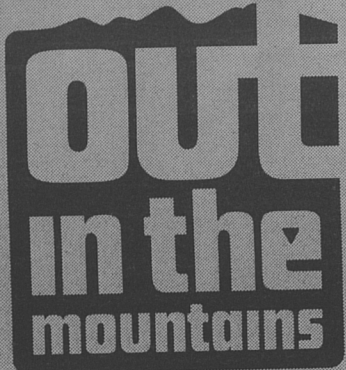
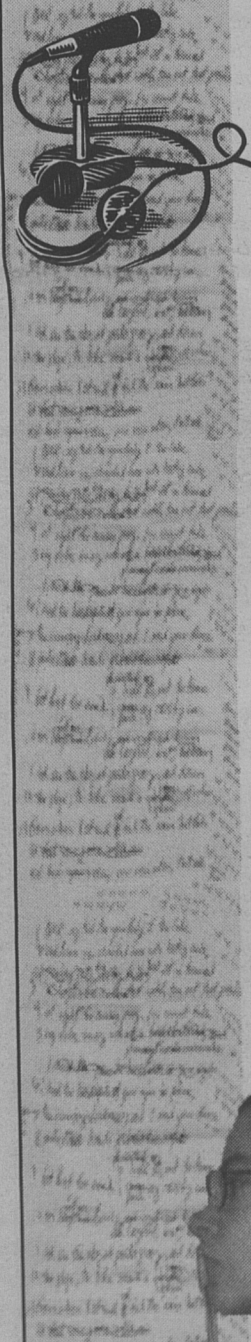


**Conley Country**  
 FROM THE CONNECTICUT RIVER  
 TO THE CANADIAN BORDER  
 REAL ESTATE INSURANCE  
 179 Main St., Derby • 800-243-2401  
 (802) 766-2401 • 766-4731 (f)  
 mick@realestatevermont.com  
**realestatevermont.com**  
 to view our current listings


Support the  
 advertisers  
 who support  
**US!**  
 Say you saw their ad in:

**Woman-Stirred  
 Radio**  
*the Premier*  
**GLBTQ Radio Show**  
 Thursdays, 4-6pm  
 Hosted by Merry Gangemi

May 4th  
**Minnie Bruce Pratt**  
 May 11th  
**Robin Williams**  
 May 18th  
**Jane Rule**  
 May 25th  
**Elana Dykewomon**

**WGDR 91.1 FM  
 Goddard College**  
 Stream it live at  
**www.wgdr.org**



a e CD

# Wedding Gowns and Guitars: One Version of The Gay Agenda

BY CLARK SHELDON

**W**hat do you get when you mix John Cameron Mitchell, Alan Cumming, Margaret Cho, Lou Reed, Moby, Kathleen Han-nah, Bob Mould and Sandra Bernhard with a giant stage, a microphone, and a piano?

A party, of course! Along with pithy comments, strong politics and rock and roll! Oh! And a bunch of gay, lesbian and straight people speaking out for marriage equality.

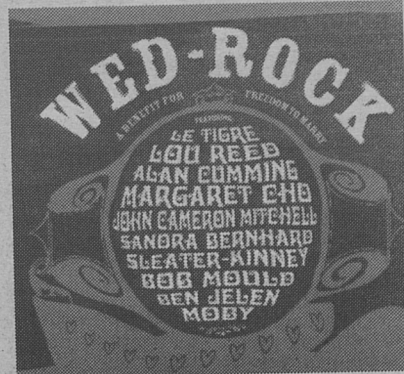
In April 2004, in a West Chelsea club, the album *Wed-Rock* was recorded live from a benefit show for Freedom to Marry, a national coalition working for marriage equality across the United States. This short CD packs both a serious and silly punch.

Serious fans of Margaret Cho take note! Cho sends out a serious blast of attitude in 12 minutes—the longest track on the entire disc. She covers legislative

ammendments, morality, Eve, weddings, George W. Bush and Dick Cheney! She comments about her routine when talking to 'straight audiences.'

"If you are against same sex marriage but laugh your ass off to 'Will and Grace'... Fuck You! You are not allowed the benefits of our culture and leaving behind the burden of in-equality. That is just like in the 50s when white people stole rock and roll from black people."

You tell 'em, Margaret! It's easy to tell that all the guest artists are happy to be performing in support of gay marriage, and they take their job seriously. Sleater-Kinney covers John Fogerty's song, "Fortunate Son," and dedicates it to George W. Bush. I've always thought Fogerty's song was powerful, but explicitly naming Bush as "the ultimate fortunate son" makes so much more sense! Bless Sleater-Kinney for making the connection from Vietnam to Iraq



and the goals of Bush's White House.

Stopping at nothing, Cho playfully asks the audience, "What is the gay agenda exactly? Is it ass-less wedding gowns?" A roar of laughter and cheering erupts. I laughed out loud too—in my living room. ▼

➔ Clark Sheldon, International Man of Mystery, rides his bicycle in Burlington's Old North End and hangs out with daffodils.

## MENSPACE: BRATTLEBORO MEN'S PROGRAM THRIVES ← CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

**JASON:** What challenges have you encountered since you've started working for the Men's Program?

**HOWIE:** I think the biggest challenge we face is finding ways to support guys in staying safe that really work. Beating guys over the head with the same old safer-sex messages they've been hearing for the past 20 years will not work. But addressing the issues that keep guys from staying safe - like low self-esteem, overuse of drugs and alcohol, isolation and lack of emotional support - is where we need to focus our efforts. Getting guys connected to a supportive community is a major step in addressing those issues - and finding ways to reach guys who aren't yet connected is a major challenge.

**Alex:** It can be challenging to reach guys and get them out and energized in a rural, small town environment. Some men are still a bit hesitant about being overly out in their small towns, and worry that being too involved in something like the Men's Program may compromise their privacy. Another challenge we face in working with HIV prevention is that the

gay and bi community overall has a serious case of AIDS-fatigue. So many of us have been hearing these messages for so many years. We meet a number of men who simply don't want to talk about it one more time. And we really understand that.

**JASON:** What do you hope to accomplish at the Men's Program?

**HOWIE:** What I'd really like to do is reach more and more guys who don't feel at all connected to the local men's community, and even if they don't really want to be coming to Men's Program events all the time, help them get connected with

at least a few other gay and bi guys for friendship and support.  
**ALEX:** I hope to accomplish the creation of those connections I've talked about, and the creation of strong community norms around safer sex, thereby having a true impact on the health, wellness and happiness of the men in this area. ▼

➔ Jason Whipple is a freelance writer whose work has been featured in the *Seattle Gay News*, *RFD Journal* and *Genre Magazine*. He was previously an editor of *Out in the Mountains*. He lives in Brattleboro, VT. You can reach him at [jason@ghostmediaonline.com](mailto:jason@ghostmediaonline.com).

### Don't be shy. Be in touch. Get connected to the Men's Program

Are you looking to connect with other guys from the community in a fun and relaxed way? Are you interested in finding space and time to talk about what truly matters to gay and bi men? Look no further. Connections, a three-hour interactive workshop focusing on how we meet, date, become intimate and have sex as men, is where you want to be.

To learn more about the Connections workshop and how to register, email Howie at the Men's Program at [men@sover.net](mailto:men@sover.net).