

THE BUMPER ALR FAREWELL QUIZ

So you think you've got to know ALR pretty well over the years? Think you've delved right into its grubbier corners? (Rather you than me.) Here's your chance to prove it. We put together a fiendishly difficult quiz to find out how much you *really* know about "Australia's leading progressive magazine" (and if you know who first said that, give yourself an extra point).

1. ALR started publication in which year?

- a) 1956
- b) 1966
- c) 1979
- d) 1989

2. Its immediate predecessor was:

- a) *The Nation Review*
- b) *Left Quarterly*
- c) *Labor Forum*
- d) *The Communist Review*

3. When ALR's first issue came out its present editor and assistant editor (pictured below) were how old respectively?



4. Up until its Winter 1986 edition ALR welcomed manuscripts of what description?

- a) Conforming to the constitution and rules of the Communist Party
- b) Within the framework of an open concept of marxism
- c) Contributing to the pursuance of class politics
- d) Long ones

5. What was the first occasion on which ALR found itself on the front page of a major daily newspaper?

- a) In 1966, for an article on the dialectics of nature
- b) in 1971, for an article on the revolution and free love
- c) in 1990, for an article by Peter Baldwin
- d) in 1993, for an article about the magazine's impending demise

6. Since 1986 how many feature articles has ALR published on the future or internal politics of the ALP?

- a) six
- b) ten
- c) fifteen
- d) twenty-four

7. In 1990 which cultural commentator was quoted in an interview in ALR as follows: "Realism has nothing to do with it...The reality is in the imagination and in the heart more than in the fact of the thing itself"?

- a) Jean Baudrillard
- b) Helen Garner
- c) Raymond Williams
- d) Bill Collins

8. One institution has been ALR's largest debtor in every financial year since 1986. Who?

- a) Penguin Books
- b) CPSU Overseas Publications Section
- c) Melbourne's International Bookshop
- d) News Ltd

9. In 1991 one disgruntled reader described ALR as:

- a) slightly to the right of George Bush
- b) a national disgrace
- c) a load of hot cocky shit
- d) a tepid bath of social democracy

10. What was the most embarrassing prediction made by an ALR contributor in the last seven years?

- a) That the Americans would lose the Gulf War because they were militarily incompetent
- b) That Mikhail Gorbachev would make a turn to the 'left' when he almost immediately afterwards made a turn to the 'right'

c) That the British monarchy was safe from any threats to its stability

d) That the people of Yugoslavia were "not prepared to have a war among themselves".

11. Between April 1988 and May 1990 ALR ran a column entitled 'Letter from Ephesus'. Its author left to take up what job?

- a) Arts editor of *The Bulletin*
- b) Literary editor of *The Australian*
- c) Editor of *Vogue*
- d) Plumber and gasfitter

12. On the cover of our November-December 1989 issue predicting events of the 90s ALR ran an illustration of a famous landmark being torn down. It actually was torn down several months later. What was the landmark?

- a) Sydney's Capitol Theatre
- b) Lenin's mausoleum
- c) Marx's headstone in Highgate cemetery
- d) the Berlin Wall

13. In 1992 *The Australian* ran a front page lead story based on our interview with Senator Peter Walsh. What did the headline suggest was Walsh's most newsworthy comment?

- a) That Paul Keating had "a capacity for self-delusion"
- b) That *One Nation's* tax cuts were made "in total ignorance of the fiscal requirements of the day"
- c) That he described *One Nation* as "a very mixed bag"
- d) That he wanted to take his bat and ball and go home

14. Following the same interview, who said: "The only thing Senator Walsh has done is bring ALR back to life. I thought it had gone out of business"?

- a) John Laws
- b) Bronwyn Bishop
- c) Paul Keating
- d) Kerry Packer

15. Also in 1992 a well-known media commentator wrote approvingly of ALR's profile of Stuart Littlemore in the following terms: "We've warned about pedantic Stuart's elitist snobism in the past. It's interesting that ALR is the latest recruit to our Stop Stuart's Snobism Now campaign." Who was the commentator and where did he write?

- a) David Bowman in *Modern Times*
- b) Michael Barnard in *The Age*
- c) David McNicholl in *The Australian*
- d) Gerard Henderson in *Media Watch*

(Clue: he has since claimed never to have agreed with a single article published in ALR.)

16. In April 1990, who said in ALR: "I can't speak for anyone else, but I know that I will certainly continue to read *Das Kapital* in the bath"?

- a) H G Nelson
- b) Erich Honecker
- c) Michael Dwyer
- d) ALR's editor



17. About whom was it said in ALR in June 1990 that they worked "as much as two or three hours a day"?

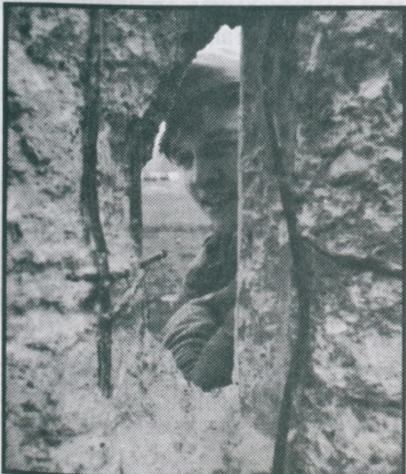
- a) Workers in Yugoslavia
- b) ALR editorial staff
- c) John Hewson's joke writers
- d) State Rail Authority employees

18. Who complained about ALR using their logo on the front cover of the magazine?

- a) Neville Brody
- b) The Red Cross
- c) Telecom
- d) The CPSU

19. When ALR interviewee Alec Nove visited a former aircraft factory in Moscow in 1990, what were they making?

- a) Ploughshares
- b) Gorby dolls
- c) Kitchen hardware
- d) Arnott's biscuits



Picture Question: Which of the photos on this page has been reproduced the most often in ALR since 1986?

20. Whose favourite book of 1990 was *This is the South Coast News and I'm Paul Murphy*?

- a) Dale Spender
- b) Peter Baldwin
- c) Phillip Adams
- d) Paul Murphy

21. Which ALR columnist claimed to have taught former NSW Prisons Minister Michael Yabsley all he knew?

- a) McKenzie Wark
- b) Penelope Cottier
- c) Dr Mary Hartman
- d) Diana Simmonds

22. In the 1990 ALR readership survey, what percentage of respondents denied that reading the magazine was "a chore"?

- a) 95
- b) 74
- c) 62
- d) 47

23. According to the same survey, which one of the following descriptions of the average ALR reader was true?

- a) Married with children
- b) Gay
- c) Takes illegal drugs
- d) Works in the public sector

24. ALR has come in for a lot of criticism over the last few years, much of it from within the Left itself. Three of the four last critical letters published in the magazine were written by members of what body?

- a) The National Civic Council
- b) The Centre for Independent Studies
- c) The Central Committee of the CPSU
- d) The SEARCH Foundation, ALR's funding body

25. Who, according to ALR, was "corrupt and evil at his worst, mildly annoying at his best"?

- a) Peter Reith
- b) Bart Simpson
- c) Saddam Hussein
- d) John Singleton

26. Which notorious celebrity did ALR's editor share a taxi with in August 1991?

- a) TV's Derryn Hinch
- b) *Sylvania Waters*' Noeline Donaher
- c) Mass murderer Wade Frankum
- d) 'Abducted' singer Gypsy Fire

27. Which book, reviewed in ALR, was described as "a paradigm of really useless polemic"?

- a) *From The Prophets Deserts Come* by Boris Frankel
- b) *Mates* by Fia Cumming
- c) *Babywatching* by Desmond Morris
- d) *Economic Rationalism in Canberra* by Michael Pusey

28. Which federal politician interviewed by ALR in the last three years claimed that "I've

always regarded myself as a leftwinger"?

- a) Graham Richardson
- b) Peter Walsh
- c) Amanda Vanstone
- d) John Howard



29. Which one of the following headlines has never been used in ALR?

- a) 'After The Wall'
- b) 'After Karl and Beatrice'
- c) 'After Social Democracy'
- d) 'After The Love Has Gone'

30. What is the name of the cocktail bar where ALR employees habitually congregate on Friday nights after work?

- a) Decadence
- b) Indolence
- c) Dissidence
- d) Abstinence



Score: 0-8: Probably better off subscribing to *Arena*. 9-16: Take advantage of our special offer on back issues. 17-25: So someone was reading it after all. 25+: Probably an ALR editorial board member.

Answers:

Question: a (at least five times)
 1) b, 2) d, 3) Five and Three (and very cute), 4) b, 5) c, 6) a, 7) d, 8) c, 9) c, 10) Hard to say really, 11) b, 12) d, 13) b, 14) c, 15) d, 16) c, 17) d, 18) b, 19) c, 20) d, 21) c, 22) b, 23) d, 24) d, 25) b, 26) c, 27) a, 28) b, 29) d, 30) a. Picture