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BERITA



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A Message from the M/S/B Studies Group

Dear Members of the Malaysia/Singapore/Brunei Studies group, and Subscribers to *Berita*:

I'm taking this brief opportunity provided by John Lent's generosity to communicate with you some of my hopes and aspirations for M/S/B during my term of office as your chair.

Unfortunately, by the time you receive this, the deadline for panel proposals for AAS Annual Meeting 2000 in San Diego – August 3 – will no doubt long since be past. As you know, as a group, we have a dire need to increase the number of panels and roundtables we submit to the annual meeting program committee, and thus to increase, potentially, our representation on the annual meeting program. I would like to ask you to start thinking now about proposing original and interesting panels and roundtables dealing with Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei for AAS 2001. I pledge my assistance in promoting the submission and acceptance of more, and higher quality, panel and roundtable proposals for the 2001 Meeting, and am interested in your ideas and suggestions.

I see this operational difficulty as symptomatic, however, of a larger problem and challenge, which is to increase the participation of the best specialists in the study of Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei in the United States and elsewhere in the activities of our group, whatever their disciplinary specialization. In particular, I am deeply concerned that our best rising young scholars – our A.B.D.s and new Ph.D.s – are not playing a more prominent role in our group's intellectual activities, as represented by participation on the AAS annual meeting program, and perhaps in

other ways as well. There are no doubt many reasons for this lack of participation in our group, but I would like to make one of the principal objectives of my tenure as chair a sharp increase in participation of our most promising junior scholars. Again, your suggestions about how to do this are welcome.

A second need of our M/S/B Studies Group, related to the first, is to increase communication of ideas and news among members. We have our newsletter *Berita*, which has long provided vital information to us, thanks to the invaluable editorial efforts of John Lent for many years. I would like to do what I can to help John in his efforts to make *Berita* a more effective, gratifying, and timely means for communicating information among members. There are two other ways to increase communication and help us all expedite our research and scholarly efforts. One, which I now ask your assistance for, is to begin an email listserv, for members of the group and indeed for any and all scholars of Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei. Therefore I ask you to immediately send me your email addresses to donald.nonini@unc.edu add your name to a future email listserv list. The other is to start an internet web site for the group – one that is easily accessible world-wide, not merely to members residing in the U.S. I am willing to personally undertake at least a first, modest version of such a web site to be located on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill home page. This would be a web page that we could build on in future years, but which would serve our own immediate needs for communication more fully. For example, this web site could facilitate members linking easily to web sites dealing with Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei, and indeed Southeast Asia more

generally, at libraries and research institutes in the U.S., Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe. As soon as the web site is operational, I will let you know its URL address and features, via the proposed email listserv – hence it is doubly important that you send me your email addresses as soon as you can.

A third, and again related, need of our group is to link up more effectively with our scholarly colleagues in Southeast Asia, where some of the most original and important work on the region is being done. During the current period when it is so expensive for our Southeast Asian colleagues to travel to the AAS annual meeting, and where funds to universities in our three countries have been cut due to the financial crisis, it is even more important that we take advantage of electronic communication – the proposed email and web site – to draw our Southeast Asian colleagues as much as we can through such means into our activities. For example, I see absolutely no reason in principle why our group should not sponsor virtual poster sessions at the AAS annual meeting in which our colleagues in Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei could deliver papers “virtually” via posting on web sites accessible through remote stations at the AAS – papers which discussants and members of the “audience” can comment on both verbally and electronically. Of course, this is not as satisfying as meeting with our colleagues in person. Although we cannot achieve that perfection, we can improve on the current situation, if we but seek to do so.

Finally, I hope during my tenure as your chair to draw more members into active discussion, leading hopefully to panels sponsored by the group appearing on the AAS annual meeting program, about the

contemporary processes of globalization that are presently reconfiguring the very meaning of region, society, and nation-state in Southeast Asia. These processes are very real ones: the Chinese Diaspora in Southeast Asia is real;; the New International Division of Labor in manufacturing that connects Southeast Asia to Japan, the U.S., and Europe, is real; the effects of IMF-imposed “conditionality” on ASEAN states – even on those, notably Malaysia, which defy it – are also real. As scholars we need to find innovative and original ways of theorizing and studying these processes.

Moreover, these processes are reflected in new constraints in funding which are challenging – some would even say threatening – the current status of area studies. The ongoing crisis in area studies, which affects our group even more than others in the AAS with more members, is deep, and it is not going away. I see no other means of dealing with the crisis than going through it by simultaneously preserving our deep commitment to areal specialization and competence in research on the cultures and societies of Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei, while seriously addressing the impact of these processes on our region, in ways that put our group in the forefront of such reconceptualization, and perhaps secure us new funding resources as well.

We’ve got much in the next few years to do, and I invite you to join me in the effort.

Selamat,

Don Nonini, Chair, Malaysia/Singapore/Brunei Studies Group, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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Requiem for an Unbending Singaporean: J.B. Jeyaretnam and His Political Party, The Worker's Party

by
C.V. Devan Nair

March 26, 1999

A serious threat of closure faces the Worker's Party led by Mr. J.B. Jeyaretnam because of failure to pay the forbidding damages awarded against the Party by a court in Singapore. One hopes against hope that this might be avoided at the last minute. It is a slim hope. The world has come to assume, rightly or wrongly, that the political tactics used by the PAP against opposition politicians have for some time come to include suing their pants off, forcing them into bankruptcy and losing their seats in parliament as a result. Now the same device is resorted to against opposition political parties themselves, as registered institutions. The onus of proof is on the Government of Singapore, not on global public opinion.

Nothing that smacks of opposition seems safe in Singapore any longer. Singaporeans must sooner or later come to realize the harsh truth that nobody in Singapore is truly saved unless ALL are SEEN to be saved. The post of no return has long passed for Singaporeans, and one fears they will perforce learn this lesson the hard way. In the ultimate analysis, this is probably best. The more painful the price paid to learn basic human lessons, the more firmly might they become embedded in the national fibre. A free Singapore will arise and justify the sacrifices and efforts of undaunted Singaporeans, now including the courageous Chee Soon Juan, who had immolated themselves on the altar of freedom. Phoenix-like, their Dreams will rise once again from their ashes. Were this

process not true, the world would have come to an end long ago.

It is just as well that I release this REQUIEM now. If not timely yet, it will be soon enough. Here goes, for good or ill to myself.

Some months after I was kicked upstairs to the Presidency of the Republic of Singapore in October 1981, there was a by-election in the parliamentary constituency of Anson, which I had held prior to my ill-fated elevation. I had won that seat with a comfortable majority of some eighty percent of the votes cast. The PAP's candidate in the by-election was a relative unknown, while the Workers Party put up J.B. Jeyaretnam. To the consternation of the PAP, Jeyaretnam won.

The day after the by-election verdict was declared, I had lunch with the Prime Minister. I was amazed at how he fretted and fumed like a caged fury. As I saw it, Jeyaretnam constituted no threat at all to the PAP whether in Parliament or outside it. For one thing, despite Jeya's courage, he displayed a woeful lack of economics. He clearly never knew at any point of time how Singapore clicked economically. And it was as plain as a pikestaff to me that in five years of free performance in Parliament against the likes of Dr. Goh Keng Swee, Mr. Lim Kim San et al. he would stand exposed in public for his abysmal ignorance of economics.

In truth, if I had to cope with J.B. Jeyaretnam as a hostile delegate at regular

NTUC Delegates Conferences, I would have given him all the rope and more he wanted to hang himself with. And after free and open arguments over three days of conferencing, I would have beaten him hands down at the ballot box. I knew this, as did the workers. For they knew that in the colonial days, Jeyaretnam had never stood on a picket line. I had, not once but several times not only stood on picket lines, but also bedded down for the night on the gravel with the workers whom I led.

I told all this to Kuan Yew. Nothing I said sank in. He fretted about a potential critical percentage drop in PAP votes across all the constituencies that could eventually bring the PAP government down, and he wouldn't stand for it. Only later did I realize that this was the moment that started his formidable brain box ticking away furiously at the fecund gerrymandering schemes he was to introduce later to ensure that all opposition parties would be put in a Gordian bind that would make it impossible for them to ever achieve control of Parliament, unless an Alexander came along. Such a possibility appears impossible now, unless it takes the awesome shape of shattering geopolitical circumstances already building up around Singapore.

Immediately, however, Kuan Yew's attention was concentrated on how he would deal with J.B. Jeyaretnam in parliament. I was quite alarmed at some of the things he told me at that lunch. "Look," he said, "Jeyaretnam can't win the infighting. I'll tell you why. WE are in charge. Every government ministry and department is under our control. And in the infighting, he will go down for the count every time." And I will never forget his last words. "I will make him crawl on his bended knees, and beg for mercy."

Jeyaretnam was made of sterner stuff. To his eternal credit he never did crawl on bended knees, or even begged for mercy. And it is to Lee Kuan Yew's eternal shame that Jeyaretnam will leave the political scene with his head held high,

enjoying a martyrdom conferred on him by Lee. Lest I be misunderstood, let me state that Jeya more than deserves the crown of the martyr for his indomitable courage and dignity in the face of the vilest persecution.

Even greater human spirits than Jeyaretnam had refused to bend their knees to Lee Kuan Yew. It is my considered view that the greatest human being living in Singapore today is one who declined to surrender to the intimidation of prolonged incarceration and restrictions imposed on him without trial for a total period which exceeds that suffered by Nelson Mandela. And here was the mark of true greatness. He emerged from the experience like a god unembittered. His name is Chia Thye Poh. And it is Lee Kuan Yew who emerged from the episode as the knave and fool of his own mindless vindictiveness, while the real conqueror smiles benignly -- unnoted, of course, by the local media. For only sound waves from the Istana Annexe are picked up and regurgitated by His Master's Voice.

There is no political justification for obliging the Workers Party to close down. And not a shred of moral justification. What lies behind the move is among the most brazen vindictiveness' ever shown in the political life of Singapore. It merely adds one more nail in the coffin of the PAP's reputation when the true history of the party will be exposed to the world, as it surely will be one day in the coming decades of the third millennium. As mankind accelerates to the abyss, the shining memories of the past will certainly not include Lee Kuan Yew and the department store dummies he boasts today as his acolytes. He clearly does not possess the foresight to avoid such a fate.

I gladly salute J.B. Jeyaretnam and the Worker's Party at this highly deserved requiem. even if I never once had shared their platform.

C.V. Devan Nair was president of Singapore, during which time, he was an apologist for the Lee Kuan Yew governments. (See his *Socialism the Singapore Way*.) He now resides in the U.S.

Periodicals

Lee Weng Choy. "Singapore: Alternative Spaces." *Art Asia Pacific*. No. 22, 1999, pp. 36-37.

Variety, June 21-27, 1999, carried an 11-page section on Singapore television and movies.

Crossroads, 12:2(1998) carried: Loh Kah Seng, "Within the Singapore Story: The Use and Narrative of History in Singapore," pp. 1-22; Jim Jose, "Imperial Rule and the Ordering of Intellectual Space: The Formation of The Straits Philosophical Society," pp. 23-54.

Lee Weng Choy. "Misunderstanding Art [in Singapore]." *Art Asia Pacific*. No. 64, 1999, pp. 42-43.

Lenzi, Iola. "Process and Politics: ARX5: The Fifth Artists' Regional Exchange." *Art Asia Pacific*. No. 23, 1999, pp. 40-42.

The following articles appeared in *Asiaweek*:

Jan. 29 - "Brunei's Budget Is Missing," p. 10; Sangwon Suh and Santha Oorjitham, "Twists and Turns," pp. 30-31; Gopal Baratham, "When the Heart Is in Peril?" p. 37.

Feb. 5 - "Singapore Storyteller (Eric Khoo)," p. 45; "Wong Hoy Cheong," p. 50; "Asian Values Challenged," pp. 55-56; Andrea Hamilton, "Supercharging Snail Mail," p. 59; Assif Shameen, "Mahathir Rethinks the Money Curbs," p. 64.

Feb. 12 - Sangwon Suh and Santha Oorjitham, "Sabah's Polls Test," pp. 18-20;

"Agreeing To Disagree: Talking with Three of Sabah's Leaders," p. 20.

Feb. 19 - "In Brunei, an Obligation Met," p. 10; Assif Shameen and Tim Healy, "Seeking a Middle Course," pp. 24-28; Alejandro Reyes, "The Lion (Roars) in Winter," p. 27; Santha Oorjitham and Lim Shu Ling, "Light Start, Heavy Going," p. 28; "The Mellowing of Reformasi," pp. 29-30; "Beyond Mahatir vs. Anwar," p. 30; Alain Guilloux, "Domestics -- Made for Abuse," pp. 44-45; Gopal Baratham, "Free-Wheeling Theater," p. 45.

Feb. 26 - Ricardo Saludo, "The Ultimate Tragedy," pp. 38-42.

March 5 - "Malaysia Debate," p. 6; "Wan Azizah Seeks a Seat," p. 8; "Firing Claimed," p. 14; "Re-Channeling the News," p. 14; Andrea Hamilton, "A Piece of the Action," p. 60.

March 12 - Tim Healy and Arjuna Ranawana, "Blow to the Solar Plexus," pp. 16-19; Santha Oorjitham, "Hitting the Election Trail," pp. 20, 22, 24, 26; "We Are the Alternative," p. 26; Assif Shameen, "Tenaga Lays It on the Line," p. 56; Arjuna Ranawana, "Heresy Works...So Far," p. 57; Harum Hashim, "Time for Change in Malaysia," p. 64.

March 19 - "Hanging On," p. 12; Andrea Hamilton, "Bargain Click: Netting World Sales in Singapore," p. 45.

March 26 - Sangwon Suh and Santha Oorjitham, "Jubilant in Sabah," pp. 24-26; Andrea Hamilton, "The Rights of Marriage," pp. 48-49.

April 2 – “Lifting of Curbs Welcomed,” p. 15; Sangwon Suh and Arjuna Ranawana, “Fighting Words,” pp. 28-29; “New and More Moderate,” p. 29; Santha Oorjitham, “On Deadly Ground,” pp. 34-35; Assif Shameen and Andrea Hamilton, “Preparing To Do Battle,” pp. 54-57; Andrea Hamilton, “Is Bigger Really Better?” p. 60.

April 9 – “In the Name of ‘National Justice,’” p. 13.

April 16 – Sangwon Suh, “Malaysia: The Stakes Get Higher” pp. 18-20; Zoher Abdoolcarim, “Doing Damage Control,” p. 20; “We Want To Be a Bridge,” p. 21; Amir Muhammad, “Apocrypha Now,” p. 60.

April 23 – “Maybe What You Need Is To Learn More,” p. 10; Sangwon Suh, “The Struggle Goes On,” pp. 22-24, 26; “Personal and Political,” p. 26; Zoher Abdoolcarim, “The Judgment of History,” p. 27; “Who’s Who in the Circus?” p. 28; Robin Ajello, “On the Set of ‘K.L. Law,’” pp. 30-31; Alexandra A. Seno, “Crisis, What Crisis?” pp. 38-39; “Malaysia’s New Killer Virus,” p. 41.

April 30 – “Forging Malaysia’s Future,” p. 19; Santha Oorjitham, “Post-Verdict Syndromes,” p. 24.

May 7 – Sangwon Suh and Santha Oorjitham, “The Continuing Episode,” p. 20; Sangwon Suh and Santha Oorjitham, “Under the King’s Watchful Eye,” p. 21; Amir Muhammad, “Raising a Stink,” p. 41.

May 14 – “Politics, Malaysian Style,” p. 16; “Defensive Maneuvering: Goh and Estrada Shore Up U.S. Military Ties,” p. 34; “We Do Try to Reform,” p. 40-41; “The Height of Absurdity?” p. 48; Tim Healy and Assif Shameen, “Four Take Away Two,” pp. 68-69; Arjuna Ranawana, “Still CLOBered in Singapore,” p. 69.

Far Eastern Economic Review carried these articles relevant to Malaysia/Singapore/Brunei:

Feb. 4 – Ben Dolven, “Offshore Ambitions,” pp. 42-44; Lim Say Boon, “The Art of the Possible,” p. 45; Bruce Gilley, “Harbour Master,” p. 52.

Feb. 11 – “Tough Times,” p. 8; “Not an Open-Shut Case,” p. 16; Ben Dolven, “Mixed Emotions,” p. 17; Murray Hiebert, “Breaking the News,” pp. 28-29; Mahathir Mohamad, “Malaysia: Bouncing Back,” p. 31; S. Jayasankaran, “Try, Try Again,” p. 55.

Feb. 18 – Murray Hiebert, “Anwar’s Turn,” p. 19; S. Jayasankaran, “Mahathir Bends,” p. 23; Ben Dolven, “Singapore: Net Gains,” p. 58; S. Jayasankaran, “Kuala Lumpur: Big Freeze,” p. 58; “Say You’ve Won,” p. 62.

Feb. 25 – S. Jayasankaran, “Borneo Bellwether,” p. 24; S. Jayasankaran, “Kuala Lumpur: Forced Sale,” p. 62.

March 4 – “Bureaucratic Barrier,” p. 8; S. Jayasankaran, “Power Play,” p. 17; Murray Hiebert, “Creeping to Recovery,” p. 45; Ben Dolven, “Cool It,” p. 46.

March 11 – “Change of Venue,” p. 8; S. Jayasankaran, “Eye of the Storm,” pp. 18-19.

March 18 – “Unwelcome Home?” p. 6; Murray Hiebert, “Malaysia: Wake-up Call,” pp. 8-11; S. Jayasankaran, “Pas Time,” pp. 10-11; Murray Hiebert, “Rise of an Icon,” pp. 12, 14; Murray Hiebert, “The Chinese Card,” p. 14; Frank Ching, “Malaysia’s Common Enemy,” p. 38; Ben Dolven, “The China Factor,” pp. 54-55; Murray Hiebert, “On Their Own,” p. 57; S. Jayasankaran, “Return of Optimism,” p. 61.

March 25 - S. Jayasankaran, "Squaring Off," p. 26; Ben Dolven, "Friend or Foe?" p. 31; Ben Dolven, "Singapore: Forward March," p. 45; S. Jayasankaran, "Kuala Lumpur: Turning Back the Tide," p. 68; Ben Dolven, "Wired for Rebound?" p. 71; "Good Surprises, Bad Surprises," p. 73.

April 1 - S. Jayasankaran, "Political Patriot," p. 17; S. Jayasankaran, "Dead Meat," p. 29; Ben Dolven, "The Local Angle," pp. 48-49.

April 8 - Anwar Ibrahim, "No Holds Barred," pp. 24-25; Ben Dolven, "Singapore: Caution Is the Key," p. 43; Murray Hiebert, "Damned If You Do," pp. 44-45; S. Jayasankaran, "Slow Off the Mark," pp. 54-55.

April 22 - Murray Hiebert, "Guilty as Charged," p. 14; Simon Elegant, "Pork-Barrel Politics," pp. 15-16; Ben Dolven, "Gently Does It," pp. 21-22; Ben Dolven, "Artistic Dilemma," pp. 60-62; S. Jayasankaran, "No More Heroics," pp. 74-75.

April 29 - Charles Bickers, "Software for Hire," pp. 64-65; Ben Dolven, "Singapore: Home Truths," p. 74; "Fixing the Image: Malaysia After Anwar's Trial," p. 78.

May 6 - Tan Siok Choo, "A Profitable Heresy," p. 31; S. Jayasankaran, "Malay Dilemma," p. 50; S. Jayasankaran, "Power Game," p. 56.

May 20 - Ben Dolven, "Waiting and Watching," pp. 18, 20; S. Jayasankaran, "Malaysia: Silver Linings," p. 41; Murray Hiebert and S. Jayasankaran, "May 13, 1969: Formative Fury," pp. 45-47; Rehman Rashid, "Divided We Stand," p. 48; S. Jayasankaran, "Kuala Lumpur: Banking on a Sale," p. 64.

May 27 -- "Damage Control," p. 16; S. Jayasankaran, "Spoiling for a Fight," pp. 18-

19; Ben Dolven, "Picking Up the Pieces," pp. 38, 40; Lim Say Boon, "Premature Smugness," p. 53; Charles Bickers, "Wired Market," p. 54; Murray Hiebert, "Monied Classes," pp. 56, 58; Murray Hiebert, "Hype Flier," p. 66.

June 3 - Murray Heibert, "Wired To Learn," p. 46; "Bonding Efficiency," p. 62.

June 10 - "Polling Portents," p. 8; Ben Dolven, "Out the Door: Singapore Researchers Push Their Technology to Market," pp. 88-89; Ben Dolven, "Singapore: Pounding Pennies," p. 96; S. Jayasankaran, "Kuala Lumpur: Costly Lesson," p. 96.

June 24 - "Sex Probe Fallout," p. 8; Simon Elegant, "The Will To Win," pp. 10-12; Nayan Chanda, "Doctor Knows Best," p. 12; "I Was Shocked," pp. 13-14; S. Jayasankaran, "Forgive and Forget," p. 16; Farish A. Noor, "Malaysia: Islam vs. Secularism?" p. 32.

July 1 - Ben Dolven, "Baron of Bandwidth," pp. 11-12; Simon Elegant, "Malaysia: Bogeyman Beware," pp. 16-17; Murray Hiebert, "Malaysia: Signs of the Times," pp. 17-18; Murray Hiebert, "Malaysia: Man of Faith," pp. 18-19; S. Jayasankaran, "Gaining Speed," pp. 48-49.

July 8 - Simon Elegant, "Malaysia: Less Than Convincing," p. 12; Simon Elegant, "Malaysia: Attention Deficit," p. 12; Rigoberto Tiglao, "Seaside Boom," p. 14; Frank Ching, "Mahathir's Racial Dilemma," p. 28; S. Jayasankaran, "Malaysia: Par for the Bourse," p. 45; S. Jayasankaran, "Shock, Horror," pp. 68-69; Ben Dolven, "Singapore: The Lion Roars Again," p. 77; "Attracting Attention," p. 82.

July 15 - Ben Dolven, "Singapore: Reinventing the Heir," pp. 8-11; Ben Dolven, "Pet Project," p. 10; "Singapore: Quiet Ambition," p. 12.

July 22 - "Diligent Suitors," p. 8; S. Jayasankaran, "Going Global," pp. 35-36; S. Jayasankaran, "Bull's Eye," p. 45; Murray Hiebert, "Farm Hands," p. 47; S. Jayasankaran, "Kuala Lumpur," p. 52.

Elected chair at the M/S/B Studies Group Meeting in March were: 1999-2001, Don Nononi; 2001-2003, Michael Paletz; and 2003-2005, Stacey Yap. Outgoing chair is Diane Mauzy, 1997-1999.

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Books

- Expected from University of Hawaii Press in September is Fadzilah Majid Cooke's *The Challenge of Sustainable Forests: Forest Resource Policy in Malaysia*. (264 pp., 0-8248-2246-3, \$32).
- New from Singapore University Press (10 Kent Ridge Crescent, Singapore 0511) are:

Chua Beng Huat (ed.). *Singapore Studies II*. (1999, 256 pp., Hb 9971-69-208-2, US\$30).

This edition brings up to date a decade of research work developments of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, National University of Singapore since the first volume was published in 1985. The state of the respective disciplines covered are reviewed in terms of notable theoretical and conceptual developments, major benchmarks during the past decade and research lacunae that need to be addressed, as well as their substantive developments and contributions in the Singapore context and possible future directions, resulting in a collection of essays that places the Faculty's studies in an international comparative framework.

Tan Chwee Huat. *Personal Finance in Singapore* (Ridge Books). (1998, 328 pp, Pb 9971-69-216-3, US\$25).

Most books available in the market on the subject are 'how to' guides for investors or American textbooks lacking local content. This book fills the gap for an introductory text suitable for business students at the local universities and polytechnics.

Craig Scalise. *Intellectual Property Protection Reforms: Theory, Evidence and Policy*. (1999, 84 pp., Pb 9971-69-215-5, US\$10).

In recent years, intellectual property-based industries have become more critical to the world's economies. However, where most of the writing on the economics of intellectual property protection policy has been speculative, this book offers a testable economic theory. The theory of 'natural intellectual property protection reform' analyzes how economic development influences IPR policy and in turn, how IPR reform affects innovation. Empirical support for the theory, and a case study based on data gathered from Singapore's software developers, are included.

Philip Motha & Belinda Yuen. *Singapore Real Property Guide* (4th ed.). (1999, 644 pp., Pb 9971-69-218-X, US\$58).

This guide provides in one convenient volume, information relating to the multivariate aspects of real property

development in Singapore. It contains essential data often sought by those in the property business and related professions who would otherwise have to expend much valuable time and resource to obtain. In this edition, the contents have been updated and include new cases, latest development procedures and other significant changes in the property development process since the last published edition in 1989. The recent Planning Act 1997 is also discussed in this edition.

Lim Lan Yuan, Belinda Yuen and Christine Low (eds.). *Urban Quality of Life: Critical Issues and Options*. (1999, 256 pp., Pb 9971-69-227-9, US\$22).

In recent years, the issue of quality of life has increasingly become an area of attention in cities around the world. Studies have been undertaken to measure quality of life, both in terms of the tangible and verifiable aspects of material wealth, physical health, and opportunity for recreation as well as subjective responses of people to their living environments in terms of satisfaction and well-being. When seen in the context of city living, quality of life represents a key issue in the evaluation of a city's living environment. The essays in this book are drawn from the first international conference held in Singapore on the subject of "Quality of Life in Cities." Grouped in three broad categories, the papers discuss issues of definition and measurement of quality of life in cities, quality of life studies conducted in particular countries and alternative perspectives and approaches for future quality of life study. The book seeks to introduce the reader to the breadth of critical issues and options available in the study of urban quality of life.

Kevin Y.L. Tan. *The Singapore Legal System* (2nd edition). (1999, 561 pp., Hb 9971-69-212-0, US\$80; Pb 9971-69-213-9, US\$45).

Second edition of the highly successful book first published in 1989.

However, it has been extensively revised in content and updated. Eight out of 14 chapters are new including chapters such as The Constitutional Framework of Powers, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and The Singapore Legal System and International Law, and the law on all subjects has been updated.

- Listed in the latest catalogue of Monash Asia Institute (Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, 3168 Australia) are:

Educational Challenges in Malaysia: Advances and Prospects, edited by Zaniah Marshallsay. (1997, ISBN 07326 11547, \$24.95).

This collection of papers addresses developments in education in Malaysia. The issues discussed include technology and education, the privatization of education, and Australian involvement in Malaysian education, all in the context of current reforms.

New Roads Ahead: Australia-Malaysia Relations, edited by Zaniah Marshallsay. (1996, ISBN 07326 0895 3, \$14).

This collection of papers looks at Malaysia's contemporary politics and industrial development and examines the relationship between the two countries from several perspectives.

Curtis Andressen. *Educational Refugees: Malaysian Students in Australia*. (1993, ISBN 0 7326 0460 5, \$19.95).

Colin Nicholas. *Pathway to Dependence: Commodity Relations and the Dissolution of Semai Society*. (1995, ISBN 07326 0562 8, \$15).

Pathway to Dependence documents and analyzes the changes occurring in the Semai (Orang Asli) settlements of Kampung Kuala Tual and Kampung Sungei Buntu in Pahang in the 1980s. The focus is on the transformation of their economy and society from one which was subsistence oriented.

William Case. *Elites and Regimes in Malaysia: Revisiting a Consociational Democracy*. (1996, ISBN 07326 104 4, \$29.95).

Recent studies of politics in Malaysia have chronicled a descent into authoritarianism, claiming that a break took place during the late-1980s. The most influential analyses have attributed this regime to new class, ethnic and cultural tensions, set in a context of steady economic growth followed by sharp decline, then rising up finally to challenge elite relations.

Benjamin Wai-ming Ng. *Video Games and Comics in Singapore: Issues in Popularization, Localization and Their Implications*. Singapore: Sumitomo Foundation Research Grant Report, 1999. 73 pp.

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July 29 - "On the Road," p. 6; Ben Dolven, "Bowling Out," p. 15; Ben Dolven, "Numbers Game," p. 55.

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Prospectus

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Graduate Student Survey

Malaysia/Singapore/Brunei (M/S/B) Studies Group

This survey is meant to begin a database of graduate students interested in Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei. If you or someone you know is interested in these areas, please fill out this survey and return to the address below. Thank you!

Name: _____

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Level of Study: _____ Discipline of Study: _____

Area(s) of Interest:

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Graduate Student Representative (M/S/B)

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Responses are due by **December 1, 1999.**