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By J. Michael Stockman
The Statesman Journal

Copernicus

When: 9 p.m. Wednesday.

Where: La Luna, 215 S.E.

Ninth, Portland.

Admission: \$5.

Information: (503) 241-

5862.

with guitar sounds. The album's first single, *Some Pain, Some Shame* has a rhythm guitar sound with organ like tones.

Copernicus

He calls himself Copernicus.

Anyone who uses the name of a 14th century astronomer as a stage alias has got to be dealing with loaded metaphors. Such is the case of Joseph Smalkowski, a Brooklyn-based poet/performance artist who performs Wednesday in Portland in sup-

port of the recently released *No Borderline*.

"Don't let me measure my life in terms of money. Don't let me sell out."

These are words from *In Terms of Money*, a track from the new recording. His track record of independent recordings since the mid-1980s lend credence to the sentiments, even if the back up music has a vaguely Pink Floyd-ian anthem feel. Other songs have a Hungarian vaudeville theater sound or an improvised.

Copernicus and his band of jazz trained audio sculptors have been warmly received in Europe, where he often speaks to them in their native language. And besides, Europe is a land where people find it important to support something as life enriching as art whether or not they fully grasp the message.

This tour uses the concept of the Velvet Underground ice queen Nico, brooding vocalization stark against solo keyboard arrangements. It was inspired by a 1990 show in Germany where Copernicus' philosophical railings against human nature and tradition were backed by minimalist arrangements.