

BOOKS

Lure of America 'Short Sweet Dream' can turn sour

The *Short Sweet Dream* of Eduardo Gutierrez (Grown, 213 pages, \$22) by Jimmy Breslin.

BY CONNOR ENNIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

The real-life namesake of Jimmy Breslin's book *The Short Sweet Dream* of Eduardo Gutierrez is no different from most of the young men and women from Mexico who find their way across the border to the United States, assuming the tag of illegal immigrant in exchange for the promise of the American dollar.

En masse they spill into various American cities, where they hope to find "the job" that pays them well — \$4 to \$5 an hour is considered high wages and allows them to send money home to support their families. In time, the wish is that their fami-

lies will join them in the United States, where the American dream will be played out when they own their own businesses or homes.

"The young of San Matias lived their lives with pictures of American money in their heads," Breslin writes about the people of Gutierrez's hometown.

Too often, the reality for the immigrants becomes low-paying, dangerous jobs that they are forced to take simply to make ends meet for only themselves. For Gutierrez, this reality led to his death.

On Nov. 23, 1999, Gutierrez, 31, was working on the third floor of a building under construction in the Williamsburg section of New York's borough of Brooklyn when it collapsed and sent him falling face first into

liquid concrete. He died from suffocation.

"All his young dreams gave him no idea of the dangerous path ahead," Breslin writes. "The young dream of everything except death."

This is Breslin's jumping-off point to examine the hypocrisies and illegalities that surround many of the illegal immigrants and the people who get them into the United States and employ them.

He begins in Mexico, detailing the lure American money has for many of that country's poor and how they save their pesos to make the voyage to claim some of that money for themselves.

"Coyotes," men who smuggle immigrants across the border, can charge upward of \$1,500 a person and there is no guarantee

of success or safety. Many people die during crossing attempts, the cause varying from heat stroke to being beaten by robbers.

Still, Breslin writes, the lure of America pushes many to continue trying despite the possible consequences.

Once the immigrants have reached America, Breslin's book takes on a more authoritative tone. Gutierrez finds his way to New York, where he shares a cramped apartment with several other illegal immigrants. The fear of deportation keeps them inside except when they work, and their free time is spent either solemnly drinking together

or finding temporary companionship with one of the prostitutes who frequent the neighborhood.

Breslin has been a New York newspaper columnist for more than 40 years and his deep understanding of the political landscape gives weight to his criticism that it privately fosters the idea of immigrant labor while publicly denouncing it.

The owner of the building in which Gutierrez died is Eugene Ostreicher, a Hasidic Jew whom Breslin feels exploits the illegal immigrants in the name of profit.

His payroll is \$5,000 a week. If

the workers were legitimate, it would be \$15,000.

Ostreicher also cuts corners when it comes to safety, Breslin writes, and a backlogged city building inspection agency simply has no time to monitor the building properly.

And the immigrants, who every day must line up on street corners hoping to be picked to work, don't complain about the unsafe conditions for fear of not getting work or, worse, being deported.

The result is what Breslin's book is about: a tragedy that is sad, preventable and, without a doubt, American.

SHOPPING BRIEFS

■ RACE FOR CURE

Art Van Furniture is a local sponsor of the 2002 Detroit's Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Race for the Cure®, presented by the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. The event will take place April 20 at Comerica Park. Entry forms are available now through April 19 at the Guest Service Centers at all Art Van stores, while supplies last.

■ DISNEY PROGRAM

Business professionals in southeast Michigan can discover the Disney approach to service and loyalty through a half-day program presented by Disney Institute and sponsored by the Michigan Retailers Association.

The Disney Keys to Excellence will take place 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 16 at the Holiday Inn-Livonia West, 17123 N.

Laurel Park Drive in Livonia.

The program will offer an exclusive look at the business side of the Walt Disney World Resort, presented by members of the Disney management team.

Attendees will learn how they can adapt Disney's principles and practices to promote service and loyalty in their own businesses.

Cost for the program is \$175 for MRA members and \$195 for non-members. The fee includes the seminar, program materials and continental breakfast. To register, contact the MRA's Robin Gregory at (800) 366-3699 or rsrgregory@retailers.com.

■ RETAIL SEMINAR

The Michigan Retailers Association is joining with four Oakland County business groups to present a professional education

seminar in Royal Oak for retailers and other business owners.

Successful Retail Strategies will take place 8-10 a.m. April 24 at the Baldwin Theatre.

This panel discussion will feature independent retailers who have found ways to make their stores thrive despite competition from the big chains.

Co-sponsors are the Oakland County Small Business Center, City of Royal Oak Downtown Development Authority, Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce, and Woodward Avenue Action Association.

Cost is \$15 for MRA and co-sponsor members, \$25 for non-members.

To register, contact the MRA's Robin Gregory at (800) 366-3699 or rsrgregory@retailers.com.

CRAFT CALENDAR

Send items for consideration in the Arts & Crafts Calendar to Kelly Kaleski Wygonik, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. To fax (734) 591-7279 or (248) 644-1314. E-mail: kwygonik@oe.com, homecomm.net. Please copy and paste info into an e-mail or send as a text file.

SHOWS

Spring Arts and Crafts Show: At Davison High School 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, April 6-7. Show features 140 booths. \$2 admission. (810) 658-0440.

Craft and White Elephant Auction: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 9 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 Seven Mile Road, east of Gilt Road, Livonia. No admission charge.

Oxford High School: Spring Arts & Crafts Show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 6. M-24 north to Burdick (east) turns into Lakeville Road. Gift certificate drawing every 30 minutes. \$2 admission. Upcoming shows:

Saturday, April 20, Waterford Mott High School, Saturday May 4, Clarkston High School, Thursday, July 4, Clintonwood Park, Clarkston, (248) 627-3363.

Craft Show and Baked Goods Sale: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 11, Westland Free Methodist Church, 1423 Venoy, between Palmer and Avondale. Crafters and bakers welcome. \$25 table rental fee benefits Mothers of Preschoolers. Call Karen Hartman, (734) 522-0757.

Blooms and Crafts: On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., West Bloomfield High School parking lot, 4925 Orchard Lake Road. Exhibitors sought, 10 by 10 areas available for \$35. Call Patti Pogo (248) 738-9275.

CRAFTERS/ARTISTS SOUGHT

Fine Art at Meadow Brook: Fine Art at Meadow Brook is currently accepting applications for their June 22-23 Art Festival. For applications, contact: Fine Art at Meadow Brook, Donna Beaubien, Festival Director, P.O. Box 70656 Rochester Hills, 48307. (Phone) (248) 689-8734; (Fax) (248) 689-8720.

finestartfestival@aol.com (email). There is a \$15 processing fee; a \$225 booth fee. 150 artists. The art festival is sponsored by The Palace Sports & Entertainment and Creative Arts Council.

2002 Founders Festival: Limited craft exhibitor booth space is available for the 2002 Farmington Area Founders Festival to be held on Thursday, July 18-20, in downtown Farmington.

Crafters from around the country participate each year. All types of crafts are welcome. Applications may be downloaded online at

www.foundersfestival.com

(crafters) or contacting the FAFF hotline at (248) 932-FEST (3378). All questions can be e-mailed to Festival Craft Chair Deb Watson at info@foundersfestival.com. The deadline for applications is April 30.

Schoolcraft College: Crafters of every ilk are encouraged to apply for a spot in the 2002 Fall Craft Show at Schoolcraft College Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 9-10. With 150 crafters, this show is one of the premier venues in the area and attracts crowds of more than 2,000 people. The show is juried, and a limited number of exhibitors are accepted in each category to maintain a balanced representation in each craft.

Crafters are asked to submit a photograph of their work with their application if they have not been accepted for a previous show. The show features all types of handmade crafts including painting, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, textiles, needlework, photography, glass, leather and woodcarving. Applications must be received by Friday, May 3. To obtain an application, contact the Marjorie Lynch at (734) 462-

4400, Ext. 5008. Schoolcraft College is at 18600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile roads west of 1-275.

Crafter Alley Show: During the Westland Summer Festival Wednesday-Sunday, July 27, Westland Central Park, 36551 Ford Road, between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Art show of children's work ages 5-17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 8. For more information about renting a table for the craft show, or the children's art show, call Sharon (734) 722-4857.

Lapeer County Summer Festival: Applications are available for a juried arts and crafts show, Friday-Sunday, Aug. 16-18 in downtown Lapeer. To obtain an application call Sandy at the Chamber of Commerce Office, 431 N. Court St., Lapeer, MI 48846, or call (810) 664-6641.

Holiday craft show: Applications are being accepted for the 16th annual Holiday Magic Craft Show at Leonard Elementary in Troy. The show is scheduled 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2. For applications/information e-mail craftshow@prodigy.net or call Marlan at 248-680-1533.

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Anna, Emma & Mary.
You make life worth while and
you fill our hearts with joy.
Happy Easter. Love Papa & Tina



Samantha & Brooke.
I love you, my two precious
angels. Happy Easter 2002.
Love you, Mom



Happy Easter
Mom, Dad, Grandma
& Grandpa Peal,
Grandpa Matthews
and all my aunts,
uncles and
cousins.
Love Matthew



Seth David Baker
You're a welcomed
addition to our family
and a real joy. Much love
as you celebrate your
first Easter in 2002.
Love Aunt Char
and Cousin
Patrick



Taylor,
We love you!
Love
Mommy
and Daddy