



UWG ATHLETIC DIRECTOR GIVES NEW DIVISION-ONE UPDATES AT KIWANIS MEETING

TUCKER COLE
Contributing Writer



Photo: Tucker Cole, *The West Georgian*

University of West Georgia Director of Athletics Jason Carmichael was the guest speaker at last week’s Carrollton Kiwanis Club meeting, and within his talk, he gave some updates on UWG’s upcoming transition to NCAA Division One.

Included in this was a recent development that UWG football will be opening the season at home against a certain set of Bulldogs, but not the kind from Athens.

“We will be opening with Samford in University Stadium on August the 31st,” Carmichael said.

Ever since the move to Division One was announced, the public has had questions for Carmichael on when UWG might meet up with Georgia’s two largest institutions — Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia. Regarding that idea, Carmichael said one of the first actions he took when he knew the move was official was to reach out to both schools.

“The question I get the most often after the transition is, ‘When are we playing UGA?’ or ‘When are we playing Tech?’” said Carmichael. “And one of the first probably five emails I sent after we announced officially what we were doing was I sent [UGA Athletic Director] Josh Brooks an email and said, ‘Hey Josh, we’re just a couple hours away. We’d love to play you guys at some point.’ Same thing with [Georgia Tech Athletic Director] J Batt at Tech.”

Although these matchups have not been finalized, Carmichael says they will keep pushing for those kinds of opportunities, and the matchup with Samford was one result of these efforts.

In addition to the football schedule updates, Carmichael even spoke on how he had to be convinced that moving up to Division One was the best choice for himself and the university.

“I am a Division-Two guy by background,” he said. “I did not come here to see us transition to a Division-One institution. That was not on my to-do list.”

Carmichael said he has sat on the Division-Two Athletic Directors Association board for three years now, saying he was fully “drinking the Kool-Aid” for Division Two.

“I had to be convinced personally that [Division One] was where we needed to go,” said Carmichael.

Once the decision was made final as the university signed to join the Atlantic Sun Conference back in September, Carmichael says the main questions he received from the public were those asking when UWG’s athletic programs would get to play other schools in the southeast — some of which are old rivals, and others whom the Wolves have rarely if ever met in an athletic space.

“Those of you that have been long-time fans of West Georgia and who have

THIS WEEK:

SPORTS

PAGE 1-2

UWG Athletic Director gives new Division-One updates at Kiwanis meeting

By Tucker Cole

UREC Prepares for Annual Iron Wolf Competition

By Nevaeh Brown

FEATURE

PAGE 2-3

Growth in the City of Homes

By Alex Ducoulombier

Shop Small Passports: Around the City in 28 Days

By Micah Noel

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

PAGES 3-4

Wish: Disney’s Mediocre 100th Anniversary Celebration Film

By Jannette Emmerick

“The Killer” - David Fincher’s Gripping Return to Noir on Netflix

By Lance Goins

“Loki” season finale ends with a “Glorious Purpose”

By Gianna Willcox

went through all the name changes and most of the time it’s been in the Gulf South Conference know that the league itself has changed a lot over the years — we used to have North Alabama in there just as one example,” said Carmichael.

This rivalry will be renewed next Sept. 28 when the Wolves take on the Lions for the 36th time in program history. UWG and UNA last played in 2017 in Carrollton.

Carmichael also says he has heard stories about how UWG used to play Jacksonville State, Kennesaw State and other such schools that have since made the jump to Division One. With UWG’s jump to Division One set to go into effect next July, the Wolves will have the opportunity to renew these local rivalries sometime in the near future.

As for the upcoming year, however, so far UWG has the Samford game lined up as well as a full United Athletic Conference schedule that includes eight games, including four games in Carrollton and four road games across four different states.

UREC PREPARES FOR ANNUAL IRON WOLF COMPETITION

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Contributing Writer

It’s almost time for the University’s sixth annual Iron Wolf weightlifting competition exhibiting the resilience and endurance of student participants. While registration hasn’t opened for the competition, and said date has yet to be determined it’s never too early to get the word out.

The competition has three events, the squat, bench press and deadlift. It is open for both male and female lifters and adherent to a range of weight classes with the opportunity to win several awards for the events.

The Aaron Whitaker Best Overall Lifter Award is named after the very first

judge of the competition, and awarded to male and female participants with the highest average weight. Whitaker’s weight is calculated using the Wilks coefficients used to compare the body weights of different lifters.

Then each of the following nine flexible weight classes for males and seven for females, have their individual awards for first and second place.

Weigh-in’s begin at 8 a.m., an hour before the competition begins. In this timeframe, there’s a testing procedure after subsequent warmups and said testing procedure consists of one repetition but three rounds. When the



Photo: Nevaeh Brown, *The West Georgian*

participant is ready a judge will give a visual and audible signal to begin the practice lifts.

While attempting the lift, participants’ joints must be locked until instructed to put the weight back on the rack.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued)

When executing the three lifts for competition beginning with squats participants take on the upright position with the bar slated between the upper back before lifting off of the rack.

The next participant will prepare for their set with the weight setup coordinator, giving the coordinator their attempted weight they will lift which is usually the weight they would be weighed in at.

With the knees locked and the rest of the lifter's body in the aforementioned position, the Head Referee gives the start signal which is moving the hand

downward and vocally commanding the lifter to squat.

There are subsequent rules and means of disqualification for each event, for instance in the bench press event, it's more the usage of the lower extremities in conjunction with upper back area being confined to the bench and feet flat to the floor.

In terms of disqualification for such an event, lifters have to be aware of the signals referees give to take the weight off the rack and when to start the lift.

Rules for the event are precise, attempting to create a small margin of error while executing the necessary

actions before, during, and after the lifts.

The dress code consists of shorts, simple and non-obscene graphic t-shirts and no wearing bandanas and hats to keep hair out of the lifter's face during competition.

Competitors are given powerlifting belts, which are provided at the fitness desk. They are used to reduce the potential stress on the lower back when lifting in the upright position like in the squat and deadlift events.

This event is free of cost to the interested public and will be held in the Campus Center on the main floor in Spring 2024.

FEATURE

GROWTH IN THE CITY OF HOMES

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The so-called "City of Homes" has been a popular area for families to settle down in since the nineties. With highly rated schools, ample employment options, and proximity to Atlanta, it's easy to understand why Newnan has seen the growth that it has over the last 30 or so years.

Currently, there are around 44,000 residents, and the town has seen a population increase of about 160% since the year 2000. This means that the city is on track to outpace the majority of similarly sized cities around the country, as well as other Metro-Atlanta cities.

With the single-busiest airport in the world just 30 minutes away, Newnan is a hotspot for airport employees, especially those that work for Delta Air Lines. Delta is Metro Atlanta's largest employer, with over 34,000 employees across the metro area.

Additionally, the introduction of an Amazon fulfillment warehouse just outside of Newnan has brought thousands more jobs to the area. Add this to the already strong job market in town with various manufacturing, production and government jobs.

With the influx of people living in Newnan, namely those who cannot drive themselves, an opportunity has arisen to implement more public transportation. While there is no fixed-route bus system operating in town, Coweta County offers a low-cost service that is operated by a third party. The service allows people in the community to call and schedule a ride for just \$3 per one-way trip. The transport program operates from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and connects Newnan to other towns in the Coweta County area, such as Senoia, Sharpsburg and Haralson.

Despite Newnan not currently having a public transit system, there have been talks of a potential transit service amongst city planners. The service in question would see rideshare companies work in conjunction with local governments to provide transport in towns that don't currently have the framework needed for larger-scale public transit.

With this, some questions may be raised about the state of infrastructure around town, such as water, electricity and public roads.

"We're in great shape; water, sewer... we're in really, really outstanding shape, actually," said Cleatus Phillips, Newnan's city manager, when discussing the state of the city's infrastructure.

The increase in residents has brought some unwanted traffic to the city's roads.

"Traffic infrastructure is not like water, sewer and electricity," said Phillips. "It's hard to get out in front of that...the federal government... basically will not advance you the money prior to the problem; they give you the money once the traffic is there."

Phillips also noted that Newnan is limited by the fact that it is in an EPA non-attainment zone, a restriction that intends to reduce traffic on roads with the goal of reducing harmful air pollutants. So, while the city's infrastructure is in overall good condition, there are still improvements to be made on the road.

Newnan's growth as a charming, family-friendly area combined with a thriving job market and its convenient proximity to Atlanta have all contributed to the City of Homes growth over the last few decades. As city officials take great pride in improving infrastructure to accommodate future residents, it is clear that Newnan will remain a great place to live, work and raise a family.

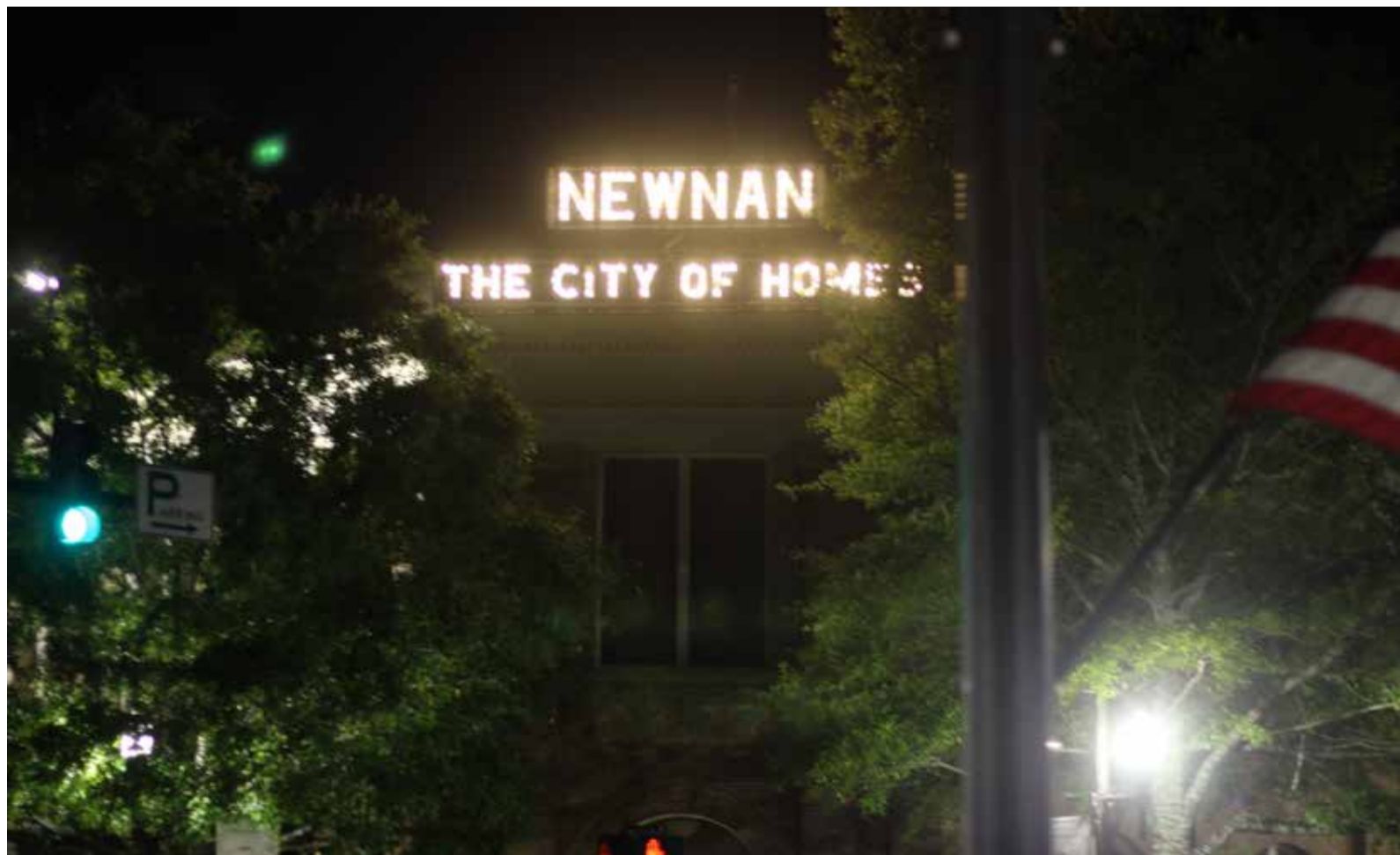


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SHOP SMALL PASSPORTS: AROUND THE CITY IN 28 DAYS

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Christmas is around the corner, meaning the hunt for the perfect gift is on. This can be difficult as the price, uniqueness, and personal touch have to be just right. Fear not, as the city of Carrollton has a fun, affordable way to put you into the holiday spirit without breaking the bank.

“Shop Small Shop Downtown.” That is the slogan on the homepage for the month-long event, Shop Small Passports. Kicking off in mid-November, this event puts a spotlight on shopping small businesses for the holiday season. Local businesses have always been a prevalent way to shop in Carrollton, highlighted in many festivals and celebrations throughout the year.

The holiday season is no different, putting what makes the city unique on a pedestal. Owners are excited about this event, preparing to promote and provide one-of-a-kind services.

“I always participate in everything that involves downtown Carrollton,” owner of Results! Medical Spa Shannon

Lipham continues. “It’s a wonderful way to promote all small businesses.”

This year’s excitement for the event is like no other, creating an unforgettable shopping experience for all who decided to participate.

From restaurants to spas, over 20 small businesses within the city have decided to participate in this endeavor, hoping to be a stop on your Christmas shopping journey.

“I love the fact that people go out of their way to come in and see me,” Lipham continues. “It means everything.”

The Christmas adventure begins by picking up a passport from any participating business or the Depot on Bradley St. For the following weeks, whenever \$20 is spent at participating businesses, “Travelers” will receive a stamp on their passports. Each enterprise will have a unique stamp block to confirm the purchase. One stamp equals one entry into numerous drawings where participants can win prizes,

including theater show tickets, Downtown Dollar and gift baskets.

After receiving stamps, participants can drop their passports in one of the drop-offs. Drop-off locations are the Depot on Bradley St. on Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or after hours at the Water Department deposit box, located at City Hall.

Not all spots on the passport must be filled to participate. However, the more stamps a person receives, the more likely they will win. The city also wants to preface that participants can take as many passports as they wish, creating a greater likelihood of winning.

“We’ve already had one person that got all her passports stamped,” Lipham continues. It’s just kind of fun, and I’m all in for something that promotes small business.”

Additionally, downtown Carrollton businesses will participate in its 14th Small Business Saturday, coinciding with Small Passports. Starting in 2009, the celebration takes place on Nov. 25. Consumers who shop at participating stores will receive an exclusive downtown Carrollton shirt while supplies last.

This event will last until Dec. 11. For more information on the event, visit carrolltonga.com or their Facebook page.



Photo: Micah Noel, *The West Georgian*

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

WISH: DISNEY'S MEDIOCRE 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FILM

JANNETTE EMMERICK
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Since the announcement of Disney’s feature film “Wish” in January 2022 and its early stages of development in 2018, fans of Disney have been anticipating and dreading the centennial benchmark of the company. Yet, already, the \$200 million film is tanking in the box office with \$50 million.

The film follows Asha, a girl in an island kingdom called Rosas, where she desires to be the King’s apprentice, mainly because she wants the King to grant her grandfather’s, her mother’s, and her own wishes, and possibly her friends’ wishes. The premise being that the island’s people willingly give their wishes to the King at the age of 18, and he then grants one wish a year. The other caveat being that the wisher forgets their wish once they give it to him.

Asha later finds out that the King is not granting certain wishes because they are too vague or could be dangerous. She also realizes he is vain and wants to keep his power, but also that he wants to keep Rosas safe in his own way. Still, she believes that the wishes should be freed and the people should make their own wishes come true if he won’t grant them.

So she wishes on a star and that star falls down and is there to help her free the wishes for the most part. There

were also a handful of other characters like the Queen, and Asha’s friends, but they are often forgettable background characters with unimaginative design.

Many wished that the film would bring Disney back to its roots or at least that it would live up to its masterpieces including “Mulan,” “Robin Hood” or “Aladdin.” While the film could be marketed as a family film like its predecessors, it is not. “Wish” is a children’s film with a morally questionable message that goes against the age old mantra of “Be careful what you wish for” and “You can’t always get what you want.” But even with such a simple idea of fulfilling your own wishes, the execution leads to an anticlimactic conclusion.

Critics and audience alike have pointed out the incongruity of plot and characters between the first half and second half of the film— Where they feel like two different writers. King Magnifico in particular was advertised as a classic “pure evil” villain, however, the film failed to execute a believable arc for him. Which is a shame he really stole the show. Asha also was a promising character and an iconic design, but looked out of place aesthetically from her co-characters.

Many people hoped that Disney would reenter the animated innovation of the 2020s against international successes like Dreamworks’ “Puss in Boots: The Last Wish” and Sony’s “Across the Spider-Verse.” However, “Wish” ironically has no shine or magic compared to these two films or its renaissance predecessors. Not to mention how Disney barely advertised the “Wish” movie release on Nov. 22.

That’s not even touching on the reception of the music in this film. A major gripe with many folks is that Disney hired pop song writers as opposed to musical theater lyricists which may have resulted in lyrics that brought the viewers out of the story.

Unfortunately, the film, while visually pleasing in some scenes, was overall lackluster and “safe” in comparison to its contemporaries including Pixar’s “Elementals.”

Not to mention that the film makes constant references to other Disney movies, which is nothing new to their films, where even the dark film “Hunchback of Notre Dame” uses cameos for comedic effect. However, the difference between those films and “Wish” is that “Wish” does not stand on its own as a “tale as old as time.”

For many viewers, it is not timeless enough with themes and motifs at any age, mainly because the film has no central theme. Instead, the references to the company’s legacy reminds viewers of better films to spend their money and time on. If the audience doesn’t think too deeply about the worldbuilding or implications of the plot, the movie is simply okay.

“THE KILLER” - DAVID FINCHER’S GRIPPING RETURN TO NOIR ON NETFLIX

LANCE GOINS
Contributing Writer

The critically acclaimed David Fincher’s “The Killer,” is a bold newcomer to the murky world of crime dramas. This 2023 production, which is now available on Netflix, is a tense, dark voyage that honors vintage film noir while also including director David Fincher’s own style, making for a spooky and engrossing viewing experience.

“The Killer” establishes the mood right away with its distinctive Fincher visual aesthetic featuring a shadowy universe where each frame is carefully planned to heighten the suspense and mystery. From the dimly lit passageways to the rain-soaked streets, the director’s painstaking attention to detail is evident, creating an immersive ambiance that almost becomes a character in and of itself.

The story, which is a maze of turns, follows an experienced investigator who performs a leading man with a gloomy intensity as he pieces together a string of gruesome killings. To keep the audience on the edge of their seats, Fincher deftly stitches together a complex tapestry of characters, motivations and plotlines. The language, which is incisive and full of noir sensibilities, heightens the mystery as it develops.

The cast of “The Killer” is one of its best features. Fincher hand-

selected the group, and they give performances that are captivating beyond belief. The characters’ chemistry, whether they are allies or suspects, gives the story more complexity and elevates it above a simple crime procedural. The principal actor gives a masterclass in subtlety and nuance as a detective tormented by the mystery of the case as well as personal problems.

Fincher’s film moves at a methodical pace that lets the tension simmer and intensify over time. The director invites viewers to play a mental game of cat and mouse by using symbolic and visual cues to add another level of intricacy to the narrative. Similar to his earlier works, Fincher demonstrates his mastery at playing with the emotions of the audience by keeping them guessing until the very end.

Fincher once again works with an accomplished cinematographer to produce a visually stunning and eerie movie. The use of shadow and light in combination with a strong color contrast gives the images a noir elegance. Every frame in the movie is a thoughtfully put-together tableau that adds to the overall mood.

An essential component of any noir picture, the musical score enhances the images with a melancholic tune. The soundtrack, which was created



Photo courtesy of Netflix in conjunction with a well-known composer, heightens the tension and adds to the overall atmosphere of the movie. A lasting auditory experience is produced by the flawless symbiosis of sound and vision, even after the credits have rolled.

“The Killer” strengthens Netflix’s standing as a supplier of premium original content in the streaming platform market. The movie offers a sinister and exciting window into the head of a contemporary auteur filmmaker as it opens to theaters globally. Not only is Fincher’s return to noir but it also serves as a confirmation of his ability to tell gripping stories that connect with viewers.

More than just a crime thriller, “The Killer” is a monument to the timeless allure of storytelling in the hands of a master filmmaker. Netflix viewers will become entangled in a web of intrigue and suspense that only David Fincher can create as they set out on this compelling trip. “The Killer” solidifies Fincher’s status as a master of contemporary noir while serving as a monument to the genre’s enduring influence.

“LOKI” SEASON FINALE ENDS WITH A “GLORIOUS PURPOSE”

GIANNA WILLCOX
Contributing Writer

The second season of the Disney+ original series “Loki” aired its final episode on Nov. 9. The series originally premiered on June 9, 2021, and follows anti-hero Loki, the God of Mischief, through his adventures in the Time Variance Authority, also known as the TVA. The second season follows Loki and his friends as they try to save the TVA and the multiverse after the aftermath of season one.

The second season picks up from the exact moment that the first season ended, so the viewers are already aware of what is going on. Everyone is scrambling around the TVA as new timeline branches start sprouting on The Sacred Timeline, a result of Sylvie, a variant of Loki, killing He Who Remains, the creator of the TVA. Loki and his friends then spend the rest of season two trying to fix everything.

In the best way possible, season two

of “Loki” made it clear that the show was about Loki discovering himself and his true purpose after a lifetime of not knowing. The first season briefly touches on this topic when Loki arrives at the TVA, but the second season dives deeper into the topic as the fate of the multiverse becomes grim.

The main way this is made clear is with the title of the season two finale. The finale is entitled “Glorious Purpose,” which is also the title of the series’ first episode. I do not think this is merely a coincidence. This phrase comes from Loki’s most famous quote, “I am Loki of Asgard, and I am burdened with glorious purpose.”

In the 2012 movie “The Avengers,” the character first says this quote as he introduces himself. Using part of this quote as the title for the first episode of the series and what is most likely the final episode of the series speaks to Loki’s character growth from the beginning of the series to its end.

Once season two is over, the meaning of “glorious purpose” changes. When Loki mentions his glorious purpose at the beginning of the series, it relates to how he believes that sitting on a throne and being a ruler is his birthright and true purpose. However, after everything he experienced during his time at the TVA, he learns that most purposes are more burdens than glory and require tough decisions and sacrifices.

Loki’s decision to make the ultimate sacrifice to save his friends and the multiverse provides a satisfying conclusion to one of the Marvel Cinematic Universe’s most beloved characters. At Loki’s first appearance, he’s a vengeful villain set on taking what he believes rightfully belongs to him. However, through his appearances throughout the MCU and this series, he has developed into a full-fledged superhero willing to put his own desires aside for the good of everyone else. Season two of “Loki” is perfect because it concludes with a beautiful yet bittersweet ending for a unique character.

Although the season’s finale raises questions about what’s to come for the other characters, it does right by the show’s namesake, and that’s all that matters.



Photo Courtesy of Marvel