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What's going on in the 1970s you ask?

The Civil Rights era… However, many African Americans still felt out of place. Racial segregation was still happening, which brought racial anxiety



Racial Anxiety was at an all time high due to the absence of black characters / figures in the media and the negative stereotypes that went alone with the select few.

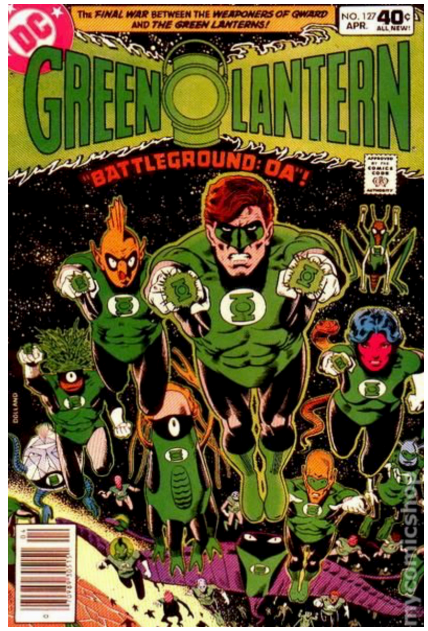
Editorial Note

The theme of my zine was, How do supernatural characters form the 1970s have to do with race? When picking this theme I struggled to find characters that all had a publishing year of 1970s. With that said I started to look into the mid 1900s and the "Monster Craze" era and found some supernatural comic characters I have never heard of. That sparked my interested in looking deeper into these comics. Overall, I spent a good amount of time reading different comics of Blade and my other four corresponding characters. This gave me better insight on how these characters were portrayed. I quickly found out that it was and still is very common for authors of comics to stereotype a certain race. Many of my super natural characters had similar racial depictions of black masculinity and work ethic and the way blacks at that time were treated/ came off to others. Being able to read comics and articles really opened my eyes to the racial discrimination that has occurred in the time period. Moreover, I really enjoyed this project as it made me more interested in comics and brought attention that race discrimination of stereotypes is relevant not only in everyday life but also in the media platform.

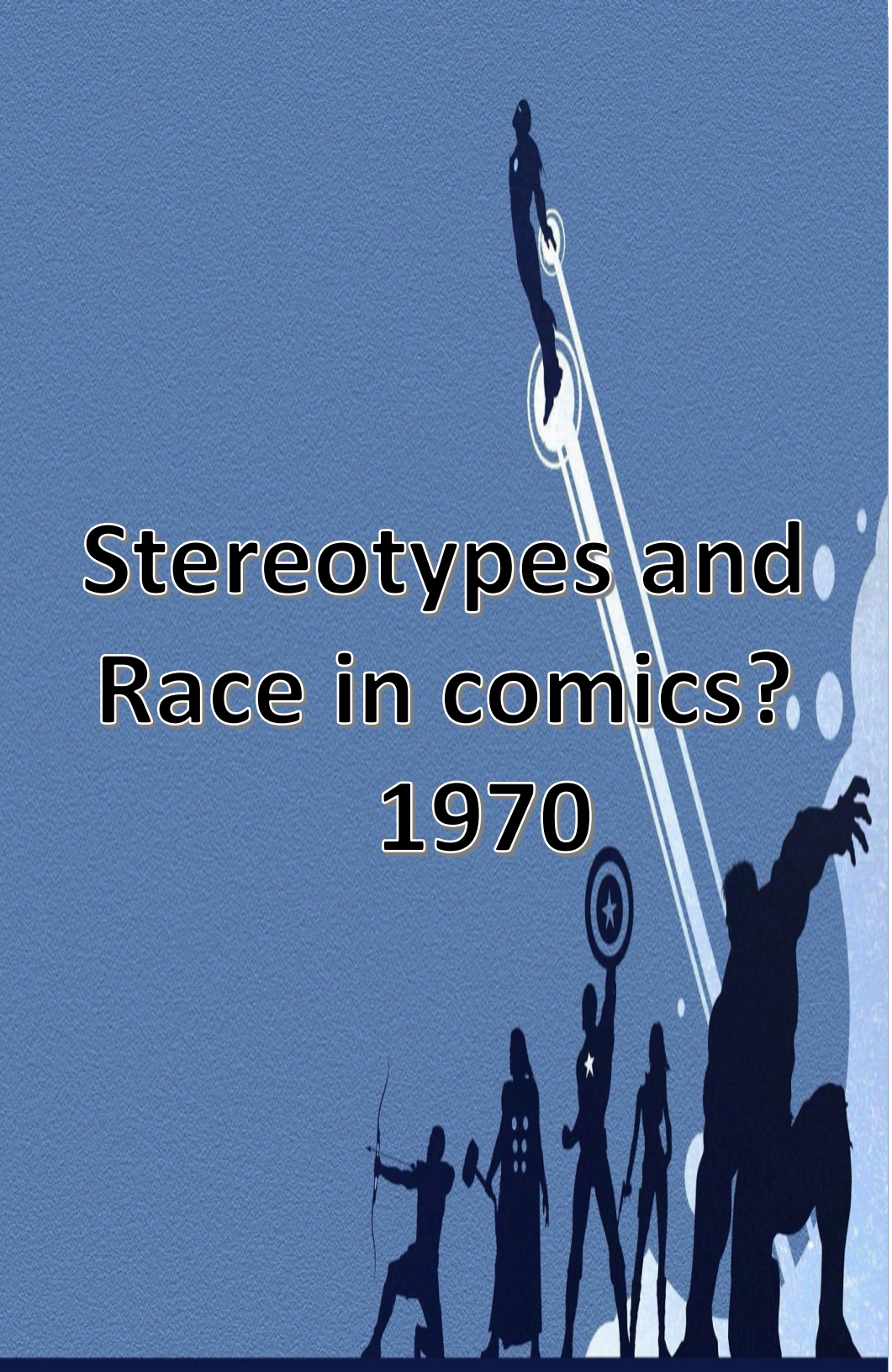
Comic books have always created problems not only within the political side of history and current day and gender but also racial differences from all different types of minorities. Comics are known for using exaggerated and dehumanizing characteristics of others for views. The 1970s was a time of the Civil Rights and African Americans were viewed as less than a "white" human. Discrimination was still at an all time high due to Martin Luther Kings assassination. This not only put a negative light on African Americans from whites but even from themselves. However, as the decade went on, blacks became more involved within the societal norm but it did not mean that all of the stereotypes from past decades would just disappear as shown.

Racial Anxiety was a big problem. Many people in this era looked up to whites and thought that being "white" meant you were "perfect'. Marvel comics was one if the first media outlets to show that this was untrue.





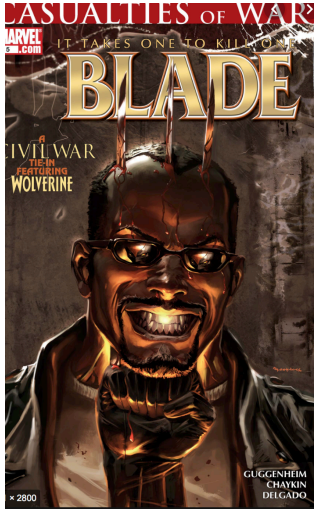
Even though, people were becoming accustom to different races being involved in media platforms it did not mean that stereotypes were erased....



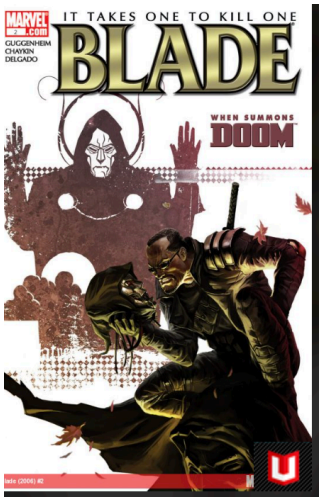
Supernatural characters from the 1970s & Race go hand and hand in comics

Blade

Also, to note that Blades supernatural abilities started from revenge. This can be looked at as a villain character however, blade struggles with doing "good" and "bad". His emotions for each person he encounters varies. This can be looked at from a stereotype view of African Americans lashing out and being aggressive when they get heated. In the 1970s, many African Americans were protesting and becoming more of a citizen and many people did not agree with this making them look dangerous or un-human like. This made Blade fit that stereotype of being aggressive and black.





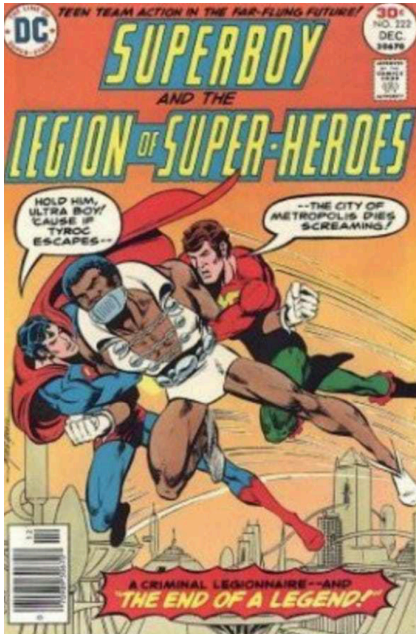


comics have used racial depictions and differences as stories, for comic books for years. They have used exaggerated racial features that have dehumanized minorities and gave them supernatural powers due to what the authors thought was fitting.



white authors created the social media that portrays African American characters. These authors illustrated their own versions of what these minorities look and act liked.





In most cases, white authors do not understand the experiences African Americans went through in earlier times. Also, white authors portrayed African Americans negatively due to racial segregation and slavery disagreements.

There has always been a "long-held" stereotype of African Americans from there masculinity, toughness,aggression,and their "look". In the 1970s, whites often saw African Americans as athletic and aggressive so it is easy to picture and write about superhuman abilities for these characters.

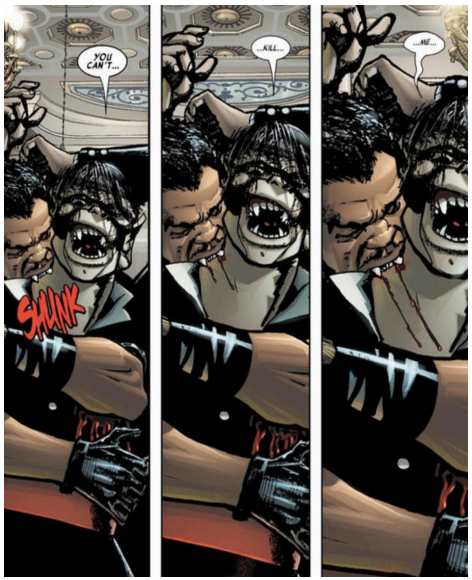
The supernatural powers Blade was given relates directly to what has already been mentioned with race. The black body type of Blades is taken from the Black stereotype and the superpowers that he possess are exaggerated attributes of African Americans from the earlier time period before 1970.



BLADE

Blades supernatural character has all of the vampire strengths without their weaknesses. He has superhuman strength, senses, a fast healing power, and is not affected by sunlight and vampire bites.





Blade was given these supernatural powers from his mother, who was killed by a vampire during her pregnancy, which transferred genes of vampire to Blade.

When looking at the 1970s era, I came across a lot of supernatural characters who were also ethnic.

This Brought attention to the powers each character was given and the way each one was represented differently from the "normal white superhero's" that have been seen before.

I decided to focus on five main comic characters to show that supernatural comic character from the mid 1900s (1970s) and that race are intertwined.

Blade being the main focus of racial stereotyped supernatural powered super hero.

Luke Cage ,
Black Goliath, and Shadow-man and Black Lightning as corresponding characters that fit this underlying message.

One African American Comic Character that was given a stereotype super natural power was....

LUKE CAGE



Background on Blade

Blade was created in the 1970s during the "Monster craze" era due to his "good" all coming from revenge

He is a hybrid vampire. His powers make him look so much younger than he actually is. (70 years old)

Blades first appearance was in The Tomb of Dracula #10 in July 1973, as a side character.





BLADE

Luke Cage was one of the first a super natural characters in the 1970s that exhibited the stereotype of black masculinity and work ethic.

His character was written by white authors that focused on the Civil Rights Movement of the 1970s. By Luke Cage being "Black" they were able to exaggerate certain features on his character.

His story was very similar to the white captain America, but differed in explaining the experiences of African American culture, which earlier discussed is showing the unfair truth of what actually happened in early eras.



Cage was a supernatural character by having a procedure go wrong.. Giving him super human strength, skin that could not break, and a fast healing power



The strength and tough skin could represent the time era of slaves. The super natural power of tough skin could be viewed from the slave era and how whites would abuse them with whips, causing their skin to be tough to the touch. Many African Americans had tough skin due to the constant whipping from slavery. Strength is a common super natural power most black characters obtain because they had to go through slavery, and segregation. Forcing them to become strong mental and physically being put to work making their bodies big and bulky.

The last corresponding character to race and supernatural comic characters in the 1970 is..



Black Lightning

His super natural powers have to do with electricity. He can make magnetic fields and throw lightning bolts. (which are the color black) His super natural powers can relate the race from the 1970s by the simple fact that white authors created these characters in the way they think of African Americans. Electronic powers were the perfect way of having a black hero around who could participate in a fight, but not necessarily be the one to *win* the fight.

Shadow-man is a super natural character from the 1970s that expresses yet again the stereotypes of African Americans. Shadow-man is based around an African-American musician in New Orleans who becomes infected by a spirit that allows him these super natural abilities like

Super Human Strength
Manipulation
Reduced Fear
& many more.....



These super natural powers not only represent black masculinity but the stereotype of African American and their work ethics. (Hustlers) Many whites portray blacks as manipulators to get what they wanted in their lives like money.

Another character who was given supernatural powers that could be de-fined as a stereotype is.....

Black Goliath



Black Goliath was created in the 1970s during the Blaxploitation film and comic phase. African Americans were stereotyped in ways of there super natural abilities as characters. Black Goliath super natural power was to grow up to 15 feet tall and have a lot of physical advantages. The Black masculinity stereotype of African Americans being tall and bulky figure are amplified in this comic character





Another character who was given supernatural powers that is a negative stereotype to the African American community is...

Shadow-man

