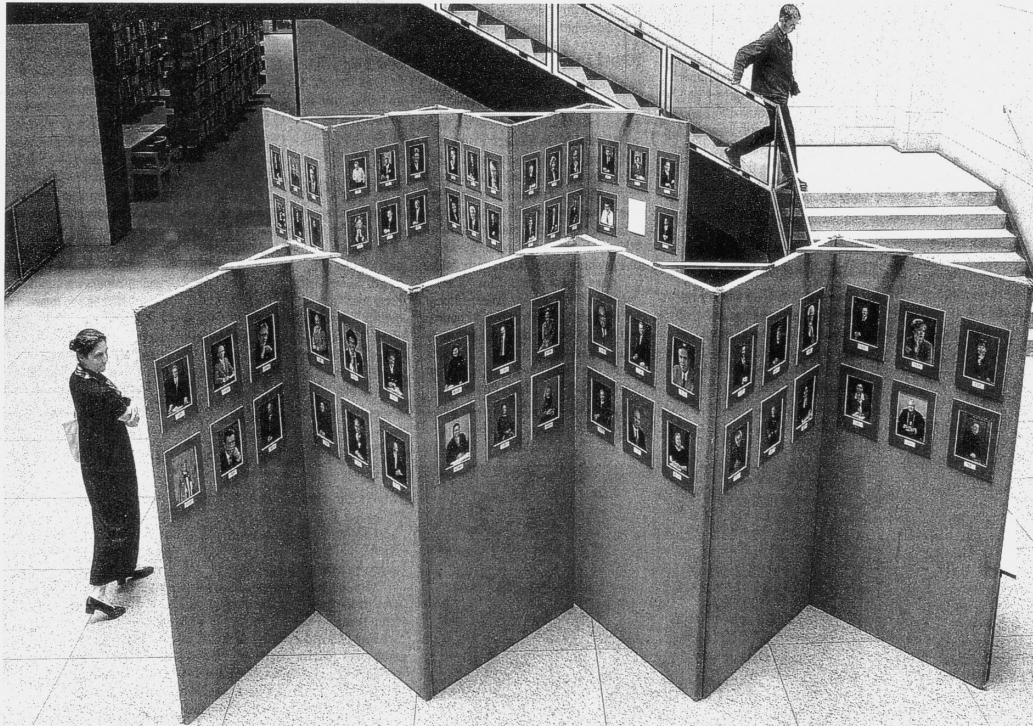


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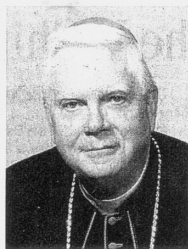
"Boston's Millennium Leaders Through the Bachrach Lens" will be at the Boston Public Library in Copley Square through Friday.

GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / DAVID L. RYAN

Top of the Hub | Portraits at BPL capture some not-so-still lives



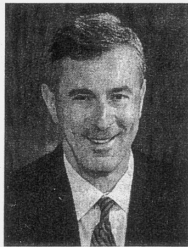
GLORIA LARSON
Foley, Hoag & Elliot partner



CARDINAL BERNARD LAW
Archdiocese of Boston



RIGHT REV. BARBARA HARRIS
Massachusetts Episcopal Diocese



PAUL CELLUCCI
Governor of Massachusetts

By Mark Feeney
GLOBE STAFF

What does the face of power look like in Greater Boston?

About a year ago, it occurred to Robert D. Bachrach, president of Bachrach Photography, the Back Bay portrait studio, to try to answer that question.

Imagine a high school yearbook solely consisting of "most likely to succeed" 's and you have some idea of what "Boston's Millennium Leaders Through the Bachrach Lens" looks like. It's on display through Friday at the Boston Public Library in Copley Square.

There are many usual suspects — Governor Cellucci, Mayor Menino, Cardinal Bernard Law, Harvard president Neil Rudenstine — but they account for only a fraction of the exhibition's 201 portraits.

"Getting a list was probably the hardest part," Bachrach said in a recent interview. He started by going through the 1999 edition of "The Boston Business Journal

Book of Lists" and seeking out the top 10 names listed in various categories. That generated some 330 names for Bachrach to contact to see if they'd be willing to have their portrait taken for the project.

A problem emerged, though. The people on Bachrach's list may have all been highly successful, but that did not make the group reflective of the city they have succeeded in.

"I discovered after getting into it for four or five months that most of the people [on the list] were white males," he explained. "That didn't sit well with me."

It was an issue Bachrach was sensitive to: A similar BPL exhibition the studio had put on in 1993 drew criticism for its demographic skewing toward the palely masculine. At the suggestion of the library, he consulted two books, "The Corporate Board Resource," a listing of local woman business leaders, and Robert C. Hayden's "African Americans in Boston: More Than Three Hundred Fifty Years," to flesh out his list.

That produced another 80 or so names. "Some brainstorming," Bachrach said, "filled in the edges."

Obviously, Bachrach's sampling is nonscientific. But power being an inherently arbitrary concept, "Boston's Millennium Leaders" is as good a start as any in assessing who has clout inside 495 today.

Who they are:

women: 26 percent
African-Americans: 13 percent
Asian-Americans: 4 percent
Hispanic Americans: 5 percent

By occupational category:

business: 65 percent
education: 9 percent
culture: 8 percent
medicine: 5.5 percent
law: 5.5 percent
public service: 5 percent
religion: 2 percent

SOURCE: Biographies provided to Bachrach Inc. by subjects.