

Sounds

Tim Casebeer

Copernicus

Descartes' famous proclamation "I think, therefore I am" is heresy to performance artist Copernicus (born Joseph Smalkowski). Identity is this poet and keyboardist's main enemy. Over musical landscapes that are alternately impressionistic and beat-driven, he roars his philosophy with a thespian's love for drama. As often as not, his free-form tracts are created on the spot. "Nothing exists! Death does not exist! Life does not exist! No one exists! Everything is an illusion!" he asserts in "Joe Meets Copernicus" from his latest release, *No Borderline*. He appears to contradict himself when he later pleads "Don't let me measure my life in terms of money," but it's easy to lose yourself in the man's anti-Whitman celebrations of non-ness as he rages with a level of verve Timothy Leary lost years ago (LaLuna, 215 SE 9th Ave., 9 pm, Wednesday, Jan. 19, admission \$5, 241-5862).