

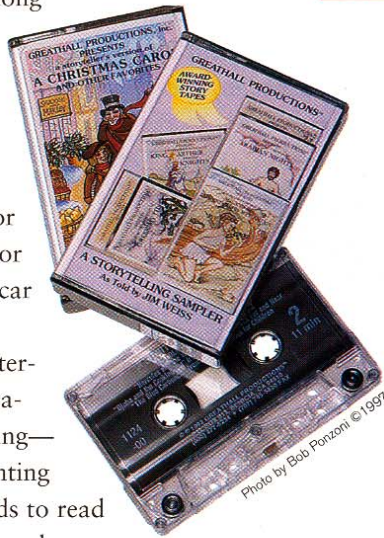
He's A Classic Storyteller

There's nothing like a good story that's told well. And Jim Weiss, master storyteller, has lots of good stories. His hour-long cassettes and CDs, distributed through the mom-and-pop company that Weiss and his wife, Randy, began out of their home in 1989, are great for family evenings together, for bedtime or for those long car rides.

A mix of traditional entertainment and literary education, Weiss' vivid storytelling—which, rather than supplanting the classics, encourages kids to read them—has won more than a dozen awards from parents' magazines, librarians, the recording industry and toy associations.

Among the 17 titles: *Sherlock Holmes for Children*, *Shakespeare for Children* and *King Arthur*. Cassettes are \$9.95, CDs \$14.95. Info: 800-477-6234 or 707-745-6234.

—Timothy Harper



MORE ~~The Big~~ To Do

Brussels Celebrates A Birthday

"One should not forget that a painting is a painting—that is to say, another reality." Instead of trying to decipher it, pay homage to the man

who said it by checking out the eponymous exhibition celebrating the 100th birthday of the late Belgian surrealist Paul Delvaux.

March 21–July 27 at the **Royal Museums of Fine Arts**.

Main entrance: Museum of Ancient Art, 3, Rue de la Régence, **Brussels**. Info/tickets: 800-223-6108 or 212-758-8130; www.fine-arts-museum.be. Or visit the Belgian Tourist Office's website: www.visitbelgium.com.

—Sonny de Gato

Takin' Home The Ritz (From London)

No longer is it enough to have merely visited the swank **Ritz Hotel** in the heart of London's fashionable West End on Green Park: Some people, unfortunately, must prove it—with a souvenir or two.

At the center of collectors' attention are the hotel's distinctive French-made, 3-inch-by-3-inch porcelain ashtrays that bear the Ritz name and stylish coat of arms. And these objets d'art at one time were disappearing in record quantities, according to General

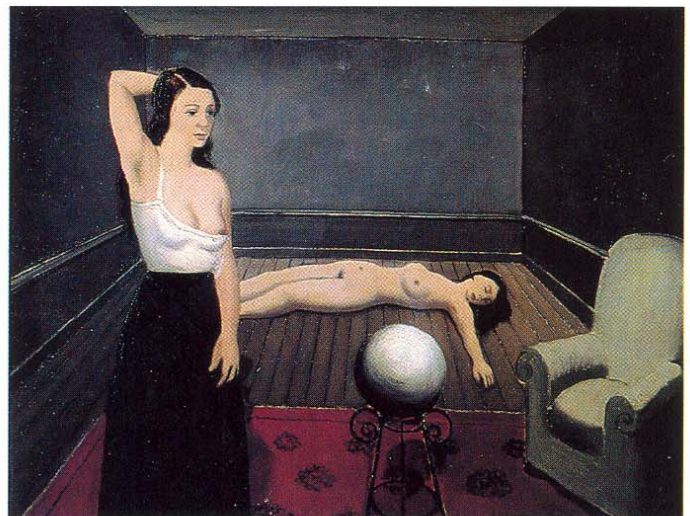


Manager Luc Delafosse. (Of course, you'll never find an ashtray in *your* purse or attaché case.)

Outpacing the ashtrays, however, have been the hotel's decorative menus that detail the Ritz's sumptuous high-tea offerings at its Palm Court restaurant. Being a sought-after commodity, it seems, is a Ritz tradition. Even for ashtrays and menus.

The Ritz Hotel, 150 Piccadilly, London; 44-171-493-8181. Rates: US\$359–\$1,580.

—Judy DiEdwardo



Interior with Silver Ball, Paul Delvaux, 1935

Tune In And Be Happy!

Residents of the tri-state region of New York, Connecticut and New Jersey can enjoy a different sort of happy hour each Saturday simply by turning on the radio. "The Happy Hour with Paul Pacult and Gary Regan"—America's first talk-radio program dedicated to the world of wine, beer and spirits—airs from 4 to 5 p.m. on WEVD-AM 1050. Pacult, who pens the "Good Libations" column for *Sky*, and Regan are recognized experts in an area that heretofore has been untapped by the radio gods—unless you count that inane sports-talk chatter about the latest star athlete to be busted for DWI. Info: 914-534-4298.

—Sonny de Gato

