

OPTION

● **COPEERNICUS: No Borderline** A certain amount of hype has dogged Copernicus, but don't let that put you off. The poet/musician doles out another portion of his angst-ridden take on life that is at once clear-headed and mad, affirmative and nihilistic. His powerful rants are so visceral and delivered with such authority that it is quite easy to get caught up in them. The musical accompaniments to Copernicus's readings are diverse and effective for the most part. The Baja Marimba Band-style mallet percussion, plus the festive carnival-like atmosphere set off the larger-than-life, colorful language with more than a bit of irony. Immediacy and spontaneity are clearly established in the jazzy gestures of "The Optimist," which is wholly improvised. The nightmarish score of "Nightwatch" is a perfect complement to the fear and loathing of the text. If you are into the expressionism of Schoenberg, Berg, Munch or Weine (director of *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*), and the horrific visions of H.R. Giger, Copernicus conjures up similar moods. (Nevermore, Box 170150, Brooklyn, NY 11217) — Dean Suzuki