



Academy for Advanced Academics

(Deuxieme Maison, FIU)

FIRST EDITION
OCTOBER 2023

Ignacio Arnaiz
Adrian Gonzalez
Grace Duty
Abigail Elesppe
Kateleen Quiles

Head Editors:
Mariana Medina
Lulu Perez

ART & LITERATURE



Philosophy and Morality

Ignacio Arnaiz

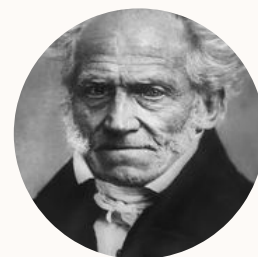
One of the greatest and most popular Russian novels, **Fyodor Dostoyevsky's** *Crime and Punishment*, tests the waters of morality and justice in religious and social contexts. The book seems to act as hypothetical for the many modern and post-modern ideas Dostoyevsky was aware of during his time.

Often, Raskolnikov will be evaluated under early-Nietzschean notions of moral subjectivity and ego, even though the developed philosophy of **Friedrich Nietzsche** (who believed morality was subjective and all actions were a result of a human's will to power) does not fall short where Raskolnikov does. The reason for this perception is because both Dostoyevsky and Nietzsche were heavily influenced by the romantic, pessimistic intellectual ideas of **Arthur Schopenhauer** (who believed that life had no meaning and was there wasn't anything but suffering). In fact, the argument of *Crime and Punishment* can be chalked down to post-Schopenhauerian academic thought mixed in with the traditional values of Orthodox Christianity.

Beliefs about being and self-becoming morally fluctuate from thinker to thinker, but the bridge between Arthur Schopenhauer, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, and Friedrich Nietzsche can be drawn quite clearly, whether they are in accord or not. Here are a series of quotes relating all three of them to compare the clashing philosophies at work in *Crime and Punishment*.

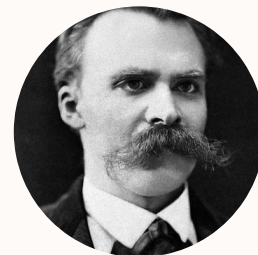
Arthur Schopenhauer

“Compassion is the basis of morality.”
“Fate shuffles the cards and we play.”
“Life without pain has no meaning.”



Friedrich Nietzsche

“If you crush a cockroach, you're a hero. If you crush a beautiful butterfly, you're a villain.”
“Love your fate, which is in fact your life.”
“Nothing is true, everything is permitted.”



Fyodor Dostoyevsky

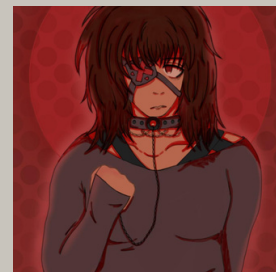
“If there is no God, everything is permitted.”
“Pain and suffering are always inevitable for a large intelligence and a deep heart.”
“Compassion is the chief law of human existence.”



Student Art Spotlight

Digital Media

Lillian Interian



ALBUM OF THE MONTH

“The Land Is Inhospitable And So Are We”

Adrian Gonzalez

Mitski’s most recent studio album, *The Land Is Inhospitable And So Are We*, is praised as one of her best, and it just might be. Mitski, otherwise known as Mitsuki Laycock, dances on the line between indie rock and pop—also managing to incorporate other genres— with raw, emotional vocals and a charmingly natural sound. In these songs, she tends to embrace the “Spaghetti Western” (Italian-made “Western” films) style, incorporating a notable, yet unobtrusive folk twist on her music. The two best examples of this are in her tracks “Heaven” and “My Love Mine All Mine,” which have a blatant, yet beautifully charming “Western” type of sound in their instrumentals. Aside from this, the muse for Mitski’s seventh full-scale release is unlike any other. Centered around embracing loss with loving arms, *The Land Is Inhospitable And So Are We* heals using the same hand with which it wrenches all of our hearts and brings afloat memories of all whom and that we’ve loved.

Tracklist

1. Bug Like an Angel
2. Buffalo Replaced
3. Heaven
4. I Don't Like My Mind
5. The Deal
6. When Memories Snow
7. My Love Mine All Mine
8. The Frost
9. Star
10. I'm Your Man
11. I Love Me After You



Now Playing



Mitski



Recommended By Us

Blank Fairy (2001) – Akira Yamaoka



In the 26th soundtrack of the Silent Hill 2 OST collection, Akira Yamoka tactfully blends the videogame’s mystifying ambience horror with a sense of trapped, delirious subconscious. The heavy drums at the beginning, slowly decaying melody, and the static-like distorted percussions foreshadow the protagonist’s main objective as he comes to face with a truth that may chase him into his own madness.

–Ignacio Arnaiz

There Is Something On Your Mind (1957) – Big Jay McNeely



Big Jay, accompanied by his saxophone, presents a soulful jazz song which captures the dread, anxiety, and attachment that love can cause: “Can what you're thinking bring happiness or will it bring misery?”

–Adrian Gonzalez

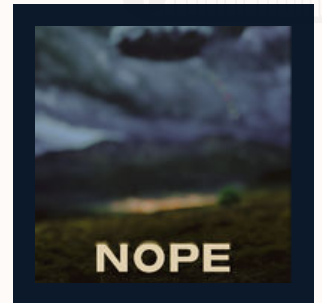
Entombed (2012) – Deftones



In one of the more popular songs from their 2012 album, Koi no Yokan, Deftones captures the grim death of independence in a relationship. The song captivates how one person becomes completely dependent on the other and nothing more than a tool, or “entombed,” and about as “safe and sound” as a skeleton in a coffin. In a slow rhythm, a guitar is introduced as the backbone of the song, building up to the suffocating yet melodic bass and drums that bring to life the dramatic message of the work, instrumentally, of course.

–Ignacio Arnaiz

Film Highlight



Nope (2022) – Jordan Peele

“What’s a bad miracle?”

Jordan Peele’s overlooked masterpiece Nope follows two siblings (Daniel Kaluuya & Keke Palmer) who are stalked by something in the sky that can only be described as a UFO, while the owner of a nearby theme park (Steve Yeun) attempts to capitalize off of it. The three of them soon realize they are in over their heads, meddling with a bloodthirsty, otherworldly power. Truly chilling, the film presents themes of exploitation and spectacle. There is, of course, a twist.

9.7/10

–Adrian Gonzalez



Kamala Harris "Fight For Our Freedoms" Tour



SAS/AAA Picnic



United Way Bake Sale

Student Life!



SAS/AAA Fall Dance
Oct. 26th

OCTOBER 2023

Costume Contest



BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE AAA MUSIC AND ARTS CLUB!

VOLLEYBALL SEASON



Grace Duty
Photos: Emily Vasconcelos

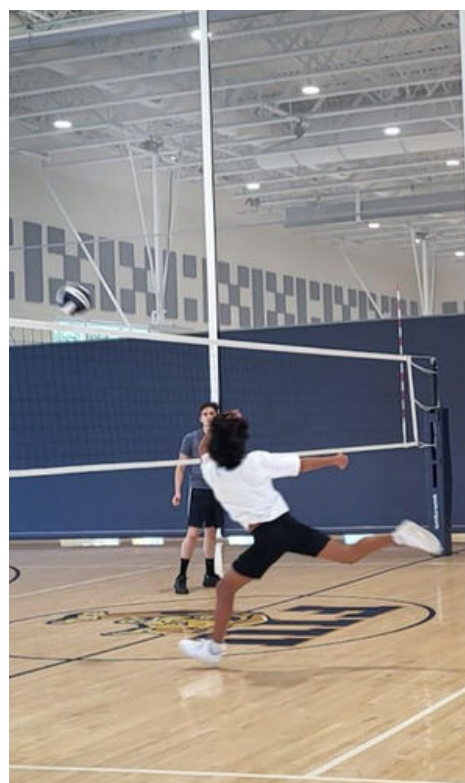
"The energy is infectious."

Junior Sebastian Davalos was one of the first to discover the impromptu volleyball gatherings started by the seniors. Ever since that first day, he's been a habitual member of the unofficial volleyball club— a community that grows with every passing week at the FIU gymnasium. If you were to pass by the South Basketball courts around noon, the cheers and shouts from the volleyball court at the end of the room would reach you as soon as the door opens. The energy is infectious.

Sebastian's favorite thing about the game is the cooperation.

"I like setting it up [the serve] for others," he said.

With so many different players on different days, working together with new team members is key. However, that's something that AAA volleyball players say fosters community. In every player interviewed, there's a consensus on that fact.



Skillfull gymnastics on the court.



No one can predict where the ball will go.

“**The best thing about playing volleyball is that everyone plays together.**”

-Michelle Angel

Junior Michelle Angel admits to having met many of AAA’s student body through the midday games, and even some fellow FIU students. Her inclusive mindset makes for a more welcoming environment for newcomers, which come to volleyball games through word-of-mouth mentions from friends and classmates. The players range from those with athletic backgrounds to players learning how to play the game for the first time. The teams become mish-mash groups of students who might have never met otherwise.

Volleyball dynamics change every day. Whether it’s a new junior team captain calling out positions and the occasional, **“Catch it, catch it!”**, or a chaotic reunion of AAA students present and past to catch up and reminisce, the volleyball court is always clamoring and buzzing with energy. The game is where it all comes alive, warping and forming into something more than ball v. net.

For junior Andrew Menendez, weekly volleyball meetings are about bringing friends together. Being a part of an athletic activity with your friends that’s **‘kind to your mind,’** as he puts it, brings some fun and excitement into an otherwise mundane morning of college classes. On the court (and on the benches), students hang out, get introduced to new friends, and are introduced by older members.

“It’s kind of a tradition now.”

-Emily Vasconcelos

No one knows when AAA students first began playing in their spare time, but what was last year’s seniors’ favorite pastime has become something of a new hangout for this year’s class. So much so that the group has its own unofficial mascot.



Clarence “Churchy”, the team mascot.

Weekly volleyball games bring balance to an otherwise chaotic, academically-minded week. Friends catch up (with each other and with the next chapter of *Crime and Punishment*) and hang out while

waiting for a spot on the court to open up. For the AAA students that play, the half hour spent at the end of the basketball courts is the best part of the day, and something they are proud to say is a privilege when attending the Academy for Advanced Academics.

The NEED FOR SLEEP

Abigail Elesppe

Sleep is one of, if not the most, fundamental part of our health. Unfortunately, many ignore their “shut-eye” cycles rationalizing with countless excuses and a plethora of better things to do. Not only causing *catastrophic damage* to one’s body and mind, the next sacrifices on the chopping block are, unfortunately, grades.

According to the CDC, teens from 13 to 18 need at least 8–10 hours of sleep every night. Most of us are likely sleeping about half of this time, *if not less*.



An example of what you should be doing.

Instead, the average AAA student would rather start IDs for JB at 2 in the morning, or get that Adam’s paper typed, all during the witching hour.

This continuous lack of sleep during a teen’s developmental age has a major impact on physical health, overall well-being, and **cognitive function**.

“***I hate to break it to you, but staying up to cram an entire unit of Calculus the night before the test will not help you. Go to sleep.***”

Countless research has linked shortened sleep intervals to lower test scores and generally worsening grades. Young brains are not meant to function so vigorously for more than 16 hours. Constantly sleeping for half the time one is supposed to will greatly increase loss of memory and readiness, those being some of the key components used when taking tests and doing classwork. Essentially, the loss of sleep is the **loss of grip on academic success**. In order to excel at anything in life, including school, *one must look after oneself before all*.

Vintage Fashion

Fashion News

08.08.2023

ASK US!

Iris Mogul

Students at AAA are just looking to survive. Being a teenager is already taxing enough, without even taking into account the hefty workload that being in such a rigorous program brings. All we can do is our best, and sometimes our best is not a 4.0 grade point. Self-compassion is crucial if we want to thrive in our circumstances. As Jane Goodall puts it, “Only when our clever brain and our human heart work together in harmony can we achieve our true potential”.

Since I am only a junior, I don’t have all the answers (or any at all). I went to an alum that successfully made it through junior and senior year at AAA to answer your questions.

This alum explains that, “The best method I found was to transfer my college assignments calendar from Canvas and my high school assignments into a calendar specifically for school. Next, sort the assignments from shortest to longest amount of time to complete weekly, depending on your schedule, and finish them in that order. With this procedure, you can see when you have time available for yourself and dedicated time for homework”.

“How do I survive AAA?”

A graduate of the 2022 class advises, “The best way to survive AAA is through time management and communication. The AAA community is all connected with their similar experiences, so don’t be afraid to reach out to your other classmates to study and learn from one another. Also, attending office hours or tutoring can impact your education greatly even if you are already doing well in classes”.

“What are great tips to study for a chronic procrastinator?”



KEY CLUB KICKOFF CONFERENCE

The Key Club Kickoff Conference, or the KCKC, is an annual event where many Key Clubs from Miami-Dade County gather. Our very own AAA representatives attended to gather as one community across the district. **Our very own AAA Key Club president, Kateleen Quiles, says:**

“The Key Club Kickoff Conference was a wonderful, productive event where dedicated Key Clubbers came to represent AAA. We participated in award, contest, and scholarship workshops. It was a wonderfully insightful way to learn more about what wonderful opportunities Key Club international offers its members. Additionally, we participated in October DCM (District Council Meeting) where our club got to update and outline what it has been working on for the month of October. We cannot wait for more Key Club events and are anticipating the Zone K Rally sometime in February or March.”

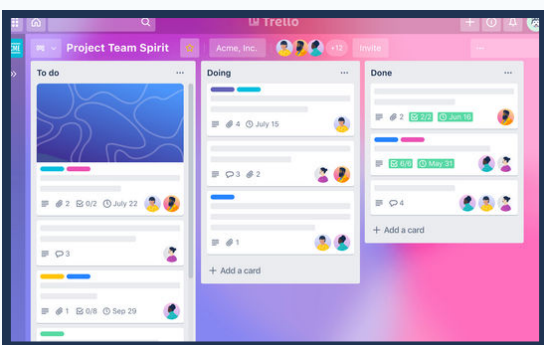


“*How to study math [in AAA]?*”

For this one, I went straight to the fabulous function fiend herself. Ms. Perez offered this piece of expert advice: “Just do lots of problems”. After asking her to elaborate she said, “There’s nothing to elaborate on. Just do lots of problems”. Finally, I got a little more out of her. She said, “Practice whatever kinds of problems we are working on over and over and over and over. Trying to teach one of your friends how to solve a problem is also a good way to reinforce your own knowledge”.

“*Writer’s Advice*”

Trello is a free website/app that I have found to be very useful. I have a list of assignments for each class and organize them based on when they are due. On nights that I feel like I’m drowning in work, I make two lists. One list is for the assignments/tasks I absolutely NEED to do and one list is for assignments, tasks, and activities that I merely WANT to do, but only if time allows for it. I also like to use positive reinforcement. For example, when I accomplish something I’ve been putting off, I let myself watch an episode of my favorite show or I play a few minutes of GTA.



Example of the Trello homepage.

ASK US!

(Continued)

“*How can one stay motivated in such a demanding program? My grades are okay and I have fun at AAA, but sometimes it's hard to stay determined 24/7, especially when teachers and professors expect us to be 100% everyday.*”

According to the 2022 AAA graduate, “My motivation for AAA was to keep in mind the end goal of the program and knowing when to take a break. After AAA, I am now on track to get two degrees and a certificate within my area of education fully funded by scholarships that I wouldn’t have received without time and effort. AAA is stressful but don’t hesitate to reach out to your teachers, counselors, and any trusted adults if you need help”.

To all students at AAA, we are in this together. Let’s encourage each other to give ourselves some grace. At the end of all the nights we will have spent doing IDs, cramming for quote quizzes, and writing papers we forgot about, ***we will have the world at our fingertips.***

Activities Calendar

Kateleen Quiles

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 • November 1st College Application due date!	2	3	4
5	6 • Key Club Fall Gram Distribution • Key Club Spirit week Day 1: Show your "K"!	7 • Key Club Spirit week Day 2: Invite and Include!	8 • Key Club Day 2: Dare to Share!	9 • Key Club Spirit Week Day 4: Random Acts of Kindness!	10 • Key Club Spirit Week Day 5: Connect the Ks	11
12 NHS Autism Walk 4 points!	13	14	15	16	17 Last day to Pay for Winter trip + Key Club FBU food pantry drive	18
19	20 /	21 /	22 FALL BREAK	23 /	24 /	25
26	27	28	29	30		