

# Hear & Now

This week on the music beat BY EVAN SERPICK

➤ **LOVE THEM TWO TIMES** Three decades after their last studio album, the **Doors** are again open for business. Well, half of them anyway: Keyboardist **Ray Manzarek** and guitarist **Robby Krieger** are starting work on a new album (due next year) and tour, with the **Cult's Ian Astbury** taking the place of **Jim Morrison** and the **Police's Stewart Copeland** filling in for drummer **John Densmore**, who can no longer play due to ear damage. "People say, 'Don't f--- with the magic,'" says Krieger of the new lineup, which debuted at an L.A. show earlier this year. "But the gig worked out so well that we decided to see if we could keep it together." The new Doors will play at the Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas on Jan. 19, then head into



IN DOORS (From left) Manzarek, Copeland, Astbury, and Krieger.

the studio. But can Astbury fill Morrison's moccasins? "He's got a great voice, and he's into mysticism," says Krieger. "People have accused him of being a Jim wannabe, so it's kinda perfect."

➤ **MALE CALL** *Making the Band?* A joke. *American Idol?* Child's play. Get ready for the next generation of TV talent shows: the search for the first openly gay male country singer. Veteran songwriter **Larry Dvoskin** started a nationwide quest last summer with an ad in *Nashville Scene* headed "Gay Country Singer Wanted." He continues to recruit contestants at [coolguymusic.com](http://coolguymusic.com), and aims to have 30 worthy finalists in time to appear on an *Idol*-style series he hopes to produce in summer 2003. The show's

winner will receive a record contract and major-label distribution. "The response has been tremendous," says Dvoskin, who has received thousands of inquiries. "I've had people call me up and say, 'Hi, my name is Gaylon Jennings' or 'George Strait,' but most people have taken it seriously—well, seriously enough. It's an idea whose time has come. Once there's one Jackie Robinson, it opens the door for future generations."