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Stan's the man for Buffett's tailor

For a quarter-century, Warren Buffett's tailor has taken the measure of the man — admiring him personally and for his conservative fashion sense.

True, Warren himself has joked that his style is called "rumped." Then again, *Forbes.com* once named him one of the five best-dressed billionaires.

Physiques come in all shapes and sizes, and Buffett's requires custom-made suits. David Parsow, his tailor, said Warren will have three new ones to choose from for this weekend's Berkshire Hathaway shareholders meeting.



Michael Kelly

"He is a unique man, and so is his suit size," said Parsow, vice president of Parsow's Fine Clothing and Sportswear. "But if I had to put a number on it, I'd say it's

close to a 43 regular."

Regular guy, that Warren.

When an estimated 26,000 converge on Omaha for the Berkshire jamboree and shopping spree, Buffett will dispense wisdom, leavened with comic remarks. Many see him as their superhero.

Comic? Superhero?

Parsow's ears perk up. He is a Berkshire shareholder, but his great love is comic-book superheroes.

He owns 75,000 comic books, including a few rare ones.

His own superhero is the legendary Marvel Comics writer Stan Lee, who created Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, the Incredible Hulk and others.

"He was my childhood hero," said David, 51. "I'm a big sports fan, and a huge music fan. But I'd rather meet Stan Lee than Michael Jordan or Bruce Springsteen."

In February, at a big clothing convention in Las Vegas, Parsow developed chest pains and shortness of breath.

At 6-foot-6, he works out six

days a week. But his family has a history of heart problems, and in 2003 he had bypass surgery.

He knew he had to get this checked out, but then he learned about an autograph session at his convention — with Stan Lee.

David decided to delay a hospital visit so he could visit his hero. Unfortunately, a misprint in a program ad gave the wrong time.

"I'm sorry, he just left," a woman told David.

"You're sorry?" he replied. "I risked having a heart attack to see Stan Lee!"

The woman said Lee would be at a comic-book convention in New York the next weekend, and she would try to work something out.

David was pretty sure his pain wasn't actually a heart attack, but rather an inflammation of the sac around the heart. It turned out, luckily, that he was right — he got some anti-inflammatory medication and was OK.

He flew to the comics convention in New York and found a person whose name he had been given. The line looked 70 yards long, but David was taken to the front.

Soon the great man arrived. Asked Stan Lee: "Where is the guy with the heart attack?"

They embraced and posed for pictures. David told his 84-year-old hero how super he was and how much he had admired him all his life.

Tomorrow marks the opening of the latest "Spider-Man" movie, and Parsow can't wait to see it. He still has the comic book that introduced Spidey in 1962, which he bought for a dime.

In comic books, David Parsow employs the Buffett philosophy of investment — buy and hold.

He also understands the hero worship that some feel for Buffett. After all, the Omaha tailor finally got to meet his own idol.



Parsow

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