Challenge to Conservative Left

May I take this opportunity to congratulate all the ALR staff for the wonderful work they do in getting out this journal. I find it great reading and also very helpful in bringing out in-depth articles on the many issues confronting people today.

In particular the Dec/Jan issue with the articles “Changing the Subject” by Stuart Hall; the interview with Laurie Carmichael “Counsel for the Defence”; From Grey to Green”, Jack Mundey; Welcome to the New Times”, an interview with Martin Jacques, I found particularly interesting, especially in regard to the increasing circulation of Marxism Today.

I think our ALR has a great potential for increasing sales if it constantly seeks out diversity of ideas not only from among the left but also from people representing various broad movements who don’t regard themselves as part of the left and would switch their allegiances during election times to the party which promises the best deal. Sections of the environmentalist and pensioner movements could perhaps fit into this category.

The most exciting thing to come out of some of the Dec/Jan issue of ALR is the articles which challenge ‘conservative’ left thinking. I think that ALR is doing this with its publication of articles especially from the UK.

Stella Nord.

Mt. Victoria, NSW.

A book for every woman

Taking Time is a fascinating collection of dates and information about organisations, people, legislation and incidents shaping the lives of women in Australia, focussing on Victoria. The entries are brief and to the point with plenty of references, and a useful appendix. It covers events from 1861 to 1987 in the areas of equal pay decisions, equal opportunity and affirmative action legislation, the right to vote and stand for parliament, International Agreements (UN & ILO) and the Koories of Victoria.

Compiled and edited by Yvonne Smith, with attractive cover and cartoons by Mary Leunig, it is published by the Union of Australian Women and available from them at 280 Collins Street, Melbourne or from the International Bookshop, 28 Flinders St, Melbourne. $10 plus $2 postage and packaging. Enquiries: (03) 654.7409.

Authors’ addresses and a contact phone number should be included, although, naturally, they will not be printed. The deadline for letters is four weeks prior to the month of publication.

We welcome your letters for our next issue. As a general rule, letters should be no longer than 300 words and, preferably, should be typewritten. ALR reserves the right to edit letters down to this length.