

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2011 | THE MONITOR

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Alan Taylor West is a self-proclaimed loner, so it makes sense that he's a solo artist.

After elementary school in Harlingen and middle school in Weslaco, Alan's family moved to Memphis.

The self-taught musician was on his own in high school — he was home schooled for the entire four years.

"It was more convenient and better for me, for the family," Alan said.

So Alan was able to adopt and follow his own rules. He didn't get involved in any organized sports or extracurricular activities, he said.

"I needed to express myself, and skateboarding is not an organized sport in the sense that you do what you're told — you do whatever you want," Alan said.

His friends from the all-boys and all-girls Catholic high schools believed he would seek a career in the sport, he said, but Alan was starting to focus on making music.

He primarily plays keys but he also plays drums and he uses vocals occasionally.

Alan is currently working on a dance album with some contrasting score tracks littered throughout the record.

"I felt there's serious contrast missing from every dance record because ... fast music is only fast in comparison to something that is slow," he said.

Alan flirts with various styles of music and he won't be boxed in by a label.

"(Labels) are restricting, artistically," he said.

"And that's why I made a dance record; I'm trying to spoon-feed these artistic pieces to someone who may not get them."

It's also important to Alan to represent the Rio Grande Valley as an artist.

"I would like this area to be respected in a way of the arts," he said.

"It's my mission. I'm making this record for (the Valley). And if I have to give it away for free here, that's what I'm going to do."

[ANS]

WERE THERE ANY SUBJECTS IN SCHOOL YOU DISLIKED?

"Yeah, all of them. I like to learn by life experience."

WHAT'S THE WILDEST PARTY IN HIGH SCHOOL YOU REMEMBER?

"A house party ... at (a) two-story house and it had an attic. That was pretty wild. ... A good friend of mine showed up with a chicken."

DID YOU HAVE ANY SECRET CRUSHES?

"Yeah, there was girl named Lizzy. I can't remember her last name. She 'Riverdanced.'"

WHAT WAS THE HOTTEST THING ABOUT HER?

"She 'Riverdanced.'" (laughs) "She was really cute. She had an explosive personality."



'Twilight' (2008)

WHO HE IS Electronic musician

AGE 24

HOMETOWN Weslaco

HIGH SCHOOL Home schooled, graduated 2005

THE BRAIN

Alan Taylor West