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Fighting White Privilege Created by Sophie Kimmel



Based around 2016 Nighthawk- by David F. Walker



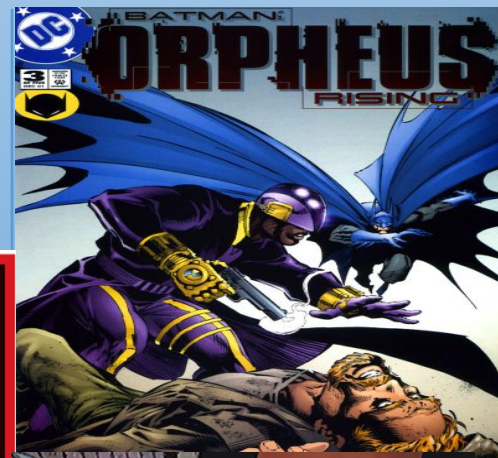
My Question: Are Black superheroes the only ones fighting Racism and White Supremacy? **Why?**

**RACISM.
IT STOPS
WITH ME**

Ideas to think about:

- **White Privilege**
- The Creator's identity and how it affects the content they create.
- Historical impact on the comics.
- **Ideas centered around 2016 Nighthawk**

Black Superheroes are the only ones explicitly fighting to end racism and anti-blackness in their comics due to the **White** creators' **White Privilege**. The **White** superheroes often contribute to the problems of racism.



Closing

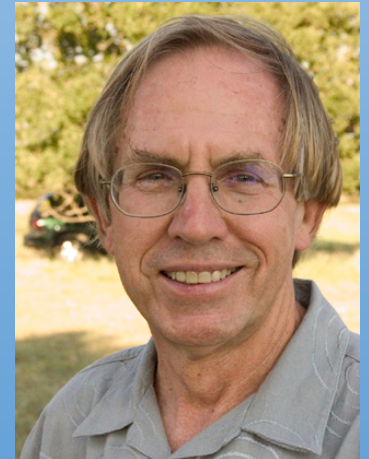
Overall, Black Superheroes are the ones clearly fighting to end racism and anti-blackness in their comics because of the White creators' White Privilege. The White superheroes often make the problems around racism worse.

This can be seen with the comparisons between the Black and White superheroes. For instance, there is the comparison between 1969 Nighthawk's creator and 2016 Nighthawk's creator. One is able to connect how the authors identity relates to the crime their characters fight. Also, the comparison between The X-Men and Black Panther and the crime each fought. This is also seen when comparing Gotham superheroes, Orpheus and Batman. The 2016 Nighthawk allows people to see the crime he fights and how this is so drastically different than the crime White superheroes fight. One can see how this can have an affect on how consumers see the situation and the actions they will take.

Nighthawk- Kyle
Richmond- 1969



Created by Roy
Thomas



Nighthawk-
Raymond Kane-
2016



Created by David F.
Walker



The Alignment Between the Creators and their Characters

The 1969 Nighthawk is a **White** man named Kyle Richmond. He "remained a mainstay with the Defenders for a time, battling many foes both conventional and mystic" (Marvel Database) It was also created by a **White** man- Roy Thomas.



The recreated Nighthawk of 2016 is a **Black** man named Raymond Kane who fights **Anti-Blackness, Racism and White Supremacy**. It was created by a **Black** man - David F. Walker.



How it Affects Everyone in Society

"What is 'normal' in society is at least to some degree' found in and learned from Entertainment" (Darowski, 11). This idea that media affects peoples outlooks is important to think about. Therefore, when the **Black** characters in the comics are the only ones fighting against racism, it shows the readers and the rest of society that **White** people do not need to fight to end the issue. This contributes to the racial issues happening around us.

WHITE FRAGILITY

WHY IT'S SO HARD FOR WHITE PEOPLE
TO TALK ABOUT RACISM

Nighthawks relation to it all...



Exploring the superhero, Nighthawk has allowed me to analyze the type of crime he fights. He fights against racism and **White** supremacy and this helped me see the relation to the characters and their creators. This allowed me to look into the crime that how him fighting crime influenced me to look into more Black and **White** Superheroes and the relation with their creators and their identities.



The Crime that 1969, **White** Nighthawk fights
vs.
The Crime that 2016, **Black** Nighthawk fights



Analysis

Nighthawk 1969



The phrase, "This town isn't big enough for the both of us" shows that he cares more about fame rather than helping people and the town. This could be his **White Privilege** showing. He doesn't have to worry about the situations affecting him. This is a reflection of a **White** author's issues.

Nighthawk 2016

He mentions watching both sides of the law and this shows that he is willing to do whatever it takes to end police brutality. Clearly he cares and sees the impact that this terrible issue has on him and other people in his community.

More in depth...



Orpheus is seen fighting for his people. It is important to note that the creators of this comic are **Black**, they see the need to include fighting racism in the comic world.

Batman's reaction to Orpheus fighting crime in Gotham shows that he doesn't see the need for fighting racism. This connects with the common theme of **White** creators making **White** characters who do not fight anti-blackness and actually work against the things that have already been done.





Orpheus
vs.
Batman



Why are the Black superheroes the only ones fighting racism and White Supremacy?

The 1969 Blackhawk comics followed the "basic" idea of crime. It revolved around fighting the usual crime, completely avoiding the important issues that occur such as racism and anti-blackness. The author, Roy Thomas is White, and therefore, does not have to think about the violence that Black people are facing because of his White Privilege.



(Nighthawk 2016)



(Nighthawk 1969)

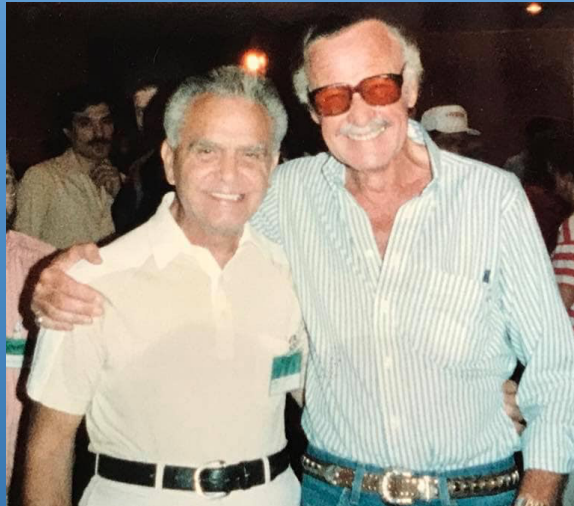
This theme continues with other superheroes....

Going Back in Time...



The First Black Superhero

Black Panther was created in 1966 by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby. Although The Black Panther had their own set of problems, it lead to the character fighting the KKK in Alabama as well as other important issues.



On the other hand...

Orpheus and His Role

Orpheus has a different role than most superheroes. He uses his abilities to get close to gangs, gather information and control them from the inside. He fights crime to benefit the Black community. This is very different from White superheroes and we can make the connection again between the creator and the superhero.



Superheroes of Gotham City

Orpheus

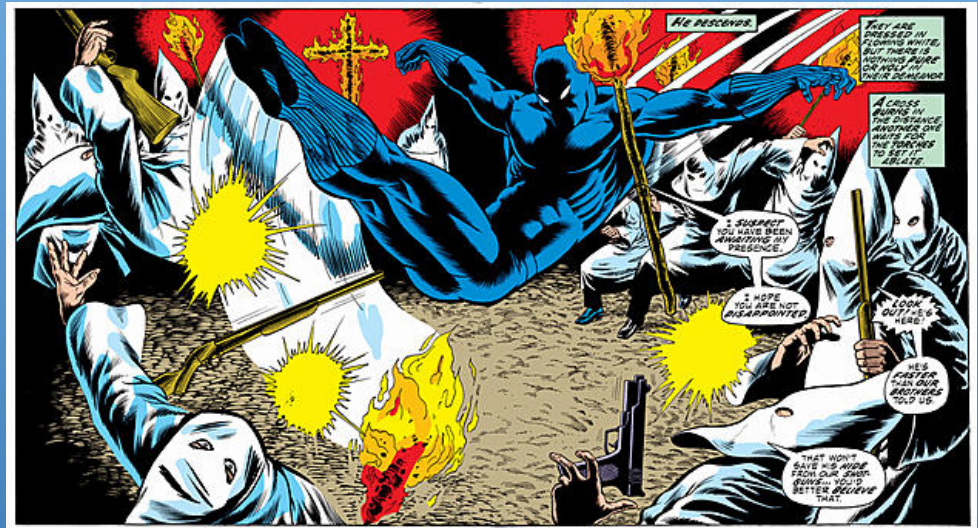


Orpheus is a Black superhero who also fights crime in Gotham city. He started off by fighting alongside Batman. It was created in 2001 by Alex Simmons and Dwayne Turner.



Black Panther

"The character, *Black Panther*, was born out of the cultural and social revolutions of the 1960s, and what impact and meaning that has on our understanding of the series and subsequent characters is left to the visitors, patrons, and scholars" (Vernon Mitchell, Jr. Et Al.).



This shows that the Black Panther, as a Black, character tried to destroy the issues surrounding racism and **White** Supremacy

The X-Men

Just like Black Panther, The X-Men comics were also created in the 1960s. It was made by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, the same creators of the Black Panther comics. It was created in 1963.



The Problem with the Crime Batman Fights

There is a moral problem with the way batman fights crime: "He often references the advantages he enjoys over the police... 'Maybe the law cant touch them... but the Batman can!'" (White). The issue with Batman disobeying the law and changing evidence is the school to prison pipeline that has been put into our society that negatively affects Black people. By having the ability to send anyone to jail, it could lead Batman to send more Black people to jail because the system is already set against them. Therefore, the creators created Batman to contribute to the racial problems.



Superheroes of Gotham City

Batman

Batman was first created in 1939 by Bob Kane and Bill Finger. He is a very iconic superhero who fights crime in Gotham City. He is willing to do pretty much anything to fight and get "justice."



The problems with Batman...

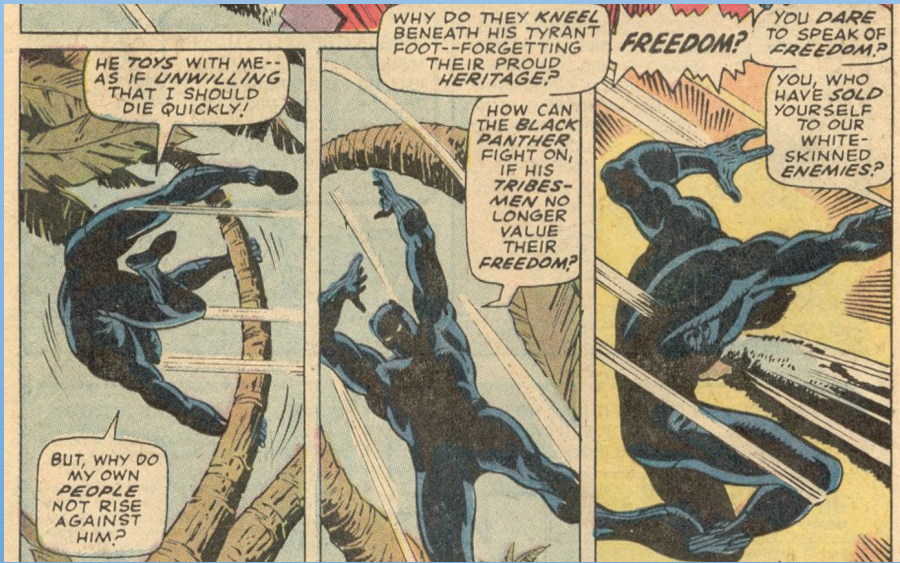
Issues Surrounding The X-Men Comics

The X-Men characters were considered mutants and outcasts because they weren't like humans, "All of these characters were white middle to upper class Americans. In short this was a very WASP-ish group to be struggling against prejudice in a minority metaphor further complicating the use of this particular group as a representative of a racial metaphor is the fact that none of these mutants were in any way distinguishable from White Americans" (Darowski, 68).

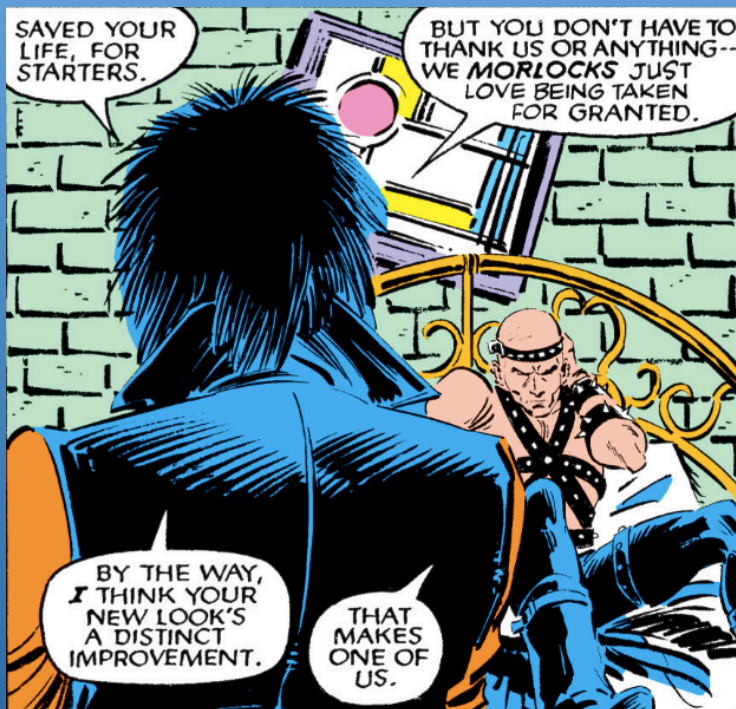
The Black Panther and The X-Men characters were created around the same time and by the same people, why don't they fight the same type of crime?



Let's look...



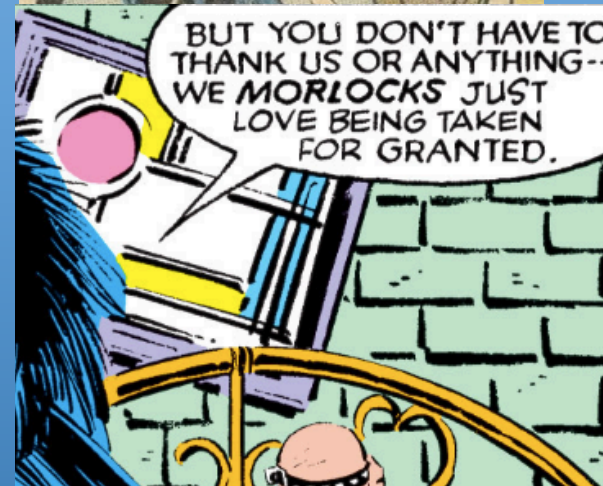
Black Panther Vs. The X-Men



Looking Deeper



By using the phrase, "Forgetting their proud heritage," It shows that the Black Panther is fighting for anti-blackness to end. He wants to people celebrate blackness.



This idea of the X-Men "Being taken for granted" is problematic because they don't see their privilege. This is all surrounding the idea of White privilege.

It shows White people thinking it's not their problem to solve. This is showcased by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby's Black characters fighting racism, but the White characters they create contribute to the problems.