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Drawings by Claudio Parentela: pp.25 & 29

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Photograph by Robert Roden: p.52

Cover Art by Christopher M

First Class #20 is a milestone issue that represents nearly 7 years of publishing independently, metamorphosing style and maintaining the highest level of substance (so much more important than style...). First Class relies on the high quality of the cream of the submissions that flow through my pobox to provide such an enjoyable collection of stories and poetics.

First Class is for readers first. It's distributed internationally through Tower Records and Magazines, by subscription, the Internet and single-copy orders.

First Class is here to stay. Four-Sep Publication chapbooks will continue to flow as thought-provoking manuscripts develop. Lockout Press, a thriving chap-for-hire service, will publish ever more chapbooks for those self-publishers out there looking for killer production and an appropriate level of presentation for your words (at a heck of a good price).

What does the future hold? First off, a move to southeastern Indiana in the spring of 2003. The pobox will migrate to a little town named Friendship. We've decided that life is best in places where air and soil are abundant (with a big city nearby, of course!) and stoplights are nearly nonexistent. Besides, I plant too many tomatoes for the tiny plot we're on now. Full information will saturate mailing lists, e-mail addresses, and other independent mags. After the move, I will begin gathering the very best words that have appeared in First Class for an anthology called "First Class First Class" which will more than likely appear in 2004. Some of you reading this will be contacted regarding the use of your stories and poetics. I'm not looking forward to distilling 20+ issues of what I consider to be solid and exemplary writing into a 250 page collection. But, if true to the function of distillation, it should be one hell of a volume packing a wallop and punch.

First Class #20 is another killer collection of the very best words that flow into my pobox. So, enjoy the read. I'm pleased that your eyes are on these pages.

- Christopher M.