

ANHEUSER BUSCH COMPANIES INC

Form S-8

March 24, 2004

AS FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION ON MARCH 24, 2004

Registration Statement No. 33-_____

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8

Registration Statement

Under the

Securities Act of 1933

ANHEUSER-BUSCH COMPANIES, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

43-1162835
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

One Busch Place
St. Louis, Missouri 63118

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

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Anheuser-Busch Deferred Income Stock Purchase and Savings Plan

(For Certain Hourly Employees of Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. and its Subsidiaries)

(Full Title of the Plan)

JoBeth G. Brown

Vice President and Corporate Secretary

Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.

One Busch Place

St. Louis, Missouri 63118

(Name and Address of Agent for Service)

(314) 577-3314

Telephone Number, Including Area Code of Agent for Service

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Securities to be Registered | Amount to be Registered | Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share* | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price | Amount of Registration Fee |
|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share, including preferred stock purchase rights | 1,100,000 Shares | \$51.77 | \$56,947,000 | \$7,215.18 |

* Estimated solely for purposes of calculating the registration fee. In accordance with Rule 457(h)(1), the proposed offering price of shares was based on the average of the high and low prices reported on the New York Stock Exchange on March 19, 2004.

In addition, pursuant to Rule 416(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement also covers an indeterminate amount of interests to be offered or sold pursuant to the employee benefit plan described herein.

PART I

The Section 10(a) prospectus relating to the Plan is omitted from this Registration Statement pursuant to the Note to Part I of Form S-8.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

CERTAIN FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents are incorporated by reference in this registration statement:

(a) The Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003.

(b) The Form 10-K/A (Amendment 2) of the Registrant for the year ended December 31, 2002 containing the financial statements of the Plan for the year ended March 31, 2003.

(c) The descriptions of the Registrant's shares of common stock, including the preferred stock purchase rights relating thereto, contained in the Registrant's registration statements filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, File No. 1-7823, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such descriptions.

All documents subsequently filed by the Registrant or the Plan pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference herein and to be a part hereof from the date of the filing of such documents (but this shall not include any document that is merely furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission).

Item 4. Description of Securities.

The Registrant's common stock is registered under Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

The financial statements incorporated in this Registration Statement pursuant to Item 3 have been so incorporated in reliance of the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, independent accountants, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Thomas Larson, Esq., Associate General Counsel of the Registrant, has passed upon the legality of the shares offered under this registration statement.

Mark Voelpel, Esq., Associate General Counsel of the Registrant, has passed upon the compliance of certain amendments of the Plan with ERISA.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

The Delaware General Corporation Law permits the indemnification by a Delaware corporation of its directors, officers, employees and other agents against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement in connection with specified actions, suits or proceedings, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than derivative actions which are by or in the right of the corporation) if they acted in good faith in a manner they reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe their conduct was unlawful. A similar standard of care is applicable in the case of derivative actions, except that indemnification only extends to expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred in connection with defense or settlement of such an action and requires court approval before there can be any indemnification where the person seeking indemnification has been found liable to the corporation.

The Registrant's Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides that each person who was or is made a party to, or is involved in, any action, suit or proceeding by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director or officer of the Registrant (or was serving at the request of the Registrant as a director, officer, employee or agent for another entity) while serving in such capacity will be indemnified and held harmless by the Registrant to the full extent authorized or permitted by Delaware law. The Restated Certificate also provides that the Registrant may purchase and maintain insurance and may also create a trust fund, grant a security interest and/or use other means (including establishing letters of credit, surety bonds and other similar arrangements), and may enter into contracts providing for indemnification, to ensure full payment of indemnifiable amounts.

The Registrant has entered into indemnification agreements with its directors and its executive officers.

Item 7. Exemptions from Registration Claimed.

Not Applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

5.1 Opinion and consent of Thomas Larson, Esq., Associate General Counsel of the Registrant, concerning the legality of the shares of common stock being registered hereunder.

5.2 Internal Revenue Service Determination Letter dated November 29, 2001.

5.3 Opinion and Consent of Mark Voelpel, Associate General Counsel of the Registrant, concerning the compliance of the Plan with the requirements of ERISA.

23 Consent of Independent Accountants

24. Power of Attorney executed by directors and officers of the Registrant.

Item 9. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in the volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3, Form S-8 or Form F-3, and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

The Registrant. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of St. Louis, State of Missouri, on March 24, 2004.

ANHEUSER-BUSCH COMPANIES, INC.

By: /s/ JoBeth G. Brown

JoBeth G. Brown
(Vice President and Corporate Secretary)

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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated:

| | <u>Title</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|---|--|----------------|
| PATRICK T. STOKES ----- Patrick T. Stokes | * President and Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer) | March 24, 2004 |
| W. RANDOLPH BAKER ----- W. Randolph Baker | * Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer) | March 24, 2004 |
| JOHN F. KELLY ----- John F. Kelly | * Vice President and Controller (Principal Accounting Officer) | March 24, 2004 |
| AUGUST A. BUSCH III ----- August A. Busch III | * Chairman of the Board and Director | March 24, 2004 |
| CARLOS FERNANDEZ G. ----- Carlos Fernandez G. | * Director | March 24, 2004 |
| JAMES J. FORESE ----- James J. Forese | * Director | March 24, 2004 |
| JOHN E. JACOB ----- John E. Jacob | * Director | March 24, 2004 |
| JAMES R. JONES ----- James R. Jones | * Director | March 24, 2004 |
| CHARLES F. KNIGHT ----- Charles F. Knight | * Director | |
| VERNON R. LOUCKS, JR. ----- Vernon R. Loucks, Jr. | * Director | March 24, 2004 |
| VILMA S. MARTINEZ ----- Vilma S. Martinez | * Director | March 24, 2004 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------|----------------|
| WILLIAM PORTER PAYNE | * Director | March 24, 2004 |
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| William Porter Payne | | |
| JOYCE M. ROCHÉ | * Director | March 24, 2004 |
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| Joyce M. Roché | | |
| HENRY HUGH SHELTON | * Director | March 24, 2004 |
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| Henry Hugh Shelton | | |
| ANDREW C. TAYLOR | * Director | March 24, 2004 |
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| Andrew C. Taylor | | |
| DOUGLAS A. WARNER III | * Director | |
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| Douglas A. Warner III | | |
| EDWARD E. WHITACRE, JR. | * Director | March 24, 2004 |
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| Edward E. Whitacre, Jr. | | |

* By: /s/ JoBeth G. Brown

JoBeth G. Brown
Attorney-in-Fact

The Plan. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the trustees (or other persons who administer the Plan) of the Plan have duly caused this registration statement to be signed by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized in the City of St. Louis, State of Missouri on March 24, 2004.

ANHEUSER-BUSCH DEFERRED INCOME STOCK
PURCHASE AND SAVINGS PLAN (FOR CERTAIN
HOURLY EMPLOYEES OF ANHEUSER-BUSCH
COMPANIES, INC. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES)

By: ANHEUSER-BUSCH COMPANIES, INC.,

as Plan Administrator

By: /s/ John T. Farrell

Vice President, Employee Benefits

EXHIBIT INDEX

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- 23 Consent of Independent Accountants.
- 24 Power of Attorney executed by directors and officers of the Registrant.