The women are kept in cages just off Serangoon Road
In four years in Singapore
I have seen a lifetime of glitter and a lifetime of woe

The old man turned and smiled at me
He's voted opposition since day one
The flats are falling down around Potong Pasir
Vote the opposition he tells his son

Cranes dot the skies above the fields in Pasir Ris
The owner works in Raffles Place
The mortgage too it's his

The girls start work in Joo Chiat pubs at just about seven
Servants of the underworld
They will be princesses in heaven

In 91 the opposition invented the by-election strategy
and deprived the poor of Chinatown the chance
to vote out the incumbents in Tanjong Pagar GRC
In modern-day Singapore where the leaders says you will never find a beggar
One evening an old man talked with me in Chinatown then asked me for money for his dinner

Ghosts prowl the corridor at nights at N.U.S. creativity’s not needed here you just have to pass the tests

The Indonesian villagers know a kindness that your leaders can never know Their goal is human engineering as they create the perfect society row by row.

The knives are sharpening to vote out the incumbents in Tampines GRC the old ones still remember who diverted the 147 bus from Potong Pasir

When a famous politician grounded his children due to shocking misbehaviour they escaped through their bedroom windows and were spotted by a neighbour

The Chinese clan associations Can they ever be revived? They could have been trade unions fighting for workers’ rights Now they are just a place to have a social bite to eat Behind the scary entrances the ghosts will never sleep

Think of all the foreign workers who break their backs to build the nation while the children of the rich ones ask the maid to change the TV channels

I treat my foreign maid just like an object My son studies 16 hours per day for PSLE I’m just another typical Singaporean why can’t they keep my condo swimming pool more clean?

The international jet set class voted Changi the best airport in South East Asia while the tenants of one-room flats in Bukit Merah can hear the sex acts of their neighbours

Ed’s Note: Dr Kieran James is a Senior Lecturer in Accounting at University of Southern Queensland (Toowoomba, Australia). He is an Australian with 17 years of teaching experience in Australia and Singapore. He has published over 25 scholarly articles in leading journals including Critical Perspectives on Accounting, International Journal of Critical Accounting, International Journal of Social Economics, Korean Journal of Industrial Relations, and Musicology Australia. He worked in Singapore for four years, 1993-94 and 2001-02, the last two years for a well known Middle Road business college. He is presently writing books on Singapore opposition politics and the death-metal music scene in Bandung, Indonesia.