

SEVEN DAYS

Hexed

Soundbites

BY **DAN BOLLES** [02.09.11]

Who, or what, the hell is }hexdump?{ This is the second time I've posed the question in this column, and I'm still not entirely sure. I do know, however, that the local experimental trio sends out some of the strangest PR stuff I've ever seen. Take, for example, the packaging of their latest record, *protocol analysis volume 1*. The album arrived last week buried in — I'm not making this up — a large, pyramid-shaped diorama. The disc itself was ensconced in foreboding silver plastic vaguely resembling a hazardous-waste bag. Kinda creepy, but undoubtedly provocative — which is actually a pretty decent description of their music: creepy and provocative.

Formed in Burlington in 1995 as an “experimental sonic research collaboration,” the group fuses a variety of organic and electronic influences into a cold, sludgy maelstrom of industrial noise. Picture the Chemical Brothers and Daft Punk playing laser tag — to the death — in a steel mill, and you're in the neighborhood.

This Friday, }hexdump{ present an art installation/album-release party, entitled *transmutation*, at the Off Center for the Dramatic Arts in Burlington. The multimedia showcase will, and I quote, “be an experimental art performance installation that examines the meaning of alchemy in a digital context and the multiple impacts it has on the human species in today's world.” So ... yeah. Mystery solved.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Random Notes

BY **BRENT HALLENBECK**

Don't call the Burlington trio }hexdump{ a band: Their promotional material refers to them as an “experimental sonic research collaboration.” And don't call what they're doing at 7 p.m. Friday at The Off Center for the Dramatic Arts in Burlington a concert: It's “an experimental art performance installation that examines the meaning of alchemy in a digital context and the multiple impacts it has on the human species in today's world.” \$5. 540-0773, www.offcentervt.com.