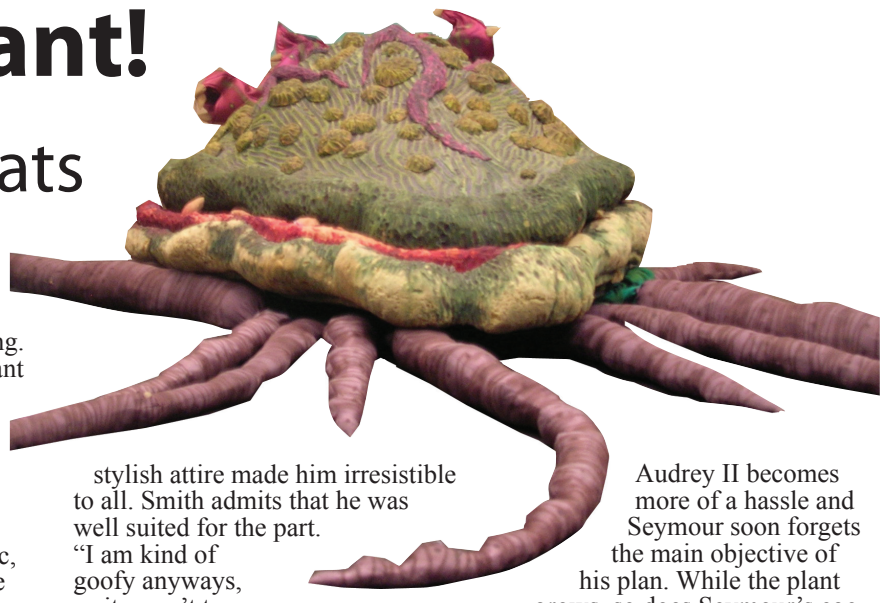
# Don't Feed the Plant!

## "Little Shop of Horrors" Eats its Way to Loy Norrix



**Addie Drillock**
Sports Editor

Tattered bricks and rustic trash cans line the run-down Skid Row, a street on which dreams scarcely go beyond daydreams. While the majority of the inhabitants on Skid Row settle for their far-from-perfect lives, the young Seymour (played by senior Ryan Smith) has a different future in mind as he desperately tries to escape Skid Row and the stereotypes that tag along with it.

The cherry red blouses and leopard print sky high heels worn by Audrey (played by senior Annie Farner) are the only eye-catchers on the gloomy set that was designed by W. Douglas Blickle. But these costumes designed by Lou Irwin prove to be enough motivation for Seymour to fall in love. It proves to be a challenge for Seymour and Audrey to avoid each other, as they are co-workers at the local plant-shop which causes some tension with Audrey's slimy boyfriend, Orin (played by senior Carl DePew) the local dentist.

Although Audrey slowly begins to captivate the heart of the innocent Seymour, it is Audrey II that seems to take up the majority of his time, which ultimately cuts into his social life. Audrey II, which is soon to become known as the giant man-eating plant, named after Audrey, starts out as a simple experiment of Seymour's and it soon not only attracts the attention of Audrey herself but also the attention of everyone on Skid Row and far beyond. The excitement of Audrey II scores booming business for Mr. Mushnik, the demanding owner the flower shop (played by junior Abe Epskamp-Hunt) and before you know it the flower shop on Skid Row is the new "it" spot. Little to every ones knowledge, Seymour has been feeding the plant his own human blood in order for it to grow big and strong. Soon the plant becomes too reliant on Seymour and craves more solid forms of food.

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**Seymour (Ryan Smith) and Mr. Mushnik (Abe Epskamp-Hunt) end their duo dance number with a pose.**

Senior Anthony Hamilton has now starred in three of the spring musical productions since he's been involved in the Loy Norrix Department of Music, but this is his first musical where he was not seen at all on stage. Playing the voice of Audrey II in "Little Shop of Horrors," Hamilton sang off stage while junior Chase Mazur manipulated the giant plant to give it a more realistic effect and with the help from the sound crew, operated by Les Batts Hamilton's voice was projected thorough the entire auditorium.

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**Seymour (Ryan Smith) carries Audrey (Annie Farner) to the the plant to be eaten. While Farner gets eaten, what the audience doesn't see is that she escapes the plants mouth by a hidden door behind the plant.**

Hamilton's performance was a success to say the least, despite the fact that he was not seen at all throughout the musical. His enthusiasm and vibrant vocals are enough to captivate the audience. Another vital factor that made Hamilton's role in the musical so crucial is the fact that he choreographed the entire play from every flashing hand to tapping toe. Hamilton's steps matched perfectly to the lively tunes that were directed and produced by Marie Kerstetter.

Opposite of Hamilton, this was a big debut for Smith.

"This is the biggest part I have ever played. I've always just been the back up chorus in the plays so this is a big jump for me. It's a lot different," said Smith.

Smith's character Seymour not only captures the heart of the beautiful Audrey, but the audience as well. His quirky personality and stylish attire made him irresistible to all. Smith admits that he was well suited for the part. "I am kind of goofy anyways, so it wasn't too hard to play the part. It really was exhausting though more than anything," said Smith.

While exhausting as Smith's part may be, he fortunately did not have to perform in three inch heels. Farner impresses the audience with her ability to strut her stuff in form fitting costumes with a diva essence about her while holding a perfect tune to her numbers such as "Somewhere That's Green," in which Audrey daydreams of someday leaving gloomy Skid Row and living somewhere beautiful and peaceful with Seymour.

"Little Shop of Horrors" is a prime example that opposites attract. Audrey is a classy and popular diva with a hardcore boyfriend and Seymour, a socially awkward baseball-cap-wearing nerd that can hardly take his mind off plants let alone focus it towards a girl. Despite their differences, Seymour and Audrey seem to hit it off romantically.

Impressing women is just one small step to success in man's ideal world, and Seymour goes to great lengths to impress Audrey. By creating Audrey II he does just that. Although at first, his plan to grow the exotic plant is flawless, Audrey II becomes more of a hassle and Seymour soon forgets the main objective of his plan. While the plant grows, so does Seymour's ego and he becomes dependant upon the plant, without it and the attention it brings that he will once again mean nothing to Audrey.

In "Little Shop of Horrors," Audrey II's plan begins to take action when it begins demanding Seymour for more food in the hit "Feed Me." Audrey II is hungry for human flesh and that is ALL he will eat, and his persistence is just enough to get under Seymour's skin. Seymour resorts to feeding Audrey II any acquaintances of Skid Row that get in his way. Orin, Audrey's abusive boyfriend is the first to go, which really is not too much of a burden on Seymour's conscience. A week later when Mr. Mushnik catches on to Seymour's plan, he sets himself up to become Audrey II's next meal. Seymour becomes reliant on Audrey II as he takes care of all those who seem to be getting in his way.

It is interesting to see which LN alumni return year after year to watch these productions, but "Little Shop" attracted the attention of those young and old with its quirky plot and charming character. It is hard not to fall in love with the cast as well, and with background vocals coming from the beautiful urchins Crystal, Ronette and Chiffon (played by seniors Abbey Brooks, Jaquese Steele and Catrina Brooks) who also bust out their rebelling personalities to give the show a little flavor. The musical hits a note that strikes well with all.

Loy Norrix class of 2005 and a star of many of the Loy Norrix Musical Department productions, Jared Woodhouse has come to see the opening show of every musical since he has graduated and "Little Shop of Horrors" is no exception. Attracting the right kind of attention with its awkward humor, this version of "Little Shop" got more than just an okay from Woodhouse, "This has got to be one the best performances I have seen put on by Loy Norrix with one of the strongest casts," said Woodhouse, a current Musical and Theater major at Western Michigan University.

# Defining Tarot: the Art of Determination

**Jason Koole**
Beat Editor

Your destiny may be determined by what actions you may take in your life, but can it be predicted? Tarot is the art of determining what may or may not happen in your life and what things may occur to you. If you are a believer in the occult or follow a Pagan style religion then Tarot is the method of predicting what events may happen to you or emotions you may feel, before it actually happens.

The basic reading for Tarot requires a forty-six card Tarot deck. The deck has a Major Arcana, which represent the profound emotions and struggles that may happen and then the Minor Arcana, which represent the lesser emotions or the underlying themes and feelings. A Tarot deck should consist of 22 Major Arcana and the rest should be Minor Arcana. There are four houses in the Tarot deck for the Minor Arcana. Those houses consist of Pentacles, Swords, Cups and Wands.

Major Arcana has the most profound meanings between the two arcane, meaning the Major Arcana symbolizes the stronger emotions. An example of a Major Arcana card would be the Fool. The Fool is a Tarot card with the number zero, or 2 (depending on the deck) and has one of the most significant meanings among all of the Major Arcana. The Fool represents the journey one must take in life.

In the illustration of The Fool, The Fool shows a man at the edge of a cliff who is about to take another step. The Fool does not realize the path before him and is immature about his decisions. The Fool exists in the present and is in search of experience but realizes that his journey may someday bring him back to the same path.

When the card appears in the reading, its meaning will depend on whether the picture is right side up or upside down. Both of these have a different but similar meaning, and all of the Tarot cards mean something, that includes the Minor Arcana as well. If the Fool, for example, is right side up it represents excessive excitement, if it upside down it represents absence of mind.

There are many styles for interpreting and reading the cards. Tarot is an art, so the only true way to learn it is to seek it out for yourself. Students practice the art of Tarot at LN. It is not a distant and foreign thing.

"Tarot is the reading of possibilities and interpretation on what the cards mean to the person," said Kailin Kenerly, a junior at LN.

"The card reader gives the customer (subject), or themselves if he or she is reading their own cards, a general outline of what the customer's cards represent. Then it is up to the customer to interpret what the cards mean to them. You have to interpret it for yourself," said Kenerly.

Buying a Tarot deck is all about the feeling you have from it. Make sure you feel good about it when buying it.

"Usually when you're a beginner, you should look at the deck and make sure it feels right for you," said Kenerly

There are some misconceptions about Tarot. One misconception about Tarot is what the cards actually mean, "The death card does not mean death, it means change," Kenerly said.

The true art of Tarot is not in the reading, but in the interpretation. It is not about predicting your destiny. It means to find a layout for the future and whether that future is good or not is up to the decisions you make. It is about interpretation. Whether you believe it is up to you. What Tarot is though, is a matter of believing and interpreting your destiny.

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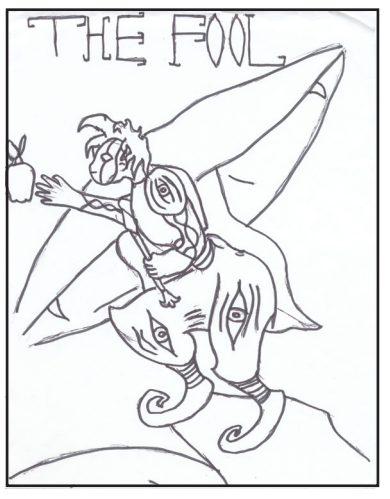


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# QUICK PICKS

**Claire Dandois**
Copy Editor

## MUSIC:

### Music-"In Rainbows," by Radiohead

The new album, "In Rainbows" by Radiohead, starts off with a deep, rhythmic beat, with the complex lyrics winding through it. The flow of the music and expressions give a sense of transparency and unearthliness.

At times, the percussion dominates as the guitars surge in a mystical turn of notes. As the sounds fill your ears, you find yourself wanting to close your eyes, "hit the bottom, and escape." As a whole the album has an electronic feel as it warps through each thrilling track.

"You used to be alright, what happened, et cetera, et cetera…" This is a line of the lyrics from the opening track, 15 Step. This album is full of appealing names and twisted, compelling lyrics with titles ranging from "Bodysnatchers" to "Faust Arp." Listening to the lyrics you find they are full of meaning, "Has the light gone out for you? Cause the light's gone out for me." As Thom Yorke sings, he shows the nature of the lyrics as genuine and truly meaningful.

This new CD was finished in 2007, fours years after their previous album. Radiohead has been around since 1993, often being one of the bands to really watch for.

The release of "In Rainbows" has proven their longevity as artists. Radiohead sincerely has what it takes to overcome hardships and seal their title as one of the greatest groups of all time.

## BOOK:

### Book-"The Dive from Clausen's Pier," by Ann Packer

"The Dive from Clausen's Pier" by Ann Packer is all about decision making. The main character, Carrie Bell, has so many pivotal decisions in her life that bring her from one place to the next.

It begins when her fiancé whom she has been with since high school, takes a dive off of Clausen's Pier. The shallow water in this familiar vacation spot leaves him a quadriplegic, or paralyzed in all four limbs. The fact that their relationship was "in a cold, dark place" before all of this does not help Carrie's situation. It comes to the point where she decides to leave her fiancé, family, and friends behind and drive to New York.

The big city brings new and exciting opportunities for her and she is content there. But back home is her family and things she holds deep in her heart.

Ann Packer pulls off numerous descriptive phrases that paint a vivid picture in your mind. The significance of Carrie's decisions is truly evocative. This book has the potential to affect all who read it as they deal with their own life and relationships.

## MOVIE:

### Movie-"The Darjeeling Limited"

"The Darjeeling Limited," directed by Wes Anderson, was released in October 2007. Most would agree that this movie is an extraordinary one, as proclaimed by the L.A. Daily News. The focus in the beginning on an insignificant character demonstrates that this picture is unsystematic and nebulous. The film captures you in a meaningful, yet free wheeling journey through India.

As the three Whitman brothers come together for the first time in a year, they board a colorful Indian train in search of a "spiritual journey." They encounter many problems and cannot succeed as they try to experience something vital. But when a turn of events leads them where most people may break down, they end up getting the experience they anticipated. The brothers become closer and face what they have always needed to; their mother.

Although this plot may seem serious, the movie is very off-beat. It is its own in every way and is very eye catching. "The Darjeeling Limited" is bittersweet and adventurous, yet somewhat arid and altogether arbitrary. Set in India, the colors and clothing are amazing. The filming is unusual and creates a unique visual image that absorbs the viewers.