

rated Texas style

Seafest offers students a memorable holiday

By LAURI REESE

Staff Writer

WHAT: Spring Break 1984.
WHERE: South Padre Island.
WHEN: March 11-17.

Throughout the week, Seafest, a division of the Port Isabel-South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce, and Anheuser-Busch, Inc., brewers of Budweiser, Budweiser Light, Michelob, Michelob Light and Natural Light Beers, will sponsor activities and special attractions to give college students the basics for a memorable holiday.

"We want students to be able to look back on their Spring Break with fond memories," Ed Bell, Anheuser-Busch Texas division manager, said in a news release promoting the festivities.

"If they stay away from the excesses — too much sun or alcohol, or not enough sleep — and if they partake in the program we have developed just for them, I'm sure the students will experience a wonderful vacation," he said.

It all starts with the free Seafest Welcome Picnic on March 11 at the Pavilion from 12 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bill Pfeiffer's prize-winning chili will be served along with hot dogs, potato salad, brownies and iced tea.

From 7,000 to 9,000 people are expected to attend the picnic, Suzanne Monroe, a representative for Budweiser, said.

New to the Spring Break program at South Padre will be a special tips section on "enjoying the week responsibly," which will be published in the Spring Break Guide.

A highlight of the week will be "Surf City USA," a free outdoor concert featuring Jan Berry and Dean Torrence of Jan & Dean on Thursday, March 15, at 2 p.m. in the Cabanas Beach area.

Berry and Torrence began singing together in the shower after football practice when they were in high school.

Between 1958 and 1966, Jan & Dean obtained top chart status for 25 songs, with seven of them in the Top 10.

Their career was halted abruptly when Jan was involved in a near-fatal accident. He had to learn to read, write, walk and talk all over again at the age of 26.

After a 12-year absence from the stage, their surf tunes resurfaced thanks to a 1978 feature television film, "Deadman's Curve," which told the story of Jan & Dean to millions.

The group joined the Beach Boys in a 1978 summer tour and went out on their own in the following summers.

The Fabulous Thunderbirds, a regional band from Austin, will open the concert.

The Confederate Air Force will present a one-hour air show before the concert. "Wings Over Padre" will focus on the agility and grace of combat aircraft from 1939-1945.

The all-volunteer, non-profit organization originally set out to preserve authentic aircraft of the World War II era when they formed in 1957.

The collection of combat aircraft was completed in 1972, but members continued to expand their fleet by adding transports, trainers and a World War II helicopter. The organization also added fighters, bombers and trainers of the Royal Air Force and German Luftwaffe, and a fleet of replica aircraft of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

Headquartered at Rebel Field in Harlingen, the CAF now consists of 120 aircraft and 7,000 members.

Members of the "Ghost Squadron," as it is often called,

tour the country every spring and summer, participating in more than 100 airshows each year.

Free evening dances at South Padre will feature different bands including The Pengwings, Johnny D and The Rocket 88's, and Art Marvel.

Students can redeem empty aluminum cans for tokens to use in video games and for Anheuser-Busch merchandise, like visors, shirts, umbrellas, beach towels and beach balls.

At the Seafest Message Center, students can make free long-distance calls, limited to three minutes each, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The University of Budweiser Glee Club, also known as the Angoras, is a three-woman a cappella group that will sing at different locations around the island.

Vicky Wiedman, Sharon Kusey and Patti Forbes formed the Angoras in 1980. Wiedman is an actress who formed her own band in the mid-1970s. Kusey, an accomplished painter, attends the Massachusetts College of Arts. Forbes has made television commercials.

The group sings various songs including "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," "Rockin' Robin," and "Why Do Fools Fall in Love?"

A new video called "Tapper," made by Bally Manufacturing Corp., can be found at the Seafest Welcome Center at the Pavilion.

For more information about the South Padre Island program, call the Chamber of Commerce at (512)943-2262.

