

in perspective, repeatedly expressing her desire to remain herself. “Spooky” is what she calls the early buzz her album [still untitled at press time] has received from *The Boston Globe* and magazine *XXL*, and she’s well aware of the expectations attached to anyone who emerges from the St. Louis hip-hop scene.

Ironically, the one thing she says people will expect to hear from her—tales of prison, of her brother—only make minor appearances on the album, showing up sporadically in songs such as “Miss Me With That Foolishness” and “My Shoes.” “I’m sure people are expecting to hear a lot about prison and what happened in there, but that’s something I don’t want to talk about right now,” she says. “I give you a little bit of that, but I wanted to be more versatile.”

She’s also savvy enough to recognize that hype wasn’t enough to help fellow local rapper *Ebony Eyez* break into the mainstream market. “It wasn’t her music,” she says. “It was the people who were backing her. I’m just praying that my management team can help me succeed in this. They knew exactly what to do with Nelly and where to put him. I’m hopeful they can use those same avenues to help me.”

And there it is: the N-word. She feels the pressure of following Nelly, but she’s prepared for it ... sort of. “Don’t expect me to come out and fill Nelly’s shoes, because Nelly is Nelly,” she says. “I’m filling Penelope’s shoes—and I believe that I’m going to make it happen. And I’m excited. And I’m nervous. And I’m ready.”

—Matthew Halverson

QUOTES OUT OF CONTEXT

When we consider the neighbors we could have, such as a motorcycle club, meth lab, livestock operation or hunting club, for example, I consider ourselves to be very lucky.

— Tom Evans

Quoted in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

# NAME THAT RED HAT

Those checking out downtown galleries in the Loft District during the second week of June may also catch a sight strongly resembling performance art—a flock of red-hatted, purple-suited women. Approximately 6,000 of these flamboyant folk are expected to rumble into town June 7-11 for “Gateway to Glitz,” the Red Hat

Society’s fifth international convention. Originally scheduled to converge on New Orleans, the Red Hat Ladies rerouted themselves to America’s Center, in downtown St. Louis, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The Red Hats have more than 1,000 chapters throughout Missouri—one for almost every town in the state. All of those chapters need names, and the “Red Ladies” and “Red Hats of [insert town name here]” get old pretty quickly. So a startling number of these gals have differentiated themselves with seamy names that wouldn’t be out of place on a burlesque marquee: the Foxy Red Hot-Flash Floozies or the Red and Sassy Ladies (subtitled “We Do It In Hats”).

To help you tell them all apart, we’ve put together a quick list of some of the more memorable chapter names. See whether you can match them to their description ... or the description that we guessed might fit.

—Margaret Bauer

## little women

Some Red Hat ladies are big. Some are so small, you can fit four of them in a hat ... with a biscotti-toting tea cart. For those who can only take the boa-twirling, kazoo-honking, chromatically challenged divas in small doses—which is basically everyone who isn’t a Red Hat lady—the



Miniature Museum of St. Louis is rolling out its really little red carpet to the larger-than-life ladies this summer with an exhibition of dinky dames in red and purple, running through July 16. It’s menopause in miniature!

—M. H.

CHAPTER NAME

- 1 Ladies of the Red Dragon
- 2 Red Hot Postal Mamas
- 3 Ladies of Altitude
- 4 Lizzie’s Queen Mums and Queens of Sorts
- 5 Sophisticated Ladies Under Tremendous Stress
- 6 Ruby Sisters
- 7 Cardinal Sinners
- 8 Jolly Swingers

THEME OR PROFESSION

- A St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission
- B Could the acronym be a clue?
- C Excommunicated?
- D Fans of Adultfriendfinder.com?
- E Archon science-fiction convention attendees
- F U.S. Postal Service employees
- G St. Elizabeth’s Hospital employees
- H Former flight attendants

PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHERINE BISH

