Putney General Store Update: Rising from the Ashes

By Dexter Brown Rogers with AbdulRahman Alzouman in Putney

During the span of two centuries the Putney General Store became timeless, frozen memories, instilled amongst many generations of Putney patrons.

Undoubtedly the center piece of Putney, the structure lost on November 1st is considered most likely to have been the original. Built some point between 1796 and 1799, according to the store’s website, the partners William Sargeant and John Griffin constructed a store, “which stands on the easterly side of the stage road and nearly opposite John Goodwin's dwelling house.”

The Putney Historical Society (PHS) began working within weeks of the second fire. They recently orchestrated a gathering to provide the town members information.

Over 100 people were present to publicly hear that reconstruction is continuing. Following the announcement local supporters took the opportunity to sincerely convey that they too are very much in favor of restoring the town’s landmark.

PHS has been supporting and managing the process all the way through. Subsequent to the initial 2008 fire they actually bought

See Putney General Store on page 4

Internet is Serious Business

The facts about Landmark’s internet!
By Elizabeth Borah

Campus internet services: for some, a blessing; for many, a curse. Internet usage and capabilities at Landmark are a constant cause for discussion amongst both students and faculty. Everyone at this school needs the web-based services of the college in order to keep in touch and complete assignments, as well as find entertainment. Many of us complain about campus internet, but not many know the details about what causes its cons or what is being done.

To bring to light some of what I.T. services do (and are working on) in terms of internet

See Internet on page 8
MIT’s Sixth Sense: A New World for Personal Technology

By Samantha Leyenson

As always technology marches forward with new ways for humans to interact with machines, and to aggregate devices as more people find themselves carrying various gadgets like cell phones, digital cameras, I-Pods etc. The Media Lab, at MIT in Cambridge MA is associated with the Computer Science Department and was spun off to foster web and personal media innovative research and has done so for the past two decades. The Media Lab is well known for its earlier research to create “Virtual 3-D worlds” and to enhance personal user experiences in cyberspace.

The “Sixth Sense” project is the work of researchers Patti Maes, Ph.D., and Pranav Mistry, M.S.

Dr Maes completed her PhD at Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium. This information is available on the MIT web site (www.mit.edu), if you search for Dr. Maes, the Media Lab, or “Sixth Sense.” According to the site, “Her areas of expertise are human-computer interaction, artificial life, artificial intelligence, collective intelligence, and intelligence augmentation.”

Pranav Mistry is a PhD candidate at the Media Lab in “Fluid Interfaces,” a new field at MIT. He works at the edge of research and discovery to find new ways for humans to interact with technology, multi-media, and the world wide web through novel user interface design, using elements of artificial intelligence and new intelligence augmentation. Pranav Mistry has prior degrees from MIT and IIT in India. Interested readers should have a look at his web site - http://www.pranavmistry.com/. According to Mistry’s website, “SixthSense is a wearable, gestural interface that augments our physical world with digital information, and lets us use natural hand gestures to interact with that information.”

Sixth Sense brings intangible, digital information into the tangible world, and allows us to interact with this information via natural hand gestures. The hardware integrates a pocket projector and mirror, and a digital camera. The prototype device is worn around the neck and captures video stream data wirelessly and transmits back to a computer to allow the user to interact with different applications, functions and features of this integrated device.

You can draw a circle on your wrist and the projector will display a wristwatch on your hand. You can see what the current time is or use the projected watch image to schedule an alert about a later meeting, or to keep track of how long you spend on a task. Take a photo of anything by framing it with your hands, and it...
A Day in the Life of Landmark Security Officers

By Griffin Dean

Landmark College Department of Safety & Security (DSS) consists of Director Dawn Hubbard, Assistant Director Joe Rosendo, and officers: Matt Brown, Steven Harris, Jay Iverson, and James Savory. The DSS is operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

February 7, 10:00 A.M., I met with Assistant Director Rosendo in the DSS office. Rosendo is a veteran of more than 23 years of military service, including a tour of duty in Iraq.

“All of our officers are career military, law enforcement, or security.” Rosendo said. The officers are constantly being educated about learning disabilities. “Your standard campus security officer wouldn’t cut it, it takes a very special type of officer” Rosendo said.

The officers work a 10 to 14 hour shift. Most of their time is spent patrolling or responding to incidents, which range from lockouts to medical emergencies and physical altercations.

Rosendo knows that the student body has a varied and turbulent outlook of the DSS. “They’ll love you one day and they’ll hate you the next,” Rosendo stated.

At 12:00 P.M. Officer Jay Iverson relived Rosendo. “Jay Iverson has seen everything,” said Rosendo, “he is the man.” Iverson was out the door shortly after arriving. “I prefer to spend as little time in the office as possible,” Iverson said, “if you’re out and about you can respond that much faster.”

While on patrol the officers cover ground, at a speed I struggled to match. “We often get asked how we can be everywhere. It’s based on not really stopping.” Iverson said.

Shortly after beginning his shift Iverson

Please see Security Officers on page 4

Sixth Sense, Continued from p. 2

how long you spend on a task. Take a photo of anything by framing it with your hands, and it will be stored.

The possibilities are numerous. If you want to buy a book, but want some info on what it is about or to read reviews, you can stand in the bookshop with the book in your hand and transmit reviews or hear author talking about their book, or send a quick message to colleagues, friends, or a teacher.

This information is projected on to any surface you like in your immediate environment.

I urge all fans of new gadgets and tech gear to have a look at the “Sixth Sense” web site and to view the video on U-Tube. A refined version of the current prototype will eventually render cell phones, digital cameras, and projectors obsolete.

The lap top will not be far behind as users opt to store massive amounts of data on larger servers that will be available whenever you want them (unlike my laptop).
Putney General Store from page 1

the store.
Resilience in small town Putney is symbolized by a mythical phoenix. Local effort is gaining ground with an emotionally charged spirit ready to rise from the ashes.
Lyss Papazian, previously a select board member who has helped lead towards rebuilding, told local Times Argus on January 24th, “They are cutting trees already.”
“Townspeople were determined to rebuild the store, which many consider the heart of the village, and get it reopened this year,” Papazian said. These trees are being harvested within Putney limits to enhance the rebuilt structure’s heritage. The new Putney General Store is expected to have a very familiar resemblance.

PHS is executing three phases: 1) design and reconstruction, 2) rehabilitation, and 3) lease building. The building plans are being drawn up and the second fundraising campaign is nearing completion. This has made many believe that rebuilding can realistically be complete within one year, potentially having doors open in late fall 2010.
Thus far a major unanswered question is, who will manage the store? The Lisai family has operated the store most recently; however, the option fell through last October. This project will be handled in the future. The priority for now is in completing reconstruction.

What caused the fire is still a mystery, but simply stated by Fire Chief Greg Short, “The cause of the fire is arson.” Vermont State Police Arson Division brought a K-9 unit to discover gas in one section of the crime scene. Though the case is being handled quietly, authorities are working every angle. The Vermont District Attorney’s Office is also involved.

Security Officers from page 3

encountered two students, unhappy with the outcome of an incident the previous night. One of the students directed an insult Iverson, only partly in jest.
“Some students are very opinionated,” Iverson said, “I don’t discourage people from voicing their opinion, I do it all the time.”

During the course of the shift Iverson responded to at least 23 incidents. The incidents included: vandalism in Aiken, a verbal altercation between students due to a suspected theft, a noise violation, an odor violation, lockouts, a student escort, issuing tickets, and a suspected break-in to an RD’s office.

At 10:00 P.M. Officer Matt Brown relived Iverson. Brown and I talked about an incident where he had to physically intervene between two students. Community safety is the DSS’s biggest concern. Force is used only as an absolute last resort. “The only time I would restrain a student would be to prevent harm to themselves or others.” Brown said.

The officers recognize the unique needs of the student body. The DSS uses education as a preventative safety measure. “People won’t follow the rules if they don’t know what the rules are” Iverson said.

At 12:00 A.M., I left Officer Brown to his duties. I have not been so exhausted in a very long time.
“The job keeps you busy,” said Iverson, “but you are tired at the end of the day.” After spending 14 hours with these men it is clear that they are hard working and devoted to the job.
“There is nothing about getting people in trouble that is fun.” Iverson said.

The officers of the DSS are here for a reason—to keep the student body safe. Students may not always appreciate their presence, but when needed the officers are always ready to help.
Baseball Preview: “If You Build It, They Will Come”

By Dexter Brown Rogers

Putney - The last couple years have shed good fortune on our baseball program, in the form of student interest levels, and team resources. The team is proud to announce the Shark’s now have a home field. The team will utilize this well groomed field for practice and to host games.

For this spring coaches John Wood along with Steven Stanley, desire to keep the vibes positive and rolling onward in 2010. They are determined to expand the Landmark baseball program. The most desirable outcome for this spring is to enter an established league consisting of schools in the surrounding area.

Currently we have over thirty students already coming out to Wednesday workouts, held in the gym at 8:00 pm. This team is about sportsmanship and enjoying the game, in addition to the competitive edge.

In order to make this a reality we need fifty plus athletes of any experience level to step away from the play station! This will enable our team to break into four practice squads, critical preparation for college competition.

Anyone and everyone who wants to play are welcome to show up Wednesdays at 8:00 in the gym; for questions email/talk to the coaches or any of the captains, Mac Migel, Kevin Resendes, and myself.

"The one constant through all the years, has been baseball…. This field, this game: it's a part of our past, it reminds of us of all that once was good and it could be again. Oh... people will come. People will most definitely come."

- from “Field of Dreams,” courtesy of Coach Woods.

What Happens in Putney, Stays in Putney: Haiti Aid Event Planned

Campus Activities Board to host a casino night to raise money for Haiti.

It has been more than a month since an earthquake devastated the nation of Haiti. With money and support still pouring into the ravaged nation Landmark College’s Campus Activities Board will be hosting a fundraiser to help the relief efforts.

Some people want to help donate money to relief efforts but are unable to do so. This Saturday February 20, from 7-11pm you will have your chance to help the victims when CAB will host a casino night fundraiser to support the nation of Haiti.

Admission is only five dollars. Yet showing up dressed to impress could get you a dollar off of admission (No Jeans, Sweatpants or t-shirts). Admission buys you a cup of chips for poker, black jack, the big wheel, and chuck-a-luck, raffle ticket and snacks galore! You can purchase additional raffle tickets to raise your chances to win a $150 Walmart gift card. Extra tickets will be sold at $1 for one, 6 for $5 or 12 for $10—with a limit of twelve per student. A night of fun will finish with a silent auction at10:00pm for prizes ranging from DVDs to IPods. All the proceeds raised from the night will be donated to THE CLINTON BUSH HAITI FUND.

Please join CAB in their effort to support the nation of Haiti, any amount will help. Hope to see you there.
Bump & Grind! Hip-Hop Makes Activities Hot-List

By Evan Louis

For those of you who attend Landmark College and don’t know anything about student activities, there’s a lot to learn. Two of my friends from last semester told me about a student activity that takes place every wed. 7:00pm in the dance room. They called it The Hip-Hop Dance.

The idea is that students come together to learn how to dance to hip-hop to the point where they are comfortable with themselves and others around them in a dancing environment. To me it sounded like a great article to write about, and a great way to get the word out to people who don’t know about it. So I interviewed a student named Lewis Gerhard about this Hip-Hop Dance, who happens to be one of the two friends who first turned me on to this weekly event.

The first question I asked I felt was most important: What first interested you to pursue dancing? Lewis’ response to this was a response I would never forget. He said that he felt like dancing was the purest form of expression. Then it clicked for me. I finally understood why anyone danced in the first place.

He started telling about the overall goal of this Hip-Hop program. He explained as I mentioned earlier, that it is to get people comfortable in a dancing environment. But it wasn’t the fact that Lewis didn’t know how to dance, he joined out of his own passion for hip-hop and dancing. He said to me that hip-hop’s deep rhythm made him want to dance naturally. He stated: “I’ve been dancing my whole life because it’s something I love to do. It gets me in shape and I feel great. This program was perfect for my lifestyle and was everything I expected.”

So that is pretty much the gist of it. If you are interested in dancing I would recommend going to the dance room next wed. at 7:00pm to check it out for yourself. This program seems worth joining, and you never know . . . you might end up having some fun!

Wellness Week Preview: Weeklong Event Starts in March

By Justin Morrison

Wellness week has been an ongoing event which has been made to put forth good morals for the students, involving their health and potential to lead and sustain a healthy life. Events could range from visits of dietitians in the dining hall upon whose arrival they will suggest food with very healthy benefits, to presentations which cover subjects about the effects of drugs and alcohol. Other events include yoga, meditation, massages, art nights and drumming sessions. Prior to the student(s) being able to develop a healthy life style they could gain extra credit from teachers if wellness week assignments are issued.

Ruth Wilmot has been running the wellness week program for about 3 years and shall be running it again this year. She looks at wellness week with great hope that it will have a nice turnout, for she just wants to help out those who have all but given up on their personal being, and have them restore or even develop a sense of peace and serenity once again. The festivities will begin around March 1. Ms. Wilmot and the rest of the activities board want nothing but the best that they can offer. “We hope that students will have a chance to learn about healthy lifestyle choices and have fun at the same time,” said Ms. Wilmot.

“We hope that students will have a chance to learn about healthy lifestyle choices and have fun at the same time”
From the Editor

This is the second edition of a new student newspaper at Landmark. We’ve shaken off some opening-day jitters, gotten our feet wet, checked to see which way the wind is blowing, and unfurled our sails. This second issue marks a turning point, from just trying out a paper to making one happen on a weekly or sometimes bi-weekly basis.

Those clichés are reminders that a lot of the news is boilerplate—cliché is a French printing term for phrases so often used they could be laid down in blocks, back when type was laid by hand. Much of what the news does is to put information already known nearby, where you can find it.

Even so, journalism—the news—really matters.

It’s no accident that journalism is such a dangerous profession in any repressive regime. Thomas Jefferson said, “Where the press is free and every man able to read, all is safe.”

In a context as safe and collegial as Landmark College, it’s hard to recognize how important the news is. As a start-up, this paper, and the students that report and write it, must prove that what they write can matter to the community. I think they will.

This issue brings campus and local news, and also the beginning of an editorial, op-ed, and letters page—the one you are reading now. The paper invites diverse voices, and is happy to print its first letter from one of its founders, and also to admit its first error.

A good paper is a dialogue, not a monologue. We invite your views and input. Send us your letters, offer opinion pieces, tell us about the news we should cover.

Most of all, take a look. And let us know what you think.

“Independent, student-produced news that serves to inform students, faculty, and staff about college happenings and matters of interest, as well as news from the local area. Our goal is to give students a voice, and to help build a stronger spirit of community at Landmark College.

Publication Policies

The Independent is written and produced by students under the editorial oversight of the faculty advisor, who also teaches the journalism course in the Communication department. The paper is housed in Student Affairs, and published there using college resources. Before going to press, the paper is reviewed by the Student Affairs administration to assure fairness and accuracy. Letters to the editor and opinion pieces are subject to the same review. Letters that are libelous or that contain inaccuracies will not be published. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and to assure that letters that present a specific perspective are balanced by opposing views on the same topic.

Letters: No Broadcast Tower

To the Editor:

Congratulations on publishing the first edition of the Landmark College newspaper, The Independent. I appreciate the article on the college radio station, WLMC, but wanted to correct a potential misimpression as reported in the article. While there are discussions underway exploring the pros and cons of broadcasting WLMC for off campus listeners (parents, alumni, and others), it is unlikely that this will involve a “broadcasting tower.” Instead, it is more practical to extend our current Intranet audio stream to the Internet. It’s uncertain if or when we might broaden our reach to the off campus audience, but building a transmission tower is not under consideration. Despite this detail, thank you for the informative article on WLMC Landshark Radio.

Geoff Burgess
WLMC Faculty Advisor
technology on campus, I interviewed Tom Manley, the Chief Technology Officer for the school. Mr. Manley has worked for Landmark for over five years, and offered some insight into this situation.

One of the most talked about issues with campus internet provision is the fact that downloads begin fast but trickle to a slow pace soon after starting. This is due to the college’s implementation of “traffic-shaping software”, as described on I.T.’s webpage. Mr. Manley explained this: a 30 MB/sec connection is shared across all of the campus, and in order to make sure everyone has equal access speed, this software will slow down resource-intensive and large downloads or activity. This is why something like Moodle loads faster than say, downloadable content on one’s Xbox Live account. Mr. Manley added that at this time, no sites, services or ports are blocked, but he does not like that some students use the internet for illegal purposes and may address that in later policy changes.

While Mr. Manley understands students’ frustration with such practices, he believes it is best in keeping with the department’s policies: they focus most on “providing [students] really strong technical support and assistive technologies”, not ways to keep themselves entertained via the web. It also ensures equitable access for all. Still, the campus will be increasing its bandwidth again this coming July, from 30 MB/sec to 40 MB/sec to keep up with traffic demands. At this time, the college already pays somewhere near $3,000 a month to their service provider for this amount of bandwidth.

Students often direct blame towards certain causes for bandwidth speed: at those who play online-capable video games and at those who use peer-to-peer downloading or streaming services. Mr. Manley says it is actually a combination of these and the high, constant amount of user traffic. These factors combined are the reason bandwidth gets so eaten up. However, he confirmed one rumor: it is indeed faster to use one’s Ethernet cable than it is to use wireless while on campus to access on-campus resources.

Still, things are not as bad as they could be: in recent years, lots of new features have been employed on campus. Wireless is available in all buildings, save for some spots in FAB; this plan was implemented on campus starting in the earlier half of the 2000s, first beginning in classrooms. Mr. Manley also believes that the advancements in mobile technology, such as laptops and smart phones, have made a significant effect in students’ abilities to access information quickly on one device. The college even has a plan to upgrade all their internet technology every two years to keep things current.

Though somewhat disappointing, Landmark’s internet provision is still a way to access a lot of useful resources after all. Who knows, perhaps the methods I.T. has put into effect will benefit us: having to wait five minutes for a ten second clip of a cat flushing a toilet might make us reconsider why we’re bothering to watch it in the first place!
Putney Library: Arts and Literature in Downtown Putney

By Samantha Leyenson

The Putney Library, just off campus, in town, at 55 Main Street, is a local source for events such as art and photography exhibitions, and book discussion groups. Their telephone number is 802-387-4407.

The Putney Library Book Group will meet Sunday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. at the library to discuss "The Seamstress" by Frances De Pontes Peebles. Anyone who has read the book and wants to participate is welcome to join the discussion.

On March 21, 2010, the group will discuss Aravind Adiga's novel "The White Tiger," a tale from India.

There are two art exhibits at The Putney Library now.

The Putney Library has a glass case, used to exhibit artifacts, letters, or collections. The glass case exhibit changes every month. This month the library is displaying a collection of natural Heart Stones.

The Putney Library is now displaying the work of a Brattleboro Photographer, William Dixon. Dixon photographs local areas in and around Vermont. His photos use color, texture and black and white to capture the images he wants to convey.

Mr Dixon chronicles daily events with his camera, creating a local “snapshot” of the area at this point in time. Over a longer period of time, his collection of photos chronicle local life and create a history of the area.

Mr. Dixon’s photos will be on display in the library until the end of March 2010.

Jazz Band Keeps Winter Hot

By Justin Morrison

Hear the slammin, jammin, Jazz ensemble run by Stephan Glover, the new band leader. Ted Wirt, a great musician and previous head of the jazz band, stepped down from the podium in December and went on to spread the power and soul of music.

At the beginning of the semester Stephen Glover took the wheel and has taken full responsibility for the band’s awesomeness. His musical background is remarkable. His professional career started in 1977 at a gig that paid $50 and supplied free beer as their gratitude towards the musical pioneers. He gained a Master of Music degree at the University of Connecticut, and for 26 years has played Trombone for the New England Brass Quartet.

With their variety of sounds and breakdowns the Jazz Band will have you dancing all across the ground. This jam band is so grand it would even make the devil want to dance, but you’ll have to go and hear them to understand.

Stephen Glover has arranged many all time favorites of the musical world.

“This semester I wrote several arrangements for the band, including Short Stop by Shorty Rodgers, C Jam Blues by Duke Ellington, St Louis Blues by WC Handy and The Preacher by Horace Silver,” Glover said.

A long-running tradition, the band is in good hands this spring. Listen for them to play at events around campus.
Faculty Senate Holds Elections

By Samantha Leyenson

Faculty Senate elections normally take place at a yearly election in April. However, a special election was held last week because there were two vacant Senate seats to be filled. Sixty-seven % of the faculty voted in this election. According to Eric Matte, Senate Chair, the high percentage of voters in this election demonstrated significant participation by the faculty.

The purpose of the Faculty Senate is to assure that Faculty member voices are heard, and that concerns are prioritized and addressed by the Senate. Chair of the Senate, Eric Matte, described his role as “to facilitate discussions on matters that are of most importance to the faculty and to promote a healthy environment of debate and democracy.”

Faculty Senate members are Eric Matte, Chair; Lynne Shea, Vice Chair; Kim Coleman, Parliamentarian; John Kipp, Secretary; along with Nevada Bromley, Roxie Hamilton, Mickey Cronin, Sara Glennon, Brian Cohen, Lena Jahn, Adrienne Major, and Caroline Eisner, ex officio member.

Each elected Senate member serves a three year term, unless they have to opt out prior to finishing their term.

According to Eric Matte, approximately 1/3 of these seats are up for election each year as part of the Senate by-laws. These special elections took place because of changes in faculty commitments and attrition.

When asked what some of the agenda concerns for faculty are, Eric Matte suggested we reach out to the Senate committee members for this information. We did so by email, but no Faculty Senate members had responded by the time we went to press.
On Saturday and Sunday, thousands of people gathered at the Harris Hill Ski Jump to watch as ski jumpers of many ages competed in a series of tournaments and challenges featuring jumpers from around the US and the world. The two day event featured competitions for both juniors and adults, along with food and music for spectators. Among the jumpers were two local athletes: 23 year old Willy Graves of Putney and 17 year old Spencer Knickerbocker of Brattleboro, who both came in fourth place in their respective tournaments. Willy Graves is in his second year as a member of the U.S. Nordic Combined Ski Team. Other jumpers came from across the US, as well as countries such as Slovenia, Austria, and the Ukraine.

In a short interview between jumps Connor Jacobsen of Chicago and Christian Friberg of Wisconsin revealed the importance of the event, as well as its lighter side: “We’re trying to get to the junior Olympics,” said Jacobsen, “It’s a competition but it’s also fun.” Friberg would go on to take first place in the junior competition.

The event brought plenty of excitement when New Hampshire native Chris Lamb of the U.S. Ski Team set a new record for the jump at 101.5 meters on Saturday and then going on to break it on Sunday with a 102 meter jump. To add to the fun Elizabeth Von Trapp, whose grandparents were the basis for “The Sound of Music”, opened the competition by singing the National Anthem.

Harris Hill is a world famous jump, and has been used by many Olympic hopefuls. The site was built in 1922 by ski enthusiast Fred Harris, founder of both the Brattleboro and Dartmouth Outing Clubs. In 1923 the site became the setting for the National Ski Jumping Championships. In the past few years the wooden jump has had an extensive rebuild, costing $575,000. Due to safety concerns Harris Hill was closed in 2005, however thanks to a major effort by the Brattleboro community $300,000 was raised to have the jump restored.
Review: Mount and Blade

By Griffin Dean

Mount & Blade is a medieval simulator published by Paradox Interactive and developed by Turkish development house, Tale Worlds. While the game is not as visually polished as many main stream titles, Mount & Blade has a lot to offer in the game-play sector.

The game begins with a rather unique character development process. The player start by answering a series of questions regarding their character's past. These questions determine the player's base stats. Once you finish the player creation process the game pats you the head and gives you a harsh kick out the door.

The player moves around the game world in a style reminiscent of Sid Meier's Civilization. You can visit towns, castles, and villages and wander about in a third or first person perspective. The game is very open-ended and allows for several game-play styles. You can trade, spy, conduct diplomacy, and wage war on both a large and small scale.

The games battles are a delight to play. Mount & Blade offers a wide variety of weapons, armor, shields, horses, and troops. Players can play almost any Medieval warrior he can imagine from a heavy knight, to a spear bearing foot soldier, to a Mongolian horse archer. The game's audio adds a great sense of immersion to the battlefield setting.

The game has several clever features that add depth to the battles. Arrows can be set to be persistent and will stick in almost any surface. The game's blood decals are applied to both characters and weapons. This creates a very visceral feeling as bruised and bloodied soldiers fight desperate close-quarters combat. The rag doll physics is integrated well with the game sounds to give the characters a real feeling of mass and weight. When a heavy knight rolls off the back of his horse and hits the ground it sounds and looks realistic.

The most feared troops in Mount & Blade are the cavalierly. This game has provided a very solid mounted combat system. This system allows for lance charges, ride by attacks, horse archery and more. The mounted combat in the game creates a perception of movement that I have felt in few other games. I often find myself leaning into turns or leaning in close to my monitor when I ready my lance. The game also feature infantry combat it is not as developed or as satisfying as its mounted counterpart.

The game has six fictional factions. Each faction roughly based on one or a combination of several real Medieval cultures. The game is devoid of any magic and is one of the more grounded fantasy worlds I have seen. The games structural pinnacle is also pitfall. Mount & Blade leaves everything up to the player. The game has no true central story and it expects the player to set and execute his own goals. The game features a fairly active political climate and a dynamic economy. This helps create the sense that the world is moving around the player as she moves through it.

All and all Mount & Blade is a unique, creative, and fun game. It has a good atmosphere and strong game mechanics, especially in the battle scenarios. It is one of the few games I have played that I have been able to load up time and again without its content getting stale. I recommend this game for gamers who enjoy game-play over graphics and enjoy thinking just as much as they do fighting.

Get Mount & Blade at Here: http://www.amazon.com/Mount-Blade-Pc/dp/B001DF1AM8