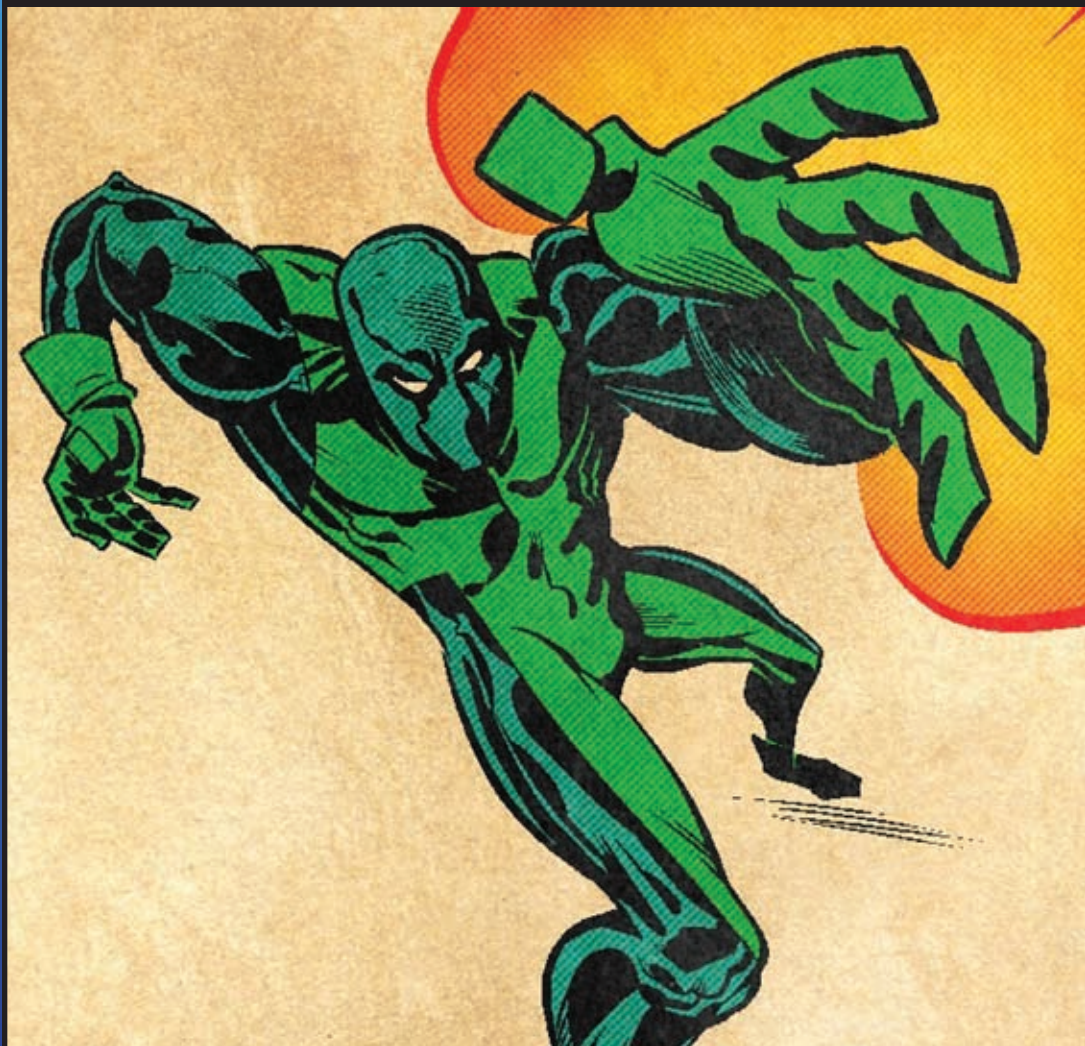


CAPE, COWLS *and* Villains Foul



The Secularist

Traits

INVULNERABILITY 15 (1/2/3)

- Link +5
 - Auto-Defend
- (70 Points)

NON-DEADLY BLASTS 10 (1/1/1)

- Link +5
 - Incapacitate
 - +2 vs. Multiples
- (42 Points)

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW SCHOLAR 9 (1/2/3)

- Link +5
- (40 Points)

PASSIONATE SPEAKER 9 (1/2/3)

- Link +5
- (40 Points)

STRONG 5 (1/2/3)

- Link +3
- (22 Points)

LAWYER 5 (1/1/1)

- Link +3
- (18 Points)

INTELLIGENT 5 (1/1/1)

- Link +3
- (18 Points)



Playing the Villain

The Secularist is the epitome of a one-shot villain (or perhaps one-shot recurring).

His INVULNERABILITY makes him tough, his BLASTS can take out lots of innocent type bystanders, but as written, he is likely to not be too effective against the Heroes. The solution to this dilemma is two-fold:

1- EC. Use most of your pool of EC in the first encounter (if you are planning on two Scenes) to keep him in the fight, and even to escape, using a Villainous Trick (see p. 94-96 of the CC&VF core rulebook).

2- The entire modus operandi of the Secularist is to draw attention to what he feels is a problem, and he will use a national stage to do so. Any action against him will likely be in front of cameras, and after he is defeated, he will use this opportunity to rail against the system, and make his viewpoints known.

Complications

- Too logical – adheres too much to the law and not common sense
- Pisses people off
- Hides behind the flag/ law
- Knows he will be perceived as a villain, wants to be a hero
- Maybe going after the President wasn't such a good idea

Factoids

None

Miscellaneous

Base EC: +0 Threshold: 10 Points: 250

Background and Situation

In the early nineties, spurred on by his high school history's teacher outside reading suggestion, Kirby Thompson refused to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance in the morning. It didn't make national news. He was sent to the principal (of course), and explained that as an atheist, he had issue with the Pledge and the inclusion of "under God" which was not originally part of the Pledge.

After some thoughtful consideration, the school principal allowed Kirby to sit during the Pledge.

As so often conveniently happens in comicbooks, at some point Kirby was gifted with powers beyond that of mortal man, and he will now bring his secular agenda for the United States to the grandest stage of all.

The lighting of the holiday tree by the President!

The Secularist has designed his costume such that he can camouflage himself in the holiday tree. And as the press gathers for this ceremony of pomp and circumstance...

The Secularist's beefs with the government/ President:

1) Why is Christmas a national holiday? Why only Christmas? What about Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Festivus, etc.? If indeed there is "separation of church and state" shouldn't the government also adhere to this policy?

The Secularist has no issue with anyone celebrating the holidays, he has issue with the government acknowledging one religion as more significant than any other.

He will be glad to point out that not every business is closed on Christmas, with stores still being open, as well as utilities, airports, etc. So, if you are sitting at home, enjoying electricity and cable television, that is all brought to you by someone having to work on Christmas.

Mind you, in a perfect world, everyone should be able to celebrate their own holiday, be it religious based or not, and this is what he proposes.

2) "In God We Trust" – In 1938 all US coins had this on them and in 1956 at the 84th Congress, during the height of the Cold War, the US wanted to separate themselves from atheist Soviet Union, so it passed a resolution declaring "In God We Trust" as the official motto of the US.

The Secularist would of course like to see this overturned!

3) The Secularist feels that the President should not condone any specific religion in his capacity as President. To say "God Bless America" in an official capacity is ostensibly saying that the US Government is saying "God Bless America." This is more a pet peeve, and cannot be supported by CONSTITUTIONAL LAW SCHOLAR.

4) If given a forum to speak, the Secularist will suggest that US Government embrace their secularist roots ("freedom of religion", which he would argue also means "freedom of non-religion") and declare the last week of December the Winter Holiday.

5) Why are individuals sworn in on a Bible? Why is a Bible part of the inauguration process?

Various facts and stands used by the Secularist to support his positions:

- Christmas trees are rooted in pagan traditions.
- Why can't the holidays be about being good to one another, exchanging gifts if that is something you want to do, getting together, eating good food?
- The Secularist is pro-religion, and believes that every religion has legitimacy, and to have the government support one over others is tacitly suggesting that one is connected to the government.

How It Shakes Down

With news cameras everywhere, as the President is lighting the Holiday Tree, the Secularist appears from his hiding spot in the tree!

"Mr. President, I mean you nor anyone any harm, I am here to support your lighting of this holiday tree, and I am hopeful that you will embrace all holidays, and not just religion but those who have chosen to forsake religion. I do not want God to Bless America. That is a choice made by each individual. If you make such a statement, as the elected official representing this great nation, you are tacitly suggesting and supporting God. God has no place in government."

Of course, this being the President of the United States, there are many armed guards, and they will likely spring into action.

What will the Heroes do? Where will they stand on these issues? Will the Secularist be allowed to speak?

Will the Secularist in your world threaten the President, or will he hide behind the law?

Additional plot ideas: Maybe the Freedom Fowl like the cut of the Secularist's jib, and seek him out, asking him to join up with their cause. Of course, if he rebranded himself with a fowl-themed name, it would make life a whole lot easier! Maybe something related to a Turtle Dove? Quail? Goose?

Perhaps the Freedom Fowl offer their assistance immediately, breaking the Secularist out of prison, or standing up against the Heroes!