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“The Capitalist System is a System of Murder for Profit”: Radium Girls in the Public Eye

Sophie Wink

In 1922, Mollie Maggia died a miserable death as her body gave out, her mouth filling with blood and her bones breaking under the weight of her own flesh. She was only twenty-five years old. The sudden and violent illness was initially blamed on syphilis, a diagnosis that devastated the young woman’s family.¹ It would soon be discovered, however, that the horrifying symptoms were instead the result of continued exposure to radium through work as a dial painter for the U.S. Radium Company (USRC) in Orange, New Jersey. Soon, many of Maggia’s coworkers began to die in the same horrific manner. Once these women finally received their terminal diagnoses and filed suit against the U.S. Radium Company, the nation watched with bated breath to see whether USRC would be held accountable for their gross neglect. The fact that the lawsuit against such a large corporation was taken to court can be credited, in large part, to the press and the National Consumers’ League, who worked to expose the plights of the women and the gross neglect of their employer. Action against employer abuses and for workplace safety had been central to the Progressive Era, which stretched from the end of the Civil War to about the time when action was taken against the USRC. This can be seen in responses to events like the Triangle Factory fire, the best-known workplace tragedy of the period. Despite the cultural awareness of corruption and corporate malpractice, the radium

¹ Kate Moore, *The Radium Girls* (United Kingdom: Simon & Schuster, 2016), 38-40. In addition to the articles cited individually in the bibliography, this paper is also based extensively in examination of articles in *The New York Times* and *The Daily Worker* between the years 1900 and 1940. Also heavily consulted were the *Records Related to Radium Dial Painters, 1914-1949* that have been published by the National Archives Catalog.

workers' story was sensationalized and addressed in mainstream society only briefly. The general ambivalence and prior lack of media coverage demonstrates how women and immigrants often found themselves excluded from the prevailing progressive narrative of the time.

Investigation into the variances in coverage brings into focus that more radical, specifically far-left, publications that provide stories on the exploitation of workers continue to maintain a large following in the United States. Today, socialists like Bernie Sanders retain a large following even in a relatively conservative political atmosphere. It is significant that when people are presented with such egregious wrongs against the least powerful in society, such as the dial painters, those in the affected class seek an answer, something that movements like communism and socialism often claim to offer. By sensationally presenting the horrors of the Radium Girls and asserting that only the utter destruction of capitalism would bring an end to such abuses, communist paper *The Daily Worker* was able to draw in an enraptured audience who clung to its every word. In contrast, papers like *The New York Times* tended to present the issue more as a one-off instance of corporate abuse (and tepidly, at that) rather than blaming society at large. In a similar manner, modern leftist politicians such as Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez claim that socialism or virtual socialism is the only solution to systemic societal problems such as poverty and police brutality.

Mainstream media coverage of the radium case, like that seen in the *New York Times*, tended to tiptoe around assigning blame and did not do enough to bring the plight of the Radium Dial Painters to the public consciousness. In her detailed coverage of the case in *Radium Girls*, Kate Moore observes that women painting watches in Ottawa, Illinois continued to paint with radium long after it had been discovered to cause death. She attributes much of this failure to the early coverage: "The news piece about Marguerite Carlough's case was hidden inside a local paper eight hundred miles away. Dr. Maryland's radical study from the year

before was hotly debated,” but “although his findings were reported by the general media of New York and New Jersey... girls who lived in Ottawa didn’t read the *New York Times*.’”² Even if those women did read it, *The New York Times*’ coverage remained noncommittal, not wanting to step on the toes of the powerful U.S. Radium Company. In *Mass Media and Environmental Impact*, historian Bill Kovarik discusses the media’s impact on the Radium Girls’ case. He explains that “only after the case of the New Jersey women was legitimized in a courtroom setting -- a formal structure for news gathering -- did the larger media outlets pick up the story.”³ Once they got a hold of the story, though, much of the press quickly sensationalized it, resulting in quick and small-stakes settlements to keep USRC out of the public eye.⁴ In contrast to the mainstream coverage of the case, radical media sources such as the communist *Daily Worker* focused their coverage more on the intense hardships of the women and used the case as an opportunity to denounce capitalism as inhumane. To a striking degree, the *Daily Worker* focused centrally and sensationally on the stories and sufferings of the victims (albeit with the goal to combat destructive capitalism) while more mainstream sources often glossed over these horrific facts.

The case of New Jersey’s “Radium Girls” is a story that, shockingly, remained largely untold to the general public. For the brief period of time when the case was under litigation, the story was at the forefront of national (or at least East Coast) attention, but as soon as the dying women agreed to small out-of-court settlements, the issue disappeared almost entirely from the public view. Kate Moore’s *The Radium Girls* (2016) was the first full-length nonfiction narrative about the story. Moore’s exposé sparked contemporary national interest in the horrific story of these

² Ibid., 172.

³ Bill Kovarik, “Radium Girls” in *Mass Media and Environmental Conflict*. (Newbury Park, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc., 1996) [n.p.].

⁴ Ibid.

dial-painters in New Jersey, even inspiring a mainstream film.⁵ A number of more scholarly pieces also cover the case, including Claudia Clark's 1997 *Radium Girls*, "The Playboy and the Radium Girls," by Dan Cooper and Brian Grinder (2008), Laura Lee Cooper's aptly-titled "Glow-in-the-Dark Tragedy," (2007) and a 2015 publication entitled "Radium Girls" by the Radiological Society of Northern America. Further, in 2018 the National Archives Catalogs published a collection of nearly 4000 primary sources that offer a more complete look at the legal proceedings and the conversations going on within the U.S. Radium Corporation. This essay attempts to build on the information provided by these earlier scholars with a focus on media. Specifically, it contrasts coverage by a mainstream source (*The New York Times*) with a more alternative source (*The Daily Worker*) and compares the ways in which they presented the case.

The Horrific Case of the Radium Girls

The story is a long and complicated one, with many players and competing perspectives. The factory in Orange, New Jersey opened in 1917 when production boomed due to military need for the radium-painted watches. The company factory first opened its doors in 1917 in Newark, New Jersey.⁶ Despite its founding in the heyday of the Progressive Era, when much focus was on the responsibility of employers to keep their employees safe, certain important safety measures were overlooked in the founding of the U.S. Radium Corporation. Radium was fairly new on the scene, having been discovered in 1898 by Marie and Pierre Curie, and scientists as well as opportunistic entrepreneurs touted the amazing abilities of radium to serve as a health supplement, cleaning product, or illuminator.⁷ In 1907, *The New York Times* claimed that

⁵ Willette Klausner, Harriet Leve, Jayne Baron Sherman, Lily Tomlin, and Jane Wagner, *The Radium Girls*, directed by Lydia Dean Pilcher and Ginny Mohler (New York, NY: Cine Mosaic, 2018), film.

⁶ Eugene J. Boesch & Michael S. Raber, *Historic American Engineering Record: US Radium Corporation* (Philadelphia, PA: National Parks Service), 3.

⁷ Laura Lee Carter, "Glow in the Dark Tragedy" in *American History* (2007), 33.

lupus "can be cured with certainty by exposure... to rays emitted by radium bromide" and a 1905 article described the element's cancer-fighting properties with incredulity, citing one doctor who called it "'liquid sunshine'".⁸ While there was great exaltation of radium in public discussion, many scientists held quiet concerns about the element's potential dangers. USRC was aware of these concerns, and in fact published an article internally titled "Radium Dangers: Injurious Effects" in 1906, long before the first of the women began to show symptoms of radium poisoning.⁹ Women working at USRC's warehouse painted the numbers on watches so that the timepieces would glow and be readable in the dark. The job was a fairly glamorous one; not only was it profitable (a fast dial painter could earn a generous salary of up to \$25 a week), but the young women felt like an important part of the war movement.¹⁰ This patriotism was both romantic and exciting. Exhilarated by the novel qualities of radium, the young women not only pointed their brushes between their teeth but also painted their teeth and fingernails with the substance so that they could go home glowing like ghosts.¹¹ Not all the women were so quick to trust in this mysterious element, but most were, especially since ill effects were not immediate. Due to the slow effects of radium poisoning, which had not been recognized as a disease prior to the USRC case, many dial painters remained employed by USRC for years without seeing any negative consequences. Eventually though, Mollie Maggia fell ill in 1922 and many other women followed her to the grave. While Maggia's cause of death was initially listed as syphilis, her USRC coworkers began to notice similar symptoms and became skeptical of USRC's insistence that there was no connection between radium and their symptoms. It took years, but

⁸ "The Radium Cure of Lupus," (New York, NY: *The New York Times*); "Radium, X-Rays, and Cancer," (New York, NY: *The New York Times*).

⁹ Carter, "Glow in the Dark Tragedy," 37.

¹⁰ Dan Cooper and Brian Grinder, "The Playboy and The Radium Girls" in *Financial History* (2008), 13.

¹¹ *Ibid*, 13.

eventually the women and their doctors realized that their sufferings were not unrelated. With the help of Jane Addams and the National Consumers League, pressure was put on USRC to begin investigating the claims of industrial poisoning.¹²

The USRC, however, had other plans. From the outset, it adamantly denied any connection between radium and illness. Internal memoranda and external communications alike gave little regard to the suffering women and shrugged off their accusations. A bulletin from 1924 insisted that “we are positive that our work is absolutely harmless... numerous rumors and misstatements of facts have been made by certain individuals. These have been injurious to our organization and individuals making same [sic] can be held for slander”.¹³ As the pressure to more fully investigate mounted too much to ignore, USRC took some ignominious steps to protect its reputation. The first people hired by the company to look into the claims were Dr. Cecil Drinker and his wife Dr. Katherine Drinker. After an intensive study, the Drinkers concluded that radium may well have been the cause of illness; in a letter to company president Arthur Roeder, Drinker wrote conclusively: “We believe that the trouble which has occurred is due to radium”.¹⁴ Unhappy with this report, Vice President Harold Viedt questioned Drinker’s credibility – despite having been the one to hire him – and stated that he was “very much disappointed in Dr. Drinker’s findings”.¹⁵ He further suggested that the Drinkers were not sufficiently expert on the subject and that discussion with other scientists would disprove the Drinkers’ conclusion.¹⁶ USRC eventually published a falsified version of the Drinker report and also reached out to another doctor named Frederick Flinn (who did not actually hold a medical license). Flinn tested many of the

¹² Carter, “Glow in the Dark Tragedy,” 34.

¹³ U.S. Radium Company, “Bulletin, March 13, 1924” (National Archives Catalog).

¹⁴ Cecil K. Drinker (CD) to Mr. A. Roeder (AR), 3 Jun. 1924, Records Related to Radium Dial Painters 1917-1949 (RDP), National Archives Catalog, , Bloomsburg, PA (NRCB).

¹⁵ H.B. Viedt (HBV) to AR, 12 Jun. 1924, NRCB.

¹⁶ Ibid.

women himself and declared that they were all entirely healthy.¹⁷ USRC was much happier with this report; Dr. H.H. Barker, a corporation executive, wrote, "*his findings have been entirely negative and I think his report represents a very good piece of work.*"¹⁸ To further protect its image, the company made several payouts to the families of deceased women such as Hazel Kuser in exchange for an agreement not to press charges or speak out against USRC. Kuser's family received only a small one-time payment of \$1000.¹⁹

The case did ultimately go to court, and a legal battle ensued as the USRC insisted that it owed nothing to the dying women. The dial painters persisted in the fight while fearing that their deaths were imminent. In late April of 1928, to the outrage of the victims, their lawyer, and many media outlets across the country, the case was adjourned until September. The women spoke out against the postponement of the trial and enraged newspaper reporters denounced the choice, even inspiring one Essex County assemblywoman to attempt an extension of the statute of limitations.²⁰ Ultimately, however, both parties agreed to a settlement—the women because they feared they wouldn't live long enough to see the court case through and USRC because it wanted its name out of the press. After a bit of negotiating, each of the victims won a one-time payment of \$10,000 (\$138,606), "a pension of \$600 (\$8,316) a year for life, past *and future* medical expenses, and USRC to cover all court costs."²¹ The settlement pleased the women and allowed them to live out their final days in relative peace, but USRC eventually managed to find loopholes that allowed it to back out of the continuing medical costs.²²

¹⁷ Moore, *The Radium Girls*, 118-119.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 156.

¹⁹ "General Release to Arthur Roeder," 29 April 1926, (National Archives Catalog).

²⁰ "Woman Seeks to Aid Radium Claimants" (New York, NY: *The New York Times*).

²¹ Moore, *The Radium Girls*, 230.

²² *Ibid.*, 240-244.

Although it offered some peace for the women who worked for the United States Radium Company, the settlement was far from a happy ending. According to Rebecca Hersher on NPR, “by 1927, more than 50 women had died as a direct result of radium paint poisoning.”²³ The New Jersey women were far from the only ones affected; Moore’s book examines parallel events in Ottawa, Illinois, where many women died in exactly the same manner because little tangible change was made when the New Jersey case was wrapped up and pushed out of the public eye.²⁴

The New York Times’ coverage

The media, especially the New York media, was integral to the success of the Radium Girls’ case. Because the USRC factory was located just across the Hudson River from Manhattan, New York news outlets were among the first to pick up the story. Walter Lippmann’s involvement in the case through *The New York World* is fairly well-known: after Jane Addams informed him of the case and of the judge’s choice to postpone the trial from April to September, Lippmann published a piece denouncing this as “one of the most damnable travesties of justice that has *ever* come to our attention.”²⁵ Much of the New York coverage, however, tended to be more desultory. Initial reports in *The New York Times* were reluctant to place blame at the risk of offending U.S. Radium Company, an influential corporate power. The first related report found in *The New York Times* appears fairly early, in 1925, before the suit had been filed against USRC. It reports the death of Sarah Maileffer, stating that she was the seventh dial painter to die. The author judiciously lays out the facts of the suit, explaining that the victim’s parents “contend that radium phosphate was the cause of the trouble,” but fails to take any firm stand as to the credence of

²³ Rebecca Hersher, “Mae Keane, One Of The Last 'Radium Girls,' Dies At 107” (NPR, Dec. 28, 2014).

²⁴ Moore, *The Radium Girls*, 400; Moore states that 65 of 100 women working at the Ottawa Radium Dial factory died.

²⁵ Moore, *The Radium Girls*, 222.

that charge. Later coverage took a clearer stance suggesting USRC's innocence. A June 20, 1925 article asserts that "I do not imply that the company has not done all it could for its employees... I am sure the factory will cooperate to check this danger if it is found to be a real menace to health."²⁶ Another article also refused to assign blame: "Until this case is disposed of we will not feel at liberty to make our findings public because to do so would prejudice one side or the other."²⁷ It is clear that the author was tiptoeing around the powerful US Radium Company in an attempt to excuse it from any blame and ward off any lawsuit for defamation.

As time went on and the case grew in the public eye, *The New York Times*' coverage offered a fairly complete and carefully subjective view of the case. A mid-trial article in April of 1928 offers coverage spanning almost the full length of a page and explains the complexities of the trial. While failing to truly take a defined side (in contrast to *The Daily Worker*), it describes the women as "maintain[ing] an attitude of almost cheerful resignation" throughout the trial and offers the telling headline "Ex-employer testifies; Admits He Did Not Warn Them of Danger to Their Lives in Luminous Paint They Used."²⁸ *The New York Times* continued to provide in-depth coverage of the trial, but remained careful not to take an explicit stance, referring to the women's claims as "allegations" and avoiding sensationalizing the story.^{28 29} Later reports refer to the women as "radium victims" and seem to accept as fact that these women were poisoned.³⁰ This lines up fairly well with the progression of the story as radium

²⁶ "Begin Wide Inquiry Into Radium Deaths," (New York, NY: *The New York Times*, June 20, 1925).

²⁷ "All Radium Plants in Federal Inquiry," (New York, NY: *The New York Times*, June 21, 1925).

²⁸ "5 Poisoned Women Face Court Delays," (New York, NY: *The New York Times*, April 28, 1928).

²⁹ "New Issue Raised in Radium Poisoning," (New York, NY: *The New York Times*, July 19, 1927).

³⁰ "Radium Victims Win \$50,000 and Pensions in Suit Settlement," (New York, NY: *The New York Times*, June 5, 1928).

poisoning began to find large-scale acceptance and the debate shifted more to whether the company was responsible for negligence.

Media coverage of the case is very distinctive in the way the final settlements are presented. The *New York Times* presents the settlement as good news, heralding it as a victory in headlines from June of 1928.³¹ The settlement delivered positive news in that the women were able to finally get some peace and financial compensation, but the payments were not nearly enough to cover the women's medical costs and later meddling greatly reduced the actual annual support the women received.

The Daily Worker Weighs In

A close reading of *The Daily Worker's* coverage of the U.S. Radium trials reveals a presentation that is distinct from more mainstream coverage, like that of *The New York Times*. *The Daily Worker* was well-known for its affiliation with the Communist party and served as the voice of the party in the United States. As a result, much of its coverage focused on its mission of deconstructing the capitalist system by exposing what it saw as capitalism's failures. The events that *The Daily Worker* covered were largely the same as those covered by *The New York Times*, but rather than looking at them as one-off events, they viewed them as symptoms of a toxic capitalist society.

The coverage of the case by *The Daily Worker* and *The New York Times* both picked up around the time that the court process began in 1927. However, unlike *The New York Times*, the *Worker* almost immediately condemned the events as horrific. The first headline story regarding the case appeared in *The Daily Worker* in

³¹ Ibid: The full June 5th, 1928 headline reads: "RADIUM VICTIMS WIN \$50,000 AND PENSIONS IN SUIT SETTLEMENT; Each of Five Women Said to Be Slowly Dying Gets \$10,000 Cash and \$600 a Year. MEDICAL CARE PROVIDED Company Also Agrees to Pay Costs of Action in Compact Reached Out of Court. JUDGE ACTS AS MEDIATOR Clark Hails Concern's Solution of a 'Serious Social Question in a Humane Way.'"

July of 1927, in which the authors denounce USRC's invocation of the statute of limitations to avoid charges as a "trick not to pay workers poisoned by radium."³² When the case continued to be postponed due to bureaucratic stalling, *The Daily Worker* called it "ridiculous," explaining that "sheltering itself behind the statute of limitations, the corporation succeeded for a long time in preventing the case from reaching the courts."³³ It stated flatly, "The women are dying."³⁴ Like *The New York Times*, the *Worker* was disappointed with the ultimate settlement of the case; it reports that USRC was originally proposing a payment of \$25,000 per woman and \$3,000 per year for life and decries even this as a cop-out to the dying women. Tongue-in-cheek, the paper exclaimed that "since the five women, who are in constant great pain, have less than a year to live, their former employers would not have to spend much pension money".³⁵

While the trial was ongoing, the paper published front-page articles presenting the alarming news that the women were "doomed to slow and painful deaths" and vividly describing the process of "radium eat[ing] its way through lips, gum and tongue to brain."³⁶ Notably, many of the stories regarding the case beginning in late May of 1928 included photographs of the women, often accompanied by graphic depictions of the women's suffering. It appears that the intention of these visuals was to draw sympathy and drive home the point that the women's radium poisoning was not an isolated incident but rather a part of a larger corrupted system.

The implication of capitalism as the cause for horrors such as those seen through the Radium Girls' tale is made clear in *The*

³² "Company Uses Trick Not to Pay Workers Poisoned by Radium," (Chicago, IL: *The Daily Worker*).³²

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ "Women's Radium Suit Plea Fails," (Chicago, IL: *The Daily Worker*) & "Victims of Radium Poison Try Class Justice," (Chicago, IL: *The Daily Worker*).

³⁵ "Pull Strings to Pull Off Radium Poison Victims," (Chicago, IL: *The Daily Worker*).

³⁶ "Five Workers Doomed," (Chicago, IL: *The Daily Worker*) & "Radium Bosses Withhold Aid From Dying Women," (Chicago, IL: *The Daily Worker*).

Daily Worker. A front-page headline from the May 22 paper blames “bosses’ greed,” evoking memories of men like John D. Rockefeller and J.P. Morgan, the infamously corrupt capitalists of the Progressive Era.³⁷ For years, far-left liberals and communists had denounced and called for the dissolution of the system that allowed these men to become far too powerful. Nowhere is this point made more clearly than in a 1926 *Worker* polemic headlined “Price of a Worker’s Life”. Seething with rage over the insufficiency of the settlements and the fact that the mainstream media applauded them, the author offers an opprobrium explicitly blaming capitalism. Passionately, he declares that “the workers who die because their employers found it more profitable to tell them to shape the poisonous radium-paint brushes with their lips are not... unusual, but only a picturesque example of the deadly nature of capitalist exploitation.”³⁸ Expounding on this point, the author proclaims that capitalism cares not for human life and that the only way to ensure that human life was valued was to destroy the capitalist system. The author goes on to make such bold claims as “the capitalist system is a system of murder for profit,” and that, as in the U.S.S.R., the capitalist system would be destroyed in the United States.³⁹ *The Daily Worker* was able to successfully present the case of the “Radium Girls” in a way that excoriated the capitalist system and blamed it for the injustices of the world.

A Comparison of Mainstream and Communist Coverage

The differences between coverage by *The New York Times* and *The Daily Worker* are clear. As is immediately apparent, coverage by the communist paper is much more sensational, focusing on the extreme suffering of the poisoned women and emphasizing the corruption of the “bosses” who killed them. When the case came to a close with the settlements in the summer of 1928, the mainstream media seemed set at ease while more radical media expressed more

³⁷ “Try to Prevent Radium Hearing,” (Chicago, IL: *The Daily Worker*).

³⁸ “Price of a Worker’s Life,” (Chicago, IL: *The Daily Worker*).

³⁹ Ibid.

outrage than ever. It seems that much of the American population at this time would have agreed that the women deserved compensation and even that the United States Radium Corporation was complicit in their suffering. Communist papers, however, were much more damning in their approach. *The Daily Worker*, the voice of American communism, immediately and unequivocally condemned the actions of USRC and saw the women as victims of a corrupt system. *The Chicago Daily Times*, another leftist paper (though populist rather than communist) took a similarly strong stance when discussing radium poisoning in Ottawa— in *The Radium Girls*, Moore quotes *Chicago Daily Times* reporter Mary Doty: “They shoot to kill when it comes to cattle thieves in Illinois, and fish and fowl are safeguarded by stringent game laws— but womenfolk come cheap.”⁴⁰

Radium Girls in the Media and Contemporary Implications

The ways in which the radical media sensationalized the story of the Radium Girls offers an indication of how such movements critical of American capitalism have found success even in a largely conservative society. By radicalizing issues into something bigger than mere isolated unfortunate events but rather the symptoms of a dysfunctional society, these types of media outlets are able to inspire large swaths of the population. Americans who dream of a better society and believe that radical change is the only way to fix it read stories like this and are driven to action. Even during the Trump presidency, there were large groups of Americans impassioned about social change and adamant that radical reform was the only way to solve it. Politicians such as socialist Bernie Sanders continue to appeal to large groups of Americans, especially young people, by presenting individual issues as the side effects of a corrupt society. On his campaign website, Sanders advocates for concepts such as “Free Child Care and Pre-K for All,” “Tax Increases for the Rich,” and “College for

⁴⁰ Moore, *The Radium Girls*, 309.

All,” which take a radical step away from traditional American beliefs in both *laissez faire* and rugged individualism.⁴¹ Politicians like Bernie Sanders have maintained their hold by appealing to idealistic hopes of social change. A 2021 article for *Jacobin Magazine* tells a story of Sanders winning support for his 1976 gubernatorial campaign by connecting with New Haven factory workers facing inhumane conditions in the workplace.⁴² Not unlike *The Daily Worker*'s use of the Radium Girls' case to draw attention to capitalist corruption and communism as the best alternative, Sanders looked at a singular instance of workplace injustice and used it to convince people that radical change was the only solution.

There is much to be learned about how radical movements gain and maintain their popularity even when they do not align with predominant mainstream thought. By not only exposing the horrors of USRC's power abuse, but going so far as to blame it on a capitalist system that valued profitability above all else, *The Daily Worker* was able to find support for its movement. The story of the Radium Girls should not be forgotten, not only for its effect on the women and the system that exploited them, but for the complex media interpretations it evoked.

Author Bio:

Sophie Wink is a senior history student minoring in Spanish and political science. She is especially interested in American studies and women's issues and hopes to pursue a degree in public interest law to be an advocate for victims of domestic violence. She is a

⁴¹ “Issues: Bernie Sanders,” berniesanders.com.

⁴² Branko Marcetic, “How Bernie Sanders, an Open Socialist, Won Burlington's Mayoral Election” in *Jacobin Magazine*; the author expounds upon this story; “It was on these trips that Bouricius witnessed Sanders's ability to connect with voters, whether shopkeepers, farmers, or hippies, and Vermonters' surprising affinity for the socialist ideas he espoused. In one case, the two sat in the squalid living room of a New Haven plastics factory worker. As he told them about the wretched conditions he worked under in the nonunionized, unventilated plant, Sanders, Bouricius recalls, “put his arm around the guy's shoulder and made a real human connection.””

member of the Santa Clara Belles, Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit honor society, and Phi Alpha Theta honor society. She is also a member of the Santa Clara Women's Rowing team. In her free time, she loves reading, hiking, camping, and doing anything outdoors. Sophie received the Redwood Prize for the best paper written in a History class for this essay.