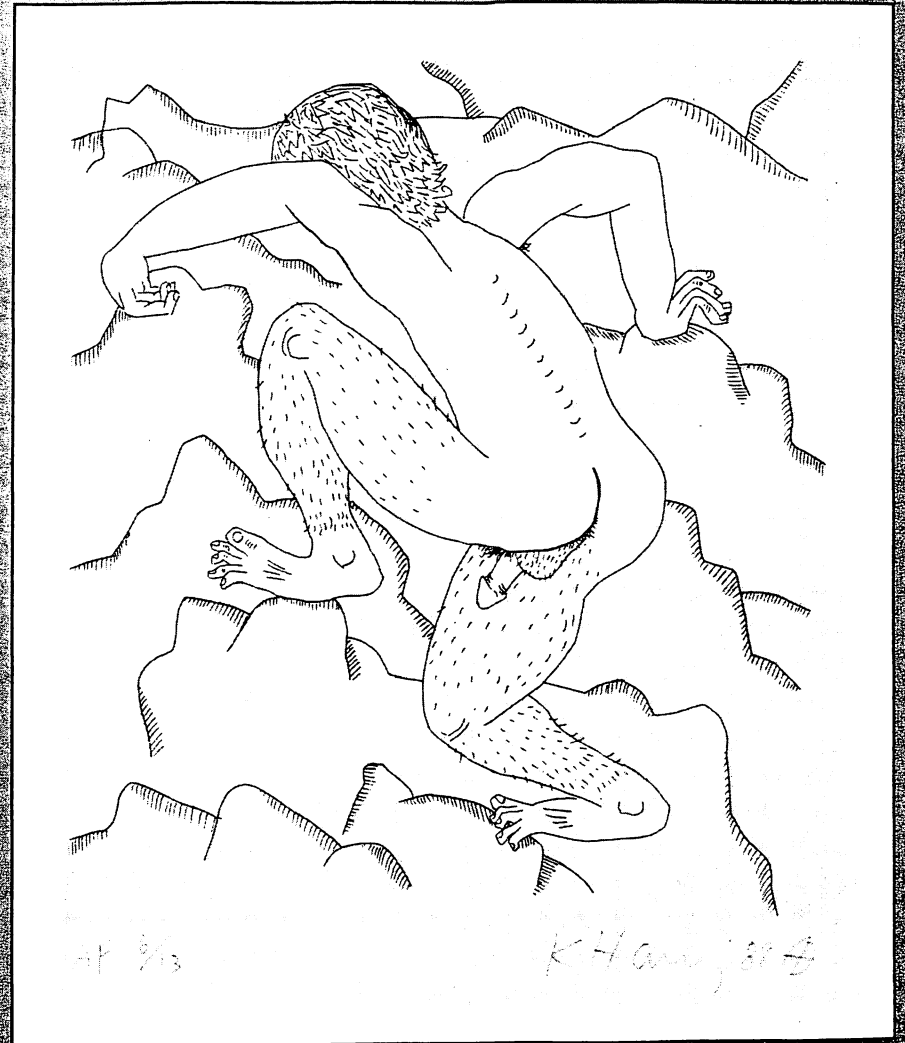


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On the Cover: an etching by Keith Haring (1958-1990) from the portfolio *The Valley*, an unbound, boxed book with text by William S. Burroughs and etchings by Haring. The text of *The Valley* is taken from Burroughs' 1987 novel, *The Western Lands*. Burroughs' text concerns a population isolated in a valley, but striving to escape by flying, by tunneling and by narcotic escape. Among this population is a priestly group that thrives on a dangerous nocturnal strain of corn. At first they are strong and some are nearly able to climb out of the valley. Haring's etching is one of these youthful "corners" close to the edge of the valley. The etchings were started in April, 1989, and completed shortly before his death from AIDS in 1990.

The editors of this issue's Special Section on Gender, Masculinity, Sexuality, and Politics are very pleased to have been able to select a work by the highly-acclaimed artist, Keith Haring, to represent the spotlighted articles by Steven Seidman and Robert W. Connell. In the cover etching, Haring presents a powerful portrayal of "man's" attempt to escape the limiting constraints of the valley as textually imagined by William S. Burroughs. In much the same way, the works of Seidman and Connell illuminate similar constraints on sexuality and gender roles that have been constructed by society—and which they deconstruct in order to reconstruct a new vision of a better world.—KM

Acknowledgments

We would like to say thank you to a number of people that were intricately involved in the production of this volume of *SOCIAL THOUGHT AND RESEARCH*. Steve Goddard, Cori Sherman, and Annie Graham of the Spencer Art Museum, University of Kansas, were all a major help in obtaining the use of the Keith Haring piece. Thanks also to Annelise Ream, of the Keith Haring Estate, in New York for her assistance with the Haring drawing. Also, we are grateful for the continued excellent service of Loretta Porter in the CLAS Word Processing Center and Gwen Claassen in Printing Services. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of numerous reviewers of vol. 24.

Jason S. Capps
Melissa Haveman
Ann Hickey
Kelley Massoni
December 2001