

Jon Itkin finds a home and inspiration in Eugene

Former New Yorker's debut album is an Oregon creation

BY TREVOR DAVIS
PULSE REPORTER

Jon Itkin was planning to practice his guitar in Washburne Park in Eugene last Saturday.

Instead, he was playing in his home wearing a hooded sweat shirt thanks to the wet, cloudy weather that day.

And his acoustic guitar hates getting wet, he said.

The 23-year-old University senior has adapted to the weather since moving from upstate New York.

"I like the weather. My whole family was giving me shit, but the weather is great," Itkin said.

The Northwest lifestyle — weather included — played a big part in the making of his recently released debut album, "Oregon."

"(Location) was a big inspiration. All the songs were written after I moved to Oregon," Itkin said. He said he is a visual writer and often tries to tell a story through imagery in his lyrics.

The imagery on the record comes from his first impressions of the Northwest.

"I was really inspired by the landscape," he said of the state's scenery.

"It made me want to get off my ass and



ZANE RITT | PHOTOGRAPHER

Jon Itkin plays at his home in Eugene. His recently released debut album is filled with songs inspired by the landscapes of the Northwest.

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