July 12, 2001 found a cadre of NOMAS regulars and a fine representation of pro-feminist allies and interested parties gathered on the campus of Denver University in a residential neighborhood not far from I-25.

About 165 people took part in some or all of the 26th Men * Masculinity Conference, sponsored for the second consecutive year by the Colorado Chapter.

In addition to the general welcome and the reading of a proclamation from Mayor Wellington Webb, the conference kicked off with a special prayer ceremony performed by two members from the local Navajo Two-Spirit organization. Their prayers were made more poignant by the fact that just a few weeks earlier a 16 year old Two Spirit Navajo had been beaten and slashed and left to die in a remote part of Cortez, CO, ostensibly the victim of a hate crime because he was perceived to be homosexual by his alleged assailant.

The first keynote of the program was presented by our own Brian Klocke (photo left) from University of Colorado at Boulder. His address, “Crossing Borders: Resisting Global Corporatization and Patriarchy was followed by a panel of women in education who discussed “The Impact of Corporate Globalization on Women and Other Marginalized Communities and Models of Global Interdependence. Panel members included Lisa Facio, CU-Boulder; Anna Sampaio, CU-Boulder; Molly Zackary, CSU; Margie Zamudio, CU-Boulder

The second keynote was by Jerry Bigner (photo right) from Colorado State University. Entitled “Resolving the Enigma of Gay Men as Fathers,” the presentation covered a comprehensive range of issues faced by gay men who are fathers – either from previous heterosexual marriages or through adoption or by “marriage” to another man who already has children.

Nationally renowned anti-sexist Jackson Katz (photo left) was the third keynote with a presentation on his award-winning video – “Tough Guise: Violence, Media & the Crisis in Masculinity,” the first educational video geared toward college and high school students that systematically examines the relationship between images of popular culture and the social construction of masculine identities at the dawn of the 21st century.

Dr. Anna Sampaio (photo right) gave the final keynote of the conference on Sunday afternoon with an address on the Transnational Women’s Resistance in the Context of Globalization with special emphasis on the Women of Chiapas.

There were over thirty presenters offering workshops on everything from anti-violence to
same gender friendship, women’s rights to body image and eating disorders among men and boys. Additionally, there was plenty of entertainment including a concert by local artist and AIDS activist, Paula Westerfield, a Haitian dance troupe, the FENIX Teatro and our own internationally recognized singer/songwriter, Peter Alsop.

There were two art exhibits – one by local gay photographers and one by Brian Klocke which integrated photography and text to challenge viewers to think about issues of corporate hegemony and globalization.

And, there was plenty of time for socializing, making new friends and reacquainting with friends and colleagues from past conferences.

NOMAS and the local planning committee are grateful to the many individuals and organizations who contributed to making M&M26 a great success and particularly to the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work who sponsored the conference at the University of Denver.