

Campus Characters

You might not know the following person—but you should. In *Campus Characters*, THE BLUE AND WHITE introduces you to a handful of Columbians who are up to interesting and extraordinary things, and whose stories beg to be shared. If you'd like to suggest a Campus Character, send us an e-mail at theblueandwhite@columbia.edu

SOPHIA WILSON

It may be hard to believe now, as she sits on a bed in St. Luke's scratching clumps of hair out of her scalp, but Sophia Wilson, SEAS '11, was once thought to be one of Columbia's brightest minds and one of the nation's most feared enemies.

When Wilson arrived at the University this year, she did so not for the school's academic reputation or even its New York location, but to explore the famed Columbia tunnels. And not just explore: she had hoped to unearth prized nuclear equipment to create her own weapons of mass destruction to sell to the highest bidder.

Instead, she found herself getting lost and winding up in Philosophy Hall



SHAINA RUBIN

every time she entered the tunnels. When she asked her male peers for help on finding the “cool old Manhattan project stuff,” she was instead introduced to alcohol. “All I wanted to do was find some nuclear equipment,” said the 18-year-old prodigy Wilson. “I wasn’t interested in just getting drunk and running around underground with these guys.”

Over the course of her high school career, Wilson has been lauded by scientists for her work in nuclear physics. According to rumor, she has also been recruited by various reputable terrorist organizations including Al Qaeda.

“It’s true, I’ve really got to stop selling my discoveries to terrorists,” Wilson said. “I suppose I should also quit teaching them how to arm a bomb from a remote location.” Wilson shrugged, “Who needs Seattle, anyway?”

Wilson added that she hopes one day to build a nuclear bomb that she won’t just sell for profit. “I’m realizing that one day I won’t be in it for the money. When I graduate from Columbia, maybe I’ll teach philosophy or something. The Core really helped me understand the value of cities and human life.”

On the subject of her latest find while stumbling drunk through the tunnels, Wilson maintained that she did not steal any hidden Uranium containers. “I was having fun with friends. Apparently, I found some of my lost coffee thermoses,” Wilson said. “Can’t a Columbia student find some beverage thermoses that oddly look like Uranium containers and not have people on their back about it?”

Close friends of Wilson admit that she often leaves her lead-sealed coffee thermoses in the tunnels.

Rather than dealing with inebriated SEAS students in the tunnels, Wilson said she planned on raiding Pupin one last time before moving on to more proactive terrorism.

“It’s really too bad,” Wilson said. “All I wanted to do at Columbia was to find some free material to make my bombs and turn a tidy profit. But the truth is that now I’m dedicated to the cause. I think I’m going to take a year off to explore my options.” Wilson sits back, coughs blood, and smiles.

— Shaina Rubin