Quinnipiac campus dog, George, brightens the community

By NORAH MAJEWSKI
Contributing Writer

One of the hardest parts about leaving home for college for many is saying goodbye to loved ones, including pets. Many students here at Quinnipiac, including myself, can especially relate to the oftentimes difficult adjustment of no longer having a furry companion around.

Despite this, campus golden retriever George has made many students feel especially at home.

George was first brought to Quinnipiac in January 2025 at only seven weeks old by Chief Experience Officer Tom Ellett and his wife, nursing professor Gladys Vallespir, who live in The Commons building. When the Ellett family first came to Quinnipiac, they had a thirteen-year-old border collie. However, for their next dog, they wanted the students to choose the type of dog that would best fit a college campus setting. They began by sending out a form to get students' opinions. The overwhelming answer was golden retrievers, due to their friendly and carefree nature.

Once George arrived on campus, students instantly fell in love with him. He can oftentimes be seen with his student dog walkers or Ellett out on the quad or near the Recreation and Wellness Center around dusk, lying in the tall grass. There are 26 different students that rotate throughout Monday, Wednesday and Friday to walk and play with George. Students typically aren't shy about going up to say hi to George, and he's always happy to have the attention.

"For many students, it's a different thing to see a dog on a college campus," Ellett said.

Having a dog on campus has led to a greater sense of community both in The Commons building and Quinnipiac as a whole.

"Seeing George is always a nice surprise and brightens my day so much," first-year behavioral neuroscience major Salem O'Brien said.

O'Brien lives in The Commons, and also took part in the First Year Immersion (FYI) program, which is designed to allow first-year students to move in a week before everyone else to get acclimated to the campus.

"During FYI, moving in early allowed me to familiarize myself with George and made me feel more comfortable to approach both him and Ellett," O'Brien said.



ILLUSTRATION BY LILIANA MIRABELLA

Another student who also lives in The Commons, first-year computer science major Ari Willis, feels similarly.

"George's presence is comforting as a person who loves dogs," Willis said. "Everytime he comes in and out of the building I always say hi and it makes me happy. It's just the kind of thing that makes you smile."

Every other Thursday evening, students bake chocolate chip cookies in Ellett's apartment, a tradition that first began a few years ago. This has allowed for even more of a bond to build between students and George, considering a majority of them have been there since George has come to campus.

Additionally, this past April, students also participated in a photo contest, where they could send in their pictures of George. An overwhelming amount of photos were sent in of George all over campus dressed in silly costumes, or in front of different spots on campus.

Most recently, George's student run Instagram page has been a huge hit across campus. With just over 1,000 followers, George has made even more of an impression with his daily adventures through social media.

Some of his posts include him around campus with students, summer recaps or just out on the boat enjoying the lake. This allows students to feel even more connected towards George by using a platform that many of us are familiar with.

"I love seeing George's Instagram page pop up because it's like a little highlight of him," first-year psychology major Ysabel Fitzpatrick said.

George continues to brighten students' day and experience on campus.

'Prima' by Adéla was an artistic triumph

By GABRIELLA COZZI
Staff Writer

Slovakian pop artist Adéla released her debut album "Prima" last week, a strong showcase of her sound, personality and high quality as an artist.

Adéla got her start in 2023 on the Netflix documentary "Dream Academy," which was run by HYBExGEFFEN. These companies were looking to make the next "global girl group" that would dominate the pop scene.

Out of this documentary/survival show, KATSEYE was born. Besides KATSEYE proper, the dream academy girls have been very successful. Artists including Saint Satine, Adéla, Karlee girl and many more have gained traction since the show's conclusion.

Adéla has been in the pop scene since being eliminated from the show, and her debut EP "The Provocateur" was a success, featuring songs like "Superscar" and "Machine Girl," which gained online traction.

Prior to the release of "Prima," Adéla released four singles with music videos. These include "Red Bottoms," "KGB," "Ain't in LA" and "Nicole Kidman."

"Red Bottoms" is a deep emotional ballad, which deals with the fear of abandonment often felt in relationships, as well as in the music industry.

"KGB" is a fun, sarcastically witty song that delves into her history of interest in the pop industry, comparing herself to a spy. This song became famous for its high energy and rather difficult dance break.

Out of the four, by far the most famous is "Ain't in LA." The song speaks to the fact that not every talented, beautiful and creative person is born in L.A. or any major city. She explores her mother's childhood, sharing a room with her younger brother and decorating the room with pop star posters. Through this, she tells aspiring artists from small towns that they can do anything and be anything. This song spurred a trend on TikTok, one that the official TikTok page of Quinnipiac University participated in.

"Nicole Kidman" is…about actress Nicole Kidman. She makes repeated references to her works like "Babygirl" and "Moulin Rouge!" Through the music video she is able to do more, even recreating her iconic AMC ad, which has become an internet meme. It is a confident song that makes the listener feel like a glamorous actress themself. This song has also been extremely successful on TikTok.

Since Sept. 4, I have replayed the album more times than I can count. It has elements of R&B, electro pop and dance music that all blend together beautifully.

"Fantasize" is a fun song, and the instrumental blends with her vocals perfectly to create an extremely satisfying listening experience. "Boys" brings in Dream Academy veteran and KATSEYE member Lara Raj for some upbeat voiceover between chorus and verse, which adds a lot of levity to the song. It also became a famous moment among both KATSEYE and Adéla fans.

"Starving artist" is a hilarious tongue-in-cheek track with electronic elements that fit the whole track like a glove. "I'm the man" speaks about wanting to "wear the pants" in a romantic relationship, taking the traditional role of a man.

The two songs that felt like they were low points on the track were "Therapy" and "Hitachi."

"Therapy," as Adéla has said in interviews, is an extremely vulnerable song. It speaks about missing home, leaving at a young age, burnout and much more. The stripped-back piano production contrasts with the electronic and purposefully autotuned sound of the vocals, which is something I was not a fan of. However, the subject matter is important to have on the album.

"Hitachi" did not land for me because it is a slower track, which is not Adéla's strong suit. The song speaks about feeling unwanted and unloved in a relationship, like the spark between you and your partner has faded extremely.

Much of the online aversion to the work comes from "Therapy" and "Hitachi." Besides this, a lot of fans online have criticized Adéla for the album, saying that the pop star is playing it safe with her sound and her subject matter. This is something that she did not do in "The Provocateur." However, it is my opinion that the album has some of her best work to date.

The beats and production on this album are overall amazing and dynamic. The versatility of Adéla as an artist is very strong; she can really pull off anything she puts her mind to. The topics she tackles are varied. I do not think that if she had put out a carbon copy of her debut EP, fans would have been happy.

Her personality comes through in the playful lyrics, production and even the song order. This does not feel like a "carbon copy" of pop artists from before, but rather an appreciation of the pop industry as a whole.

The fact that she is trying a new sound, and it is working, is indicative of an artist who can thrive under any circumstances. After all, she "studied this," the pop industry, and became successful on her own. The growth from the "Superscar" music video to "Nicole Kidman" is unreal, and the evolution of her voice is impressive.

Overall, I think "Prima" is a strong album in terms of songwriting and production.



ILLUSTRATION BY LILIANA MIRABELLA