



Look, I'm Gene Simmons

Don't! My family think I'm a Dockers fan

Just turn this knob and she sings like Celine Dion

SUBI HUMAN

IVAN SMITH sees an evening evolve in Subiaco, Perth



- C6 THE SUBIACO HOTEL
- D12 ROKEBY ROAD
- D5 LLAMA BAR
- B7 PADDY MAGUIRES PUB
- O6 ONYX
- E7 BUDDHABAR
- D7 RED SEA
- H5 THE SAPPHIRE BAR

9.40pm

THE SUBIACO HOTEL

465 Hay St

THE Subi Hotel looks like a great place; unfortunately, the manager won't let me into it.

"What if people say bad things?" she asks nervously.

They probably won't, I assure her. They are drinking here, after all.

She can't argue with that, and stands aside.

Inside, the place is bursting with Eagles fans celebrating a win over the Dockers just down the road. Some of the crowd, just back from the match, watch it again on the big screen. Drinkers in the beer garden press against the glass panelling; it looks like breeding time at the aquarium.

Two tall, leggy girls calmly avoid my attempts to talk to them, like giraffes evading an elephant turd. They fold

themselves into one of the blue velour couches near the far wall. They want to see my ID before I even talk to them. Then they don't say anything.

On a couch near the middle bar, four blondes holding identical glasses of wine claim they're definitely not drunk. "We've been drinking at home for four hours, but we feel pretty good. Can you get us free drinks?"

I worm my way back into the crowd and find myself jammed against Melanie and Phoebe. They want to see ID as well. I thought Perth was a friendly, trusting place.

"Sure, it is," says Melanie, the taller, blonde girl. "We're just winding you up. We're here because our boss is having his birthday here."

Is she happy about that? "No."

A bald man in his late 40s turns round. "Yes they are," he says.

"Yes we are," say both girls.

Tony and Steven are watching the office girls in that drunk-subtle way that isn't subtle at all. They're at the silly voices stage of the evening.

"I love coming here because of the wonderful people that come here," says Tony loudly. "The women are kind of stand-offish. Eventually, if you buy them a drink... they ignore you."