

## PANELOLOGY

This Week -- *Skin Trade*: Everything that's wrong with Image Comics

Story by Steven T. Seagle  
Pencils by Michael Lopez  
Inks by Gary Martin and lots of other guys  
Colours and effects by a whole lot of people

This is just about the worst thing to come out of Image Comics since the *Extreme Sacrifice* crossover. The plot is all but non-existent. In a nutshell, Voodoo and Zealot, two members of the WildC.A.T.s team, go on leave to Europe. While there, Zealot receives word that her long-lost child is being held in "Yurgovia". The two set out to

find the kid, but discover instead a trap set by an old enemy of Zealot's. They end up helping some refugees escape to safety. At least, that's what I think the plot is. It's rather difficult to follow.

Between the two of them, Voodoo and Zealot dress in less underwear than Madonna. They kill people for no apparent reason. They let villains kill innocent people, then they kill the villains. And they're the good guys. I won't bother discussing the bad guys.

Not only is the story simply terrible, the comic is loaded with errors and continuity gaffes. Voodoo has

multiple tatoos. These appear and disappear between scenes. She has a bellybutton ring. This also disappears and returns for no apparent reason. The main villainess has a metal costume that also changes from time to time. The haircolour of one minor character goes back and forth between brown and blonde from panel to panel. The most glaring fault is probably the truck. Right in the very middle of the comic, Voodoo and Zealot hitch a ride with a farmer in a red truck. But low and behold, on the next page, the very same truck is quite blue. I could easily continue to list errors all the way to the bottom of the

page, but space limitations prevent it.

The title, *Skin Trade*, has little to do with the story. There is a brief, and obviously forced, use of the words "skin trade" near the end. The title is appropriate, however. The comic is an essentially a ploy to show as much skin as possible.

As with most of their books, Image markets this towards 12-16 year olds. It comes with no mature content warning. It sells for \$6.85 Canadian. Unless you have taken total leave of your senses, don't buy this drek.

-- Marko Peric

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## CIMN

Official Top 25  
October 20, 1995

- |    |                           |                                      |
|----|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1  | Superfriendz              | Mock Up, Scale Down                  |
| 2  | SNFU                      | The One Voted Most Likely to Succeed |
| 3  | Sons of Freedom           | Tex                                  |
| 4  | Various Artists           | Kumbaya '95                          |
| 5  | Thrush Hermit             | The Great Pacific Ocean              |
| 6  | The Monoxides             | Out of the Thrash                    |
| 7  | Frank Zappa               | Kill Ugly Radio                      |
| 8  | Sandbox                   | Bionic                               |
| 9  | Technotronic              | Recall                               |
| 10 | Forbidden Dimension       | Somebody Down There Likes Me         |
| 11 | Bruce McCulloch           | Shame-Based Man                      |
| 12 | Huevos Rancheros          | Dig In!                              |
| 13 | Hayden                    | Everything I Long For                |
| 14 | Various Artists           | Cinnamon Toast Compilation           |
| 15 | Tragically Hip            | EP Release                           |
| 16 | Rankin Family             | Endless Seasons                      |
| 17 | Treble Charger            | Self=Title                           |
| 18 | Pushing Up Daisies        | Wheedle                              |
| 19 | Atomic Folk               | Begin                                |
| 20 | Various Artists           | Clueless Soundtrack                  |
| 21 | Educated Guess            | What Do They Know                    |
| 22 | Grace Babies              | Lure                                 |
| 23 | Theresa Malenfant         | Eye of the Hurricane                 |
| 24 | Megadeath                 | Hidden Treasures                     |
| 25 | Jimmy Page & Robert Plant | A Songwriting Legacy                 |