

## Regional Planning for National March Begins

by **Howdy Russell**

Approximately 75 people gathered in Boston's City Hall for the first New England Regional Planning Committee meeting for the National Lesbian and Gay March on Washington for Oct. 11, 1987.

The committee is open to anyone from this area who wishes to help plan the march. Individuals were present from all the New England states; however, the majority were Bostonians.

The meeting started with a rousing address by Boston's openly gay councilperson, David Scondras, and then moved quickly into discussions of what has been decided so far concerning the march and what tasks lie ahead. Some of the most heated discussions centered around decisions that were made at the national planning meeting in New York City. For example, the national group decided not to include in its policy statement a mention of support for non-intervention by the U.S. in the Third World. It was finally the recommendation of the New England committee that our representatives to the National Committee urge reconsideration of this decision.

The Boston group also discussed the National Committee's decision to hold the march on a Sunday. It was felt by many people that a Sunday march would not receive the press coverage that a Saturday march would. The main argument for having the march on Sunday was that it gave people an extra day to get to Washington and that was particularly important for people from distant states who couldn't afford to take time off from work to get there. The group was fairly evenly split on this question, with a slight majority favoring the Saturday march date. It was

### PFLAG Group Meets in Amherst

A new local chapter of the national organization, *Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays* has begun meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in the Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Spring Street, Amherst, MA.

PFLAG's primary purpose is to provide support for parents, relatives, friends, and members of the gay/lesbian/bisexual community through informal discussion, education, and outreach. Since one out of every four families has one or more gay members, the need for a comfortable, confidential forum for the sharing of mutual concerns is acute. All interested persons are welcome.

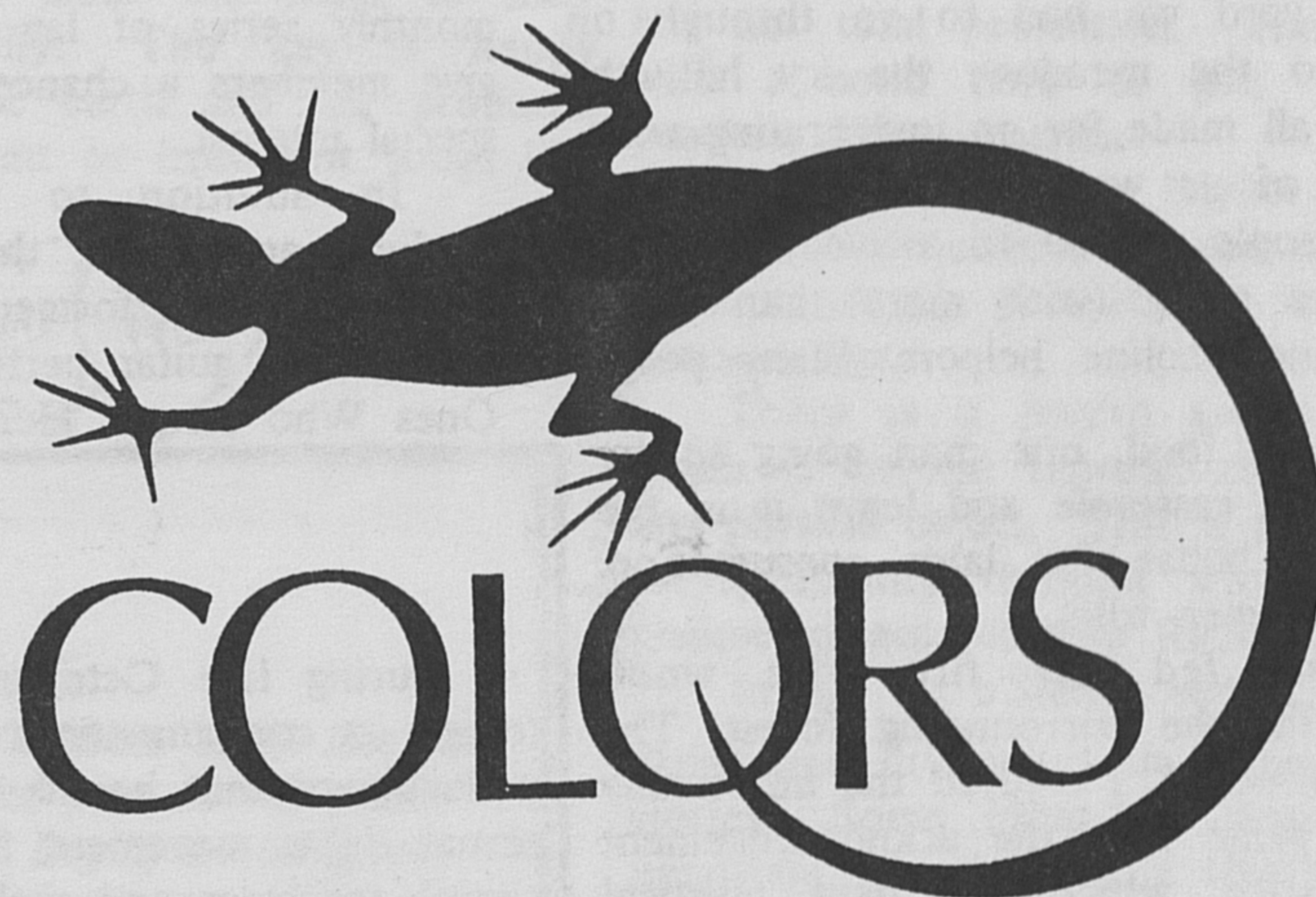
PFLAG encourages concerned individuals, organizations, churches, and study groups to call the Host Parents at 617-532-4883 or 617-253-3354 to inquire about PFLAG's activities or ways in which local members might be of service to them.

recognized that it is very unlikely that the National Committee would consider changing the date in any event.

Finally, it was decided that there would be another meeting of the regional committee in Boston Feb. 28. One task at this meeting will be to choose four permanent representatives to the National Committee from our region. At the New

York meeting four people were chosen to act as interim representatives from New England. However, three out of the four are from Boston and it was felt that our ongoing representation ought to better reflect the diversity of our region. Anyone interested in attending this Feb. 28 meeting is most welcome! (See calendar for details.)

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