

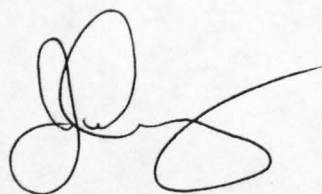
**People**  
weekly

Time Inc.

Johnny Dodd  
310-268-7200

Stan -

Here's the copy of  
the on-line interview  
you did on Compuserve  
a few weeks back. Thanks



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Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Our guest tonight on PEOPLE Online is Stan Lee, the legendary mastermind behind Marvel Comics. Lee, who joined Marvel (then named Timely Publications) in 1940 as a temporary office boy, is the man behind Marvel's most popular characters, including Spiderman, The Fantastic Four and the Incredible Hulk. Often misfits, Lee's superheroes have had personal problems as captivating as their powers. He once said, "You ask the audience to suspend disbelief and accept that some idiot can climb on walls, but once that's accepted, you ask: What would life be like in the real world if there were such a character? Would he still have to worry about dandruff, about acne, about getting girlfriends, about keeping a job?"

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: To ask a question, type /question or hit the Ask Question icon. This will bring up a prompt box: fill in your question, submit it, and your question will join the queue.

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: % Moderator recognizes [71154,2770] STAN LEE

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: % Recognized [71154,2770] STAN LEE

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: While we're waiting for the question queue to fill up

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: I have a question, Stan:

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Superman, Batman, and Dick Tracy have all made the successful leap to the big screen? Why are we still waiting for Spiderman, The X-Men, and Daredevil?

STAN LEE: I ask myself the same question.

STAN LEE: ALL our major characters

STAN LEE: are in development with

STAN LEE: movies studios.

STAN LEE: But for some reason it's

STAN LEE: taking forever.

STAN LEE: We're also developing 3

STAN LEE: live-action tv series

STAN LEE: for networks.

STAN LEE: BLACK WIDOW.

STAN LEE: GENERATION X and

STAN LEE: AGENT OF SHIELD

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: I understand James Cameron was signed to do Spidey at one point. Wha' happened?

STAN LEE: Unfortunately, there's a

STAN LEE: legal problem involving Carolco,

STAN LEE: the distributor. It

STAN LEE: doesn't involve Marvel

STAN LEE: but the movie can't be

STAN LEE: filmed till the legal

STAN LEE: stuff is settled. It could

STAN LEE: take another year.

STAN LEE: Cameron is still

STAN LEE: committed to the project, thank goodness.

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: On to some user questions.

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Danny Riley asks: Do you have any idea how long it'll be before this clone mess is straightened up? I know you are not actively involved with it, but maybe you know more than we do? (Yeah right, us fanboys know EVERYTHING! <g>)  
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Jerry W. Hodge asks: Stan: My stepson is a great fan of Spiderman 2099, and we just heard a nasty rumor that Marvel may ax the 2099 titles. Tell us it isn't so.  
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Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Oops, my mistake

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Stan, please answer the first question first, then the second.

STAN LEE: The clone "mess" is about over now. Stay tuned.

STAN LEE: We've no plan to ax 2099. It's too popular!

STAN LEE: Regards to your stepson!

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Andrew Mallott from Encinitas asks:

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Andrew Malott asks: How would I start out in the comic business? I want to be a penciler.

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STAN LEE: Draw some sample pages-- don't  
STAN LEE: copy drawings, make them  
STAN LEE: original. Send to Marvel NY  
STAN LEE: care of "Art Director-- or Submissions  
STAN LEE: Editor. Good luck.

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: In case you've just joined us, our guest tonight in PEOPLE Online's celebrity conference is Stan Lee, the legendary mastermind behind Marvel Comics.

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: To ask a question, type /question or hit the Ask Question icon. This will bring up a prompt box: fill in your question, submit it, and your question will join the queue.

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Micah from Poughkeepsie wants to know:

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Well, Micah retracted his question...

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: so we'll ask another...

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Larry Powell asks: How would you compare the superheroes of today's comics with those of the 1950s?

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STAN LEE: Today's are much darker,  
STAN LEE: grittier, more savage.

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Joni from Texas wants to know:

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Joni/Texas asks: I love the X-Men cartoon, but I am tired of reruns. Are there any new ones planned?

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STAN LEE: Yes. New ones are in the works.  
STAN LEE: But, alas, we must do re-runs  
STAN LEE: also because we can't keep up  
STAN LEE: with enough new ones to satisfy  
STAN LEE: the demand.  
STAN LEE: Do you watch the  
STAN LEE: Spider-Man cartoons too?  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: % Moderator recognizes [102113,1053] Joni/Texas  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: % Recognized [102113,1053] Joni/Texas  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Joni, you're on.  
Joni/Texas: Yes, but I prefer the old ones.  
STAN LEE: I won't tell our producer.  
Joni/Texas: Good.  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: % Moderator no longer recognizes [102113,1053] Joni/Texas  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: % [102113,1053] Joni/Texas is no longer recognized

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Philip Epstein asks: Stan- What is in store for Kaine?  
Why do some heroes get sidekicks?  
Mike&Dave-ages 7&9

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STAN LEE: It'll break his heart!Just so they'll have  
STAN LEE: someone to talk to.  
STAN LEE: Otherwise there would be  
STAN LEE: nothing but thought balloons!  
STAN LEE: Sorry I typed "thought" wrong!

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Stan, Mike and Dave have some other questions, so

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: I'm just gonna ask 'em up on stage...  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: % Moderator recognizes [76073,3507] Philip Epstein  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: % Recognized [76073,3507] Philip Epstein  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: I guess Philip's their dad...  
Philip Epstein: Will Spidey go back to the black suit?-Mike  
STAN LEE: I don't expect him to.  
STAN LEE: I hope not. But, with  
STAN LEE: Marvel, you can never  
STAN LEE: be sure!  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: % Moderator no longer recognizes [76073,3507] Philip Epstein  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: % [76073,3507] Philip Epstein is no longer recognized

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Sorry, but there are a lot of questions tonight...  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Jay from Hyattsville, Md asks:

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Jay asks: What's your opinion on the proliferation of comic companies. It's gone from 2 to over a dozen in the last few years?

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STAN LEE: It's good for you readers.  
STAN LEE: The more competition there is  
STAN LEE: the harder we all must work to  
STAN LEE: stay ahead of the field. The fans reap the benefit.  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Stan, do you think quality suffers due to so much material out there?  
STAN LEE: No. Because the arrtists and writers  
STAN LEE: simply have to work harder--  
STAN LEE: and better. Also, there are now  
STAN LEE: many MORE artists and writers in the field than  
STAN LEE: ever before.  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: good point.

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Here's a deathless question, but one we all want to know the answer to...

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J.P. Thill asks: Captain America was my favorite creation of yours--which one was your favorite?

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Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Stan ponders...  
STAN LEE: Sorry. Captain America was created by Joe Simon & Jack Kirby! He was a favorite of mine, too. My own favorites, that I created, are Spider-Man & the Silver  
STAN LEE: And co-created Spidey with artist Steve Ditko.

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Joseph T. Plymouth asks: Mr. Lee do you feel that the new and younger writers are keeping with the tradition of the characters that you created?

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STAN LEE: Some do. But most try to put their own  
STAN LEE: imprimatur and their own  
STAN LEE: stamp of personality  
STAN LEE: on the characters. That isn't a  
STAN LEE: bad thing. It keeps the  
STAN LEE: strips from growing stale  
STAN LEE: and becoming  
STAN LEE: repetitive. (I meant IMPRIMATUR, not IMPRINATUR!!!)  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Someday Compuserve will incorporate a spellcheck, Stan. Until then, we'll all look stupid, er, stupid.  
STAN LEE: Thanx. I needed that!  
STAN LEE: (I meant "thanx!")

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HanoverFist asks: Are the characters from Malibu going to be integrated

directly into the existing Marvel Universe, or will it be an "alternate" universe?

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STAN LEE: Honestly, we're not sure  
STAN LEE: at this time. We're  
STAN LEE: still feeling our way. It'll  
STAN LEE: depend primarily on  
STAN LEE: the readers' reactions.

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: In case you've just joined us, our guest tonight in PEOPLE Online's celebrity conference is Stan Lee, the legendary mastermind behind Marvel Comics.

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: To ask a question, type /question or hit the Ask Question icon. This will bring up a prompt box: fill in your question, submit it, and your question will join the queue.

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Here's Joni from Texas again

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Joni/Texas asks: One of the things that I look forward to when watching the cartoons, is hearing your voice narrate. You have a great voice.

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STAN LEE: You're a great judge  
STAN LEE: of voices, Joni!  
STAN LEE: I'm doing a new set of  
STAN LEE: intros for next season's 'Marvel Action Hour.  
STAN LEE: Wait'll you see the cool  
STAN LEE: special effects!

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Kyle from Cherry Hill, NJ has a few questions...

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KYLE CASEY asks: I heard that Rune of Ultraverse has Warlock's Soul Gem. Do you know what the deal is with the other Infinity Gems?

I have created a new character, many, actually. How do I sell new characters to comics?

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STAN LEE: Sorry, your guess is as good as mine regarding  
STAN LEE: the gems. I'm not really part of the  
STAN LEE: creative process day-to-day at  
STAN LEE: Malibu-- or Marvel.  
STAN LEE: It's hard to sell new characters to Marvel.  
STAN LEE: We like to create our own.  
STAN LEE: But drop a line to one of our  
STAN LEE: editors-- you've nothing to lose.  
STAN LEE: He, or she, may go for the idea.

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Here's a goodie from the euphonious Dag Qel Droma of NYC

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Dag Qel Droma asks: How do you feel about the current trend in comics to produce about 15 covers per issue. Don't you think that publishers could better spend their energy in coming up with better ideas?

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STAN LEE: Face it, Frantic One.  
STAN LEE: The publishers give the  
STAN LEE: readers what they think  
STAN LEE: the readers want and will buy.  
STAN LEE: As long as gimmick covers sell,  
STAN LEE: you'll probably keep getting them.  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Nuff said.  
STAN LEE: But come on-- 15 per issue! No way!

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Dag wants to follow up here...

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: % Moderator recognizes [74454,1317] Dag Qel Droma  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: % Recognized [74454,1317] Dag Qel Droma  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: You're on, Dag.  
Dag Qel Droma: Gen 13 had like 12 different covers I think.  
STAN LEE: Maybe, but Marvel didn't publish it! =whew!=  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: And did you buy them all, Dag?  
Dag Qel Droma: I really feel that comics are an art form that is in dire need  
of a shot in the arm and all the crud with the different covers is just silly.  
STAN LEE: Speaking of shots in the arm, Dag--  
Dag Qel Droma: NO, I NEVER buy variants!!  
STAN LEE: I'm launching a new comicbook  
STAN LEE: line next year named EXCELSIOR COMICS!  
STAN LEE: Promise: One cover per mag--, readable stories-- real heroes--  
STAN LEE: dastardly villains-- lots of action--and hopefully  
STAN LEE: you'll be able to  
STAN LEE: even understand what's going  
STAN LEE: on without reading 100 previous issues!  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: % Moderator no longer recognizes [74454,1317] Dag Qel Droma  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: % [74454,1317] Dag Qel Droma is no longer recognized

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Philip Epstein asks: Stan- I followed Spidey as a kid, and now my sons are  
carrying on. Who is the next Stan Lee?-Mike&Dave's Dad  
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STAN LEE: The "next" Stan Lee? Hey, I hope  
STAN LEE: the present one hangs  
STAN LEE: around a little longer?  
STAN LEE: As far as the next one--  
STAN LEE: it could be anyone who'd  
STAN LEE: spend time on the People Net  
STAN LEE: instead of writing scripts like  
STAN LEE: he should be doing!

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Pardon me for barging in with a question, but being interested  
in comics history, I'm curious: how did Marvel respond to the 1955 anti-comics  
congressional hearings that resulted in the Comics Code? Were there titles you  
had to get rid of? And what new, inoffensive titles replaced them?  
STAN LEE: No, we didn't have to get rid  
STAN LEE: of any due to the Code. Our comics  
STAN LEE: were comparatively tame. But EC Comics  
STAN LEE: had to cancel their entire  
STAN LEE: line, except for MAD which became a successful icon in publishing.

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Another history question...

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Jay asks: I read that Gwen Stacy was killed off years ago without your  
knowledge.  
What would you have done differently?  
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STAN LEE: I'd have kept her alive.  
STAN LEE: I had killed off her father,  
STAN LEE: Captain Stacy, in a previous issue.  
STAN LEE: I had no intention of destroying the entire  
STAN LEE: family!

STAN LEE: Hello!  
STAN LEE: Hey, what a kick!  
STAN LEE: I LOVED being on your  
STAN LEE: show! Say the word  
STAN LEE: and I'll pack my bag--- and my comicbooks!  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Oops, looks like someone's IMing Stan. Folks, please don't IM  
him, it's not fair

File Name: LEE.LOG  
Date: Friday, September 1, 1995

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: to the other users. We'll open the floor at the end of the hour  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: and you can have an open chat. Thankx!

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Darren J. Hudak asks: Stan have you ever considered joining the comics forum here on CompuServe?, P.S If there's an FF movies I think Dennis Franz from NYPD Blue would make a great Ben Grimm.  
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STAN LEE: I'll join anything that'll have me.  
STAN LEE: I love communicating  
STAN LEE: with comicophiles. Shouldn't  
STAN LEE: Ben Grimm be a little  
STAN LEE: huskier than Dennis Fronz? Although  
STAN LEE: I think Dennis is a fine actor.

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Any other casting thoughts, Stan? Anyone you always wish you could have cast but couldn't?

STAN LEE: I'm trying to convince  
STAN LEE: Jim Cameron thAT NO ONE  
STAN LEE: COULD PLAY SPIDER-MAN'S JONAH JAMESON BETTER THAN--  
STAN LEE: ME! --I don't think I've sold him yet!  
STAN LEE: Would  
STAN LEE: like to have Bruce Willis play  
STAN LEE: Wolverine!  
STAN LEE: Richard Gere is Dr. Strange, to me.  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Great. Any others?  
STAN LEE: I'll save the others for surprises when the  
STAN LEE: pix come out.  
STAN LEE: By the way, did you  
STAN LEE: know I have a somewhat  
STAN LEE: major role in the upcoming  
STAN LEE: MALLRATS, starring Shannon  
STAN LEE: Dougherty It'll open in Oct.  
STAN LEE: Written & directed by Kevin Smith who did CLERKS. Don't miss it if  
you  
STAN LEE: wanna see Yours Truly-- with a BEARD!  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: No kidding? What's your role?  
STAN LEE: I play, wouldja believe? Stan Lee!  
STAN LEE: It deals with comicbook fans who hang around a mall. Very  
STAN LEE: hip, very cool, very  
STAN LEE: raunchy--  
STAN LEE: like a present-day  
STAN LEE: Animal House!  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Hear that folks? Check it out!

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Next question for Stan...

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John Robert Nelson asks: I enjoyed your story of the Surfer with art by Moebius. Any more Surfer stories upcoming?  
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STAN LEE: I wish I'd have time for more Surfer stories like that one.  
STAN LEE: Moebius is a genius. Will try to do more later when I  
STAN LEE: get the time.

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Rob from Pittsburgh asks:

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Rob asks: With the unfortunate demise of Ravage, do you have any plans to create any new characters, and if so, can you give us a hint as to what direction they might head?  
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STAN LEE: Yes. As I meantioned previously, I created 4 new characters for  
STAN LEE: our new EXCELSIOR line. One, named HELLION, I'm writing myself.

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STAN LEE: Watch for them next year. That name again-- HELLION.  
STAN LEE: The other three titles are VANDAL, ZARLOK and OMEGA.  
STAN LEE: Each one totally different with unusual, untypical art  
STAN LEE: and stories. Do I sound like  
STAN LEE: a huckster? --Guess I am!

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Time for a few more questions...  
Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Here's an industry-specific one...

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graham white asks: Marvel were criticised for buying their own distributor. Was  
it a good idea?  
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STAN LEE: We certainly hope so.  
STAN LEE: It was really necessary.  
STAN LEE: After the dust settles, it'll  
STAN LEE: hopefully turn out to  
STAN LEE: be good for us-- and  
STAN LEE: for the whole  
STAN LEE: comicbook industry, as well.

Ty Burr/PEOPLE: Adios, folks. We've been talking with Stan Lee, the legend  
behind Marvel Comics. Thanks for being with us. You can find downloadable  
Marvel art and sound clips in the PEOPLE Forum. We'll be putting up a  
transcript of tonight's discussion in the Forum soon. To get there, go PEOFRM.