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Newspaper Article 2

Welcome to the Ramada...Students

When King's College sophomore Tim Lubey found out he was going to be living in a hotel this year, he laughed and questioned the residence change at the same time.

Tim Lubey, 19 of Morrisville, Pennsylvania currently resides on the 6th floor of the Ramada hotel on the square in Wilkes-Barre. Like many other students, Tim loves college life in a hotel and he looked very comfortable while lying on his full-sized bed.

"This place is great, I have a bigger room, my own bathroom, a bigger bed, air conditioning, and better yet a restaurant downstairs," Tim said. The word Ramada explains plenty: no more twin-sized bed, no more sharing four showers with 40 other guys and no more buzzing electric fans in your face at bed time. This move from Holy Cross dormitory to the Ramada is a great upgrade for King's College sophomores and juniors.

"Last year, I would have to time my showers and arrange my room in such a way that I would have to shove my belongings under my bed just to get around in my room; this year is much different, I can fit everything in my drawers and the closet space is bigger as well it's just great," Tim explained.

The hotel is equipped with two elevators like Holy Cross, but serves less people. This allows for quicker waiting periods in the lobby and elevator area, which tends to be a hot issue for those trying to get to and from class and apparently to and from parties as well.

“I like living off campus, it makes me feel older and helps me be more responsible getting stuff done like my laundry, homework, and shopping,” Tim stated. The Ramada gives students a city like environment away from the school and close to the heart of downtown Wilkes-Barre. “I feel my life is much busier now that I live away from school and closer to a city environment, I really don’t have a busier agenda this year, its just the setting I am in now makes me feel busier,” he said.

“If I had to find one or two problems with this hotel, it would be the transportation to campus, I know it is only a block and half away from campus, but walking in the cold every morning to campus and back will not be very fun come winter,” Tim stated. “Another problem is room service, whenever I call there is no answer on the other end which makes me pretty upset, maybe they just didn’t pick up that time, but I guess you can’t have everything,” Tim said with a laugh.

There are shuttle busses to and from campus but schedules tend to run off timing and nobody rides the shuttles anyway. “Inside the hotel, there has not been a problem other than the room service.” Tim said. “No fire alarms at two o’ clock in the morning and no drunks making noise in the hallway at four o’clock, at least as of now,” Tim said. Overall Tim enjoys his extended stay here at the Ramada. “I love it here, but I don’t know if the workers here at the Ramada like the business of over 100 college students, some of which make work here at the Ramada harder for employees, if you know what I mean,” he said.

Speaking of employees, looking around, it seems as though not many people fill up these rooms here at the Ramada. “It is much busier here now with students in and out every hour of the day,” said one desk employee. The Ramada is pleased to have the

students here but the hotel has to deal with the many problems that go on here as well.

“There are always going to be problems here. It is a hotel, we have had to fix leaking air conditioners, running toilets, and replace de-activated room cards, but that is the extent of our dealing with the students to date,” said Debbie, another desk employee. Either way, the employees here, hope that the students feel safe and in an environment where they feel comfortable. Seems as though they make Tim Lubey feel this way along with many other King’s College students.

The restaurant here at the Ramada benefits from the lengthy stay of students here as well. Keenan’s Irish Pub in the lobby area serves as an ultimate food sanctuary for students. On various nights, the restaurant appeals to the hungry students on tight budgets with specials.

“25 cent Wings Tonight at Keenan’s flyers fill this place. The restaurant gets pretty packed sometimes too,” Tim said.