

And Justice for All: Women's Liberation  
and The Feminist Movement during the  
1970s and 80s.

Society of Southwest Archivists  
Annual Meeting  
May 23, 2013

# Carey C. Shuart Women's Archive and Research Collection

- Established in 1996 at UH MD Anderson Library
- Two main objectives: Collection and research
- Collects the papers of Houston and Texas Women and the records of Houston area Women's organizations
- Affiliated with UH Women's Studies Program
- Currently there are over 60 collections and growing

# Materials Collected

- Shuart Women's Archives is interdisciplinary and designed to be a community and scholarly resource
- Papers of Individual Women-correspondence, scrapbooks, news clippings, and photographs
- Organizational Records-founding documents, history, charters, by-laws, minutes, yearbooks, membership rosters, agendas, publications, programs, newsletters, and photographs.
- Oral histories and Living Archives Series

# Beyond TARO

- Digital Library
- Archon
- UH Special Collections Blog/FB
- Friends of Women's Studies and Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies Dept.
- Women's Resource Center/University Commission on Women
- Tours to interested constituencies and donors
- Annual Table Talk
- Publications-Houston History Magazine, other pubs.
- Women's Archives Exhibit (Fall-October 2013)
- Living Archives Series-every 3 months
- Brown Bag Series
- Instructional Support

# Digital Library



# UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON LIBRARIES

## Special Collections

Today's Hours 9:00am - 5:00pm

[Home](#) > [About](#) > [Campus Libraries & Collections](#) > [Special Collections](#) >

## Carey C. Shuart Women's Archive & Research Collection

### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Select a Subject Area

Go

## Carey C. Shuart WOMEN'S ARCHIVE AND RESEARCH COLLECTION



Houston Area Women's Center Photographs

The Carey C. Shuart Women's Archive and Research Collection contains the records of women's organizations and the papers of prominent Texas women. These materials document the range of women's concerns, the ways in which women have come together to achieve their goals, and the impact they have had on the world around them. In fulfilling its mission to gather and preserve unique materials for research, the archive has amassed more than fifty collections and continues to grow.

### Finding Aids

- ★ Collections in the Shuart Women's Archives

### Digital Library Collections

- ★ Digital Collections from the Shuart Women's Archives

[Request Copies & Scans](#) | [Citing Special Collections Material](#) | [Visiting Special Collections](#)

### Contact Info

Vince Lee  
Archivist  
[velee@uh.edu](mailto:velee@uh.edu)  
713-743-9753



# Feminist Movement- 1970s

- Roe v. Wade (1973)
- Reproductive Rights
- ERA
- Gloria Steinem
- Battle of the Sexes
- Women in college and the workforce

# Nikki Van Hightower





# Nikki Van Hightower

- Big mover/shaker Houston Feminist Movement
- Women's Advocate of Houston (Fred Hofheinz)
- Organizational Committee for IWY for 1977 NCW in Houston
- KTRH Radio host/personality
- Executive Director of HAWC
- Harris County Treasurer



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF HOUSTON  
TEXAS



TO ALL DELEGATES AND VISITORS TO THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

On behalf of the citizens of Houston, it is our pleasure to welcome you to our community. We are proud to be the host city for the National Conference on the Observance of International Women's Year. This conference represents the goal of equal opportunity for all citizens — a goal that we support and actively strive for here in Houston.

The national conference and the 56 State and Territorial meetings which preceded it have caused both individuals and governmental leaders to stop and reflect on the wasted human resources that result from discrimination against half the citizens of our country and the benefits of encouraging all people to reach their full potential in life. Changing values and life styles can be confusing and frightening, but it is less so when people are informed of the necessity and the positive benefits of the change. This conference is important because it will provide information, education, and a forum for discussion that will assist all people in the transition.

Women workers have been essential to the successful operation of Houston City Government. What is more, their contribution increases as their opportunities broaden. Our society can only become stronger as chances for individual development improve.

Again, welcome to Houston and thank you for sharing this historic moment with us.

In humankind,

*Fred Hofheinz*

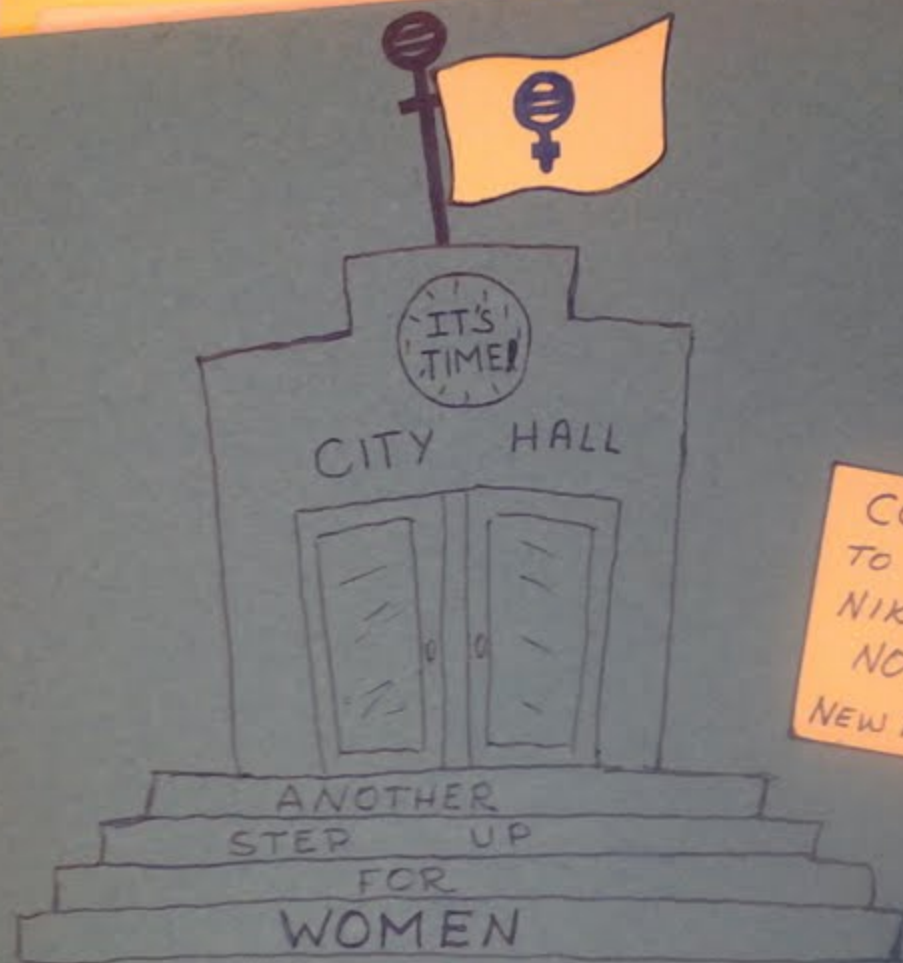
Fred Hofheinz, Mayor

*Nikki Van Hightower*

Nikki Van Hightower, Women's Advocate

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CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR VERY OWN  
NIKKI VAN HIGHTOWER  
NO. 1 FEMINIST and  
NEW ADVOCATE FOR WOMEN

HOUSTON, TEXAS



*City of*  
**HOUSTON**

FRED HOFHEINZ, MAYOR  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77001

**CITY COUNCILMEN**

LARRY MCKAMBLE  
JUDSON ROBINSON, JR.  
LOUIS MACEY  
HUGH L. FORD  
FRANK G. MANCING  
JIM WESTMORELAND  
FRANK E. MANN  
JOHNNY GUYEN

**CONTROLLER**

LEONEL J. CASTILLO

STATE OF THE WOMEN IN HOUSTON

Compiled by

Dr. Nikki R. Van Hightower  
Women's Advocate  
City of Houston

At The Request Of

The Women's Rights Coordinating Council

With The Assistance Of:

Barbara Hugetz, Houston Breakthrough  
Janice Blue, Houston Breakthrough  
Lynne Mutchler, American Association of University Women  
Kay Whyburn, Women's Equity Action League  
Gene Hartin, Model Cities Department, City of Houston  
Barbara Saknowitz, Child Care '76  
Nancy Douglas, Criminal Justice Task Force, League of Women Voters  
Kathryn Whitmire, Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union  
Mary Buxton, The Continuing Task Force on Education for Women, Texas State  
National Organization for Women  
Glenna Cloud, Houston Women's Health Collective  
Linda Cryer, Administrator of the Rape Treatment, Detection and Prevention  
Program, City of Houston  
Pokey Anderson, Pointblank Times  
Dr. Nina M. Sisley, Chief, Chronic Illness Control Division, City of Houston  
Beth Kendrick, National Organization Against Sexism in the Media  
Dr. Susan MacManus, University of Houston, Department of Political Science

After analysing the 1977 employment statistics as reported to the federal government in the EEO4 Report, it must be concluded that for women affirmative action in Houston City Government comes close to being a total failure. Women continue to be discriminated against in hiring, promotions, salaries, and benefits (although that matter is not covered here). Our City Government continues to set a poor example for equal opportunity to private employers. Setting up offices of affirmative action, advocacy, or liaisons is merely window dressing when our elected officials fail to change the discriminatory policies that are highlighted by these offices or when they fail to select administrative leadership who is committed to equal opportunity for all people.

Final Report Submitted by:

*Nikki R. Van Hightower*

Dr. Nikki R. Van Hightower  
Women's Advocate  
City of Houston

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SPEECH

I. INTRODUCTION

A. ENJOY PARTICIPATING IN WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

B. ~~TAKE A GREAT DEAL~~ <sup>I FEEL A TREMENDOUS SENSE</sup> OF PRIDE IN THE WOMEN WHO FOUGHT THE EARLY BATTLES FOR US TO BE FULL-FLEDGED CITIZENS.

C. I LIKE THINKING ABOUT THEM - WONDERING WHAT THEY WERE FEELING, WHAT THEY THOUGHT BEING A WOMAN WAS ALL ABOUT.

*IMPORTANT - PARTICIPATE*

D. BECAUSE THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN HISTORY HAS BEEN SO POORLY DOCUMENTED, WE TEND TO FORGET THE TRADITION OF INDIVIDUAL COURAGE AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM THAT WE HAVE.

1.

1.

2.

E. DID NOT "JUST HAPPEN" THAT WOMEN HAVE THE RIGHTS THEY HAVE TODAY

1. PEOPLE SACRIFICED

2. TOOK SOME BIG RISKS

3. WITHSTOOD THE OSTRACISM AND ALIENATION THAT COMES WITH GOING AGAINST THE MAINSTREAM.

4. DONE AT A TIME WHEN TOLERANCE WAS LOWER AND THE PENALTIES HIGHER THAN THEY ARE NOW.

2.



CBS-50,000 WATTS

# KTRH

YOUR NEWS, SPORTS, AND INFORMATION STATION

## HOUSTON RADIO 740

4-3-78

Mrs. Lee Wilcoxon  
8311 Northbridge Drive  
Houston, Texas 77033

Dear Mrs. Wilcoxon:

Ed and I would like to personally thank you for submitting the name "Doubletalk" for our show. After receiving hundreds of dreary names, yours really caught our imagination. We both favored it above all the others.

We thank you for listening and for your contribution to our show.

In humankind,

*Nikki R. Van Hightower*  
Nikki R. Van Hightower

*Ed Brandon*  
Ed Brandon



THE RUSK CORPORATION, 510 LOVETT BOULEVARD, ALL MAIL TO P.O. BOX 1520, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77001. PHONE (713) 526-4591

10-24-71  
Two

KTRH  
COMMENTARY  
BY  
DR. NIKKI R. VAN HIGHTOWER  
"ALL MALE CLUBS"

I CONGRATULATE THE NEW YORK CITY JAYCEES FOR TAKING A STAND AGAINST THE "ALL MALE" POLICY OF ~~THE~~ <sup>THEIR</sup> NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. ~~SAYING~~ <sup>STATING</sup> THAT IT WAS NOT "A GLORIFIED STAG CLUB," THE NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER OF THE JAYCEES SAID IT WOULD WITHDRAW FROM THE PARENT ORGANIZATION ~~AFTER~~ <sup>FOLLOWING</sup> A FIVE-YEAR BATTLE OVER THE ADMISSION OF WOMEN.

THE COURTS HAVE RULED THAT "WOMEN HAVE NO CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO JOIN A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION," WHICH MEANS THAT ACTION AGAINST ~~THESE~~ <sup>SUCH</sup> ORGANIZATIONS, AS JAYCEES, KIWANIS, ROTARY, EXCHANGE CLUBS, ETC, IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE DONE INFORMALLY. THE PURPOSE OF THE STRUGGLE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS BY WOMEN IS NOT ~~TO TAKE~~ <sup>TO</sup> AWAY MEN'S RIGHT AND PRIVILEGE TO BE TOGETHER. IN FACT, THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE TRAINING GROUNDS FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS. THEY ARE FORUMS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF BUSINESS, JOBS, IDEAS, ~~THEY ARE FORUMS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF MONEY AND POWER.~~ <sup>MONEY & POWER</sup> ~~MONEY IN THE FORM OF BUSINESS AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES. POWER IN THE SENSE THAT THEY PROVIDE TRAINING GROUNDS FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS AND A VITALLY IMPORTANT SOCIAL NETWORKS THAT CAN BE UTILIZED AS A BASE FOR WEILDING INFLUENCE.~~ <sup>FURTHERMORE THEY PROVIDE</sup>



GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO THE KTRH  
WOMEN'S ADVOCATE'S HOUR. I AM NIKKI VAN HIGHTOWER  
YOUR HOST.

MY GUEST TODAY IS MS. POKEY ANDERSON, CO-CHAIR  
OF THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE AND A  
MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE GAY POLITICAL CAUCUS.

OUR SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION TODAY WILL BE  
WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GAY RIGHTS AND THE RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN THE TWO.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION,  
JUST GIVE US A CALL AT 526-4984 OR (713) 526-0193.

THE NUMBER TO CALL IS 526-4984  
THIS IS KTRH IN HOUSTON

1. POKEY, YOU OPENLY IDENTITY YOURSELF AS A LESBIAN  
AND YOU ARE TAKING A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN A MOVEMENT THAT  
IS PROBABLY AS FEARED, CHASTISED, MISUNDERSTOOD,  
ATTACKED AND MALIGNED AS ANY SOCIAL MOVEMENT THAT  
THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN. HOW DO YOU HOLD UP? DO  
YOU EVER GET THE DESIRE TO GO BACK IN THE CLOSET?

2. I HAVE HEARD IT SAID, OVER AND OVER AGAIN ON THIS  
RADIO SHOW IN FACT THAT LESBIANISM IS NOT A WOMAN'S  
ISSUE, THAT IT IS AN ALBATROSS AROUND THE NECK OF THE  
WOMEN'S MOVEMENT, THAT IT IS UNNATURAL, IMMORAL, SINFUL,  
AND CORRUPTING. LET'S LOOK AT THESE CHARGES ONE  
AT A TIME.

3. IS IT A WOMAN'S ISSUE, ~~IS IT A WOMAN'S ISSUE~~ IS THERE A  
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LESBIAN RIGHTS AND GAY RIGHTS?

4. HAS IT BEEN AN ALBATROSS AROUND THE NECK OF THE  
WOMEN'S MOVEMENT, AND WOULDN'T IT BE GOOD POLITICS  
TO DROP THIS ISSUE FOR THE TIME BEING AND CONCENTRATE  
ON FULL LEGAL EQUALITY FOR WOMEN?

# Houston Area Now

- Local chapter organized in March 1970
- Primary goal is equality for women
- Concerned with status/issues of Women
- Activities: Awareness, media, financial services, litigation, and politics
- Many member involved not only with Houston Now but other sub-affiliates.

# Accomplishments

- Sex Discrimination in EEOC
- Depiction of women in ads
- Women included in Houston Plan
- Abortion
- Equal legal rights
- Human relations ordinance

## HOUSTON AREA CHAPTER NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN



The Houston Area Chapter of NOW was organized in March, 1970, by 10 women and men concerned about the status of women. Now there are over 150 local members and our numbers are growing. Our accomplishments include the following:

### Sex Discrimination Included in EEOC Hearings

In the summer of 1970 when the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission met in Houston, the local chapter got sex discrimination included in their hearings. Previously the EEOC had not considered sex discrimination. As a result of NOW's testimony, the policy of the EEOC has changed and public awareness of discrimination against women has been greatly increased.

### Want Ads Desexegrated

After meetings with the Houston Post, the Post dropped its separate male and female help wanted columns. The Houston Chronicle continues to separate its want ads by sex despite our protestations as well as those of the EEOC.

### Women Included in Houston Plan

Houston Area NOW participated in the Houston Minorities Coalition which prepared the Houston Plan for increasing minority employment in the construction trades. Goals and timetables for women workers are included in the plan. No other city plan has included women.

### Abortion Coalition Formed

Houston Area NOW sponsored the organizing meeting of the Texas Abortion Coalition, a statewide coalition of groups and individuals who want repeal of abortion laws. As feminists, we believe that a woman has the right to control her own body and the right to choose parenthood.

### Equal Legal Rights Amendment Passed

Our lobbying efforts paid off in early 1971 when the Texas Legislature passed the Equal Legal Rights Amendment to the Texas Constitution. This amendment will be voted on by the people in November, 1972. If passed, it will guarantee that equal rights under the law cannot be denied or abridged on the basis of sex.

### Human Relations Ordinance Proposed for Houston

In August, 1971, the Houston Area Chapter introduced to city council a Human Relations Ordinance for the City of Houston. This ordinance prohibits discrimination in employment, public accommodations, and housing on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, national origin, or place of birth. Many civic leaders have endorsed this proposal, but we need your help to get it passed. Human rights for all must become a reality.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
OCTOBER 25, 1974

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:  
JAN DILBECK - 524-5743

N.O.W. TO FILE DISCRIMINATION CHARGES AGAINST FIRST CITY NATIONAL BANK

An employment discrimination complaint will be filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 2320 LaBranch, Houston, against First City National Bancorporation of Texas, Inc., by the Houston Area Chapter of the National Organization for Women (N.O.W.), at 10:00 A.M., October 29, 1974.

This class action on behalf of all female employees will be brought at the specific request of two employees of the bank. N.O.W. is filing the complaint in order to protect the anonymity of the two employees.

"Banks are among the worst offenders in the area of employment discrimination and in failing to give women credit for the work they do," said Jan Dilbeck, President of Houston/N.O.W. "I find it distressing that such banks are not complying with the law."

First City National Bank is the largest bank in Houston. N.O.W. is the largest and oldest feminist organization in the world.

Houston Area NOW and Other Feminist  
Activities Collection Acc # 2002-003  
BOX 2 FOLDER 16  
Description: Employment task force [1973-  
1975]

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF  
HOUSTON AREA CHAPTER,  
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

I, Beverly Horton, Secretary of Houston Area Chapter, National Organization for Women, certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by a majority of the members present and voting at a regular meeting of the Houston Area Chapter, National Organization for Women, held on March 12, 1975:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Houston Area Chapter, National Organization for Women, join the Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union, when it receives its charter.

I further certify that said resolution is still in effect and has not been rescinded or modified in any way.

DATED March \_\_\_\_\_, 1975.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Beverly Horton, Secretary  
Houston Area Chapter  
National Organization for Women





*The*

**BROADSIDE**

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

HOUSTON CHAPTER

**ABORTION**

**IN**

**TEXAS**

THE EDITORS



# Ephemera/Artifacts



# NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 18-21, 1977





# WOMEN : ART : HOUSTON



Photo: Barbara Sloan-White

*Vivian Emitt*

*Roberta Davis*

*Trudy Swan*

*Patricia Barrington*

Juror's statement:  
In selecting this show we were guided by the artists dedication to freedom, risk and the inventive juxtaposition of medium and theme. The resulting mixture in these works reveals the immense variety and sophistication of this place, these people.

# Houston Gorilla Girls





# Who were those masked women?



- Formed in May 1987
- Originally 4 Houston Women
- From “Guerilla Girls” NYC
- Gender Inequality

# What's up with the suits?

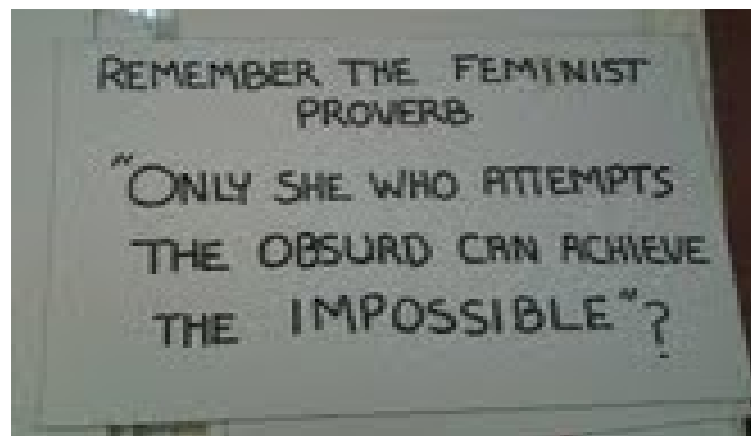
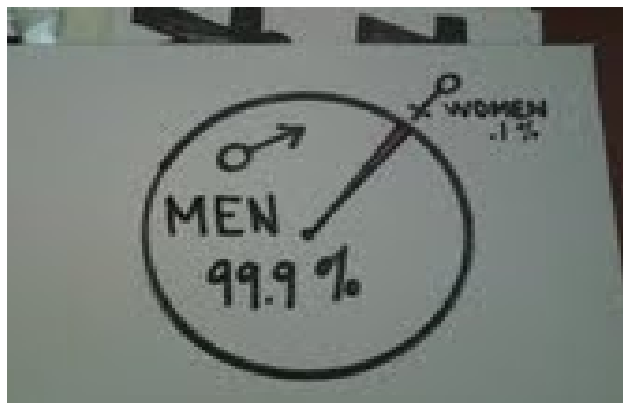
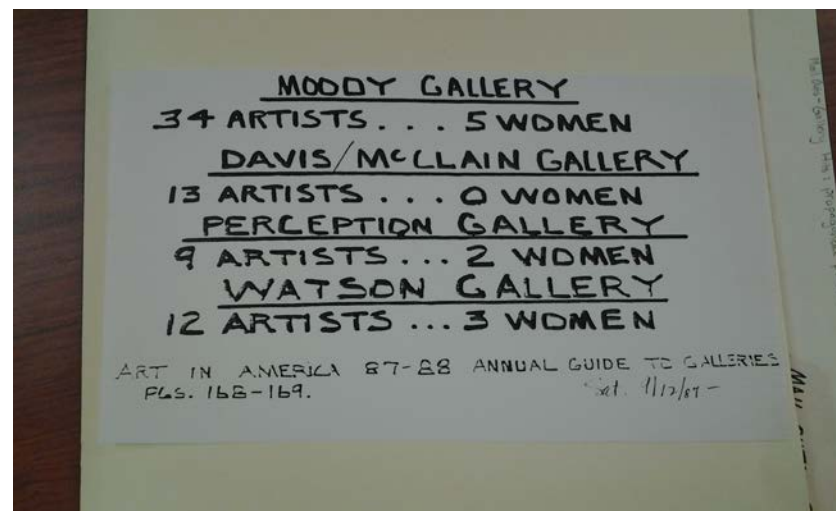


# The Hits keep coming





# What was a “hit” like





# Today and what's next???