

Students spell relief S-P-R-I-N-G B-R-E-A-K

Decadence, debauchery and drinking

Ah, the joys of spring break

Tricia Ciaravino

Spring is here and the time is right for partying on the beach. College students all across the country are frosting their beer mugs, getting in shape and buying suntan lotion in preparation for spring break.

"Spring break decadence is good for the stressed and unstressed alike," said Steve Lee, a senior marketing major. "If you're straight laced and going on spring break

you're going to have a bad time."

Designated decadence spots this year include locations in Mexico, California and Arizona.

College Tours arranges Spring Break packages to

Mazatlan and Cancun. The packages this year cost about \$429. It includes round trip transportation, lodging in a three star hotel, free nightly cocktail parties and discount coupons for restaurants, bars and clubs. The agency also offers hotel upgrades for an extra amount.

College Tours has tan contests and the winner gets a free trip in 1993. Other popular activities include the Kamakazi

Race, Chug-a-lug-a race, best buns and wet T-shirt contests.

The packages are popular because they're inexpensive and close to

home.

Lake Havasu City, Ariz., is also a recommended hot spot.

The lake is about 150 miles south of Las Vegas. During spring break, college students



Where's Waldo? No doubt, he's in Daytona, Cancun, or San Diego.

are basically isolated on the lake from the community.

It is designated for groups. Spacious house boats can be rented for about \$2,000.

According to Lee, who has vacationed at the lake several times, the houseboats are great for "monster parties." He said students put their boats in the middle of the lake together and throw a monster bash.

California beaches are another attraction for college students, especially those from UNLV because they're so close. Students can drive or fly for under \$100.

San Diego is popular because students have the opportunity to surf off the coast or go next door to Tijuana, Mexico for cheap beer.

"Tijuana was great because

the food and drinks were cheap. The American dollar can go a long way as far as souvenirs and stuff," said Tony Llanos, a junior majoring in hotel administration.

"San Diego has endless beaches. The public transportation around there is excellent, much better than Las Vegas. And there is no smog, which is why we avoided Los Angeles," he said.

Palm Springs, also popular with students, may lose a lot of business due to the laws enacted by Mayor Sonny Bono last year. The Palm Springs City Council adopted measures last year which made it illegal to wear string bikinis, to bare breasts or expose one's buttocks.

But why leave at all when we live in the decadence capitol?

Take a cruise down the strip where plenty of action awaits restless college students.

Mt. Charleston, Valley of Fire and Lake Mead are perfect for relaxation and fun.

Spring break volunteers help needy, help themselves

(CPS)—For hours, law students sit in the crowded Haitian Refugee Center in Miami. With the help of translators, they interview hundreds of Haitians seeking political asylum in the United States.

Further north, in several farming communities neighboring Orlando, Fla., students pick cabbages and cut ferns with migrant farmworkers.

Meanwhile, on Florida's east and west coasts, many more students are working on returning to school with a fabulous tan.

This year an estimated 3,500 students from about 100 colleges and universities signed up to participate in alternative spring break programs, designed to give students a chance to volunteer to work for needy organizations during their vacations.

The trips include:

◆ University of Illinois students traveling to Atlanta and eight other locations to work at homeless shelters and experience homelessness firsthand by spending three days on the streets themselves.

◆ Several Harvard Univer-

sity students traveling to a small West Virginia mining town to work at a health center where people are treated for black-lung disease.

◆ University of Wisconsin students visiting the Rio Grande Valley along the Texas-Mexico border to work for the United Farm Workers Union.

◆ Viterbro College (in La Crosse, Wis.) students driving to Chicago to help Habitat for Humanity International renovate an abandoned hotel that is in the process of being converted into condominiums for low-income families.

"Habitat plans to place over 2,000 students (this break)," according to Michael Magevney, co-director of Break Away: The Alternative Break Connection.

Of the other programs available, Magevney said, "We've had students work with the migrant farm workers, work with people in Appalachia, helping with home renovation and construction, and we've had students work on Native American reservations. The trips are usually tied into some sort of educational experience that



Trinity College sophomore Maria Murphy of Middleboro, Mass., learns about the cultivation of ferns in Apopka, Fla. She is one of nine Trinity students who spent their spring break living and working with migrant farmworkers.

helps students understand the various issues, like poverty or homelessness."

Break Away was founded in June of 1991 by Magevney

and another student when they were seniors at Vanderbilt University because "we knew that these programs were popular, but there was no coordi-

nated effort out there" to put them together. Now, Break Away serves as a national clearinghouse for alternative spring break programs.

Spring Break '92