

COMING UP

ART



See Elaine Wilson's oil paintings from Saturday, Jan. 5-Feb. 2 at Cary Gallery, 226 Walnut, Rochester. Opening Reception for her exhibit, *Geognosie*, is 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5.

FILM



The Royal Tenenbaums, starring (from left) Ben Stiller, Danny Glover, Gwyneth Paltrow and Anjelica Huston, opens Friday. Check local theaters for show times. Gene Hackman and Bill Murray and Owen Wilson also star in this comedy about an unusual family and an unexpected reunion.

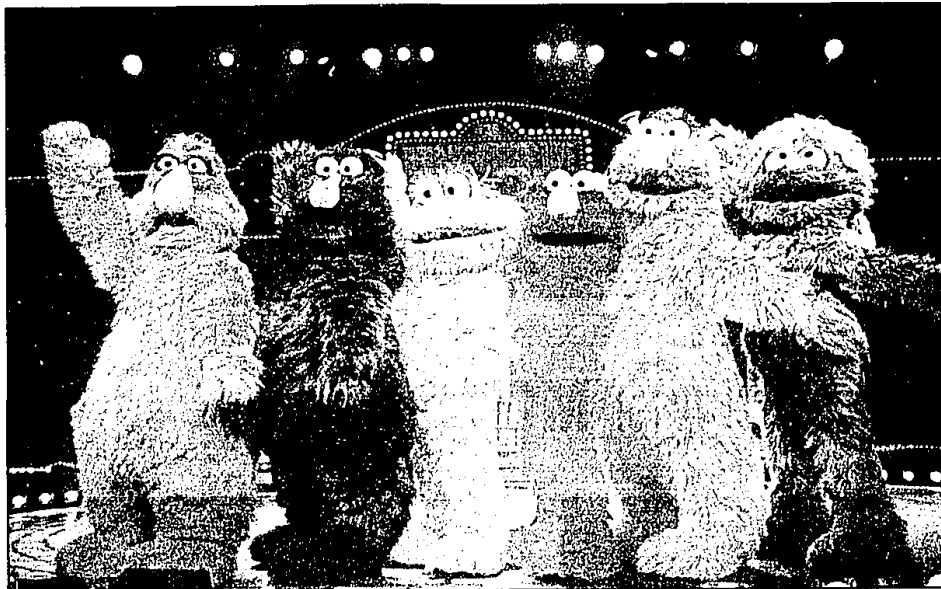
SCIENCE



Everest returns to the IMAX Dome Theatre at the Detroit Science Center for a limited, one-month engagement. The film opens Saturday, Jan. 5. Call the center at (313) 877-8400 for show times. A general adult ticket for the IMAX Dome is \$4, with a \$7 science center admission. Children, 2-12 and senior citizens, pay \$4 for the movie and \$6 admission to the center.



Koko Taylor and Blues Machine perform Saturday at The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale, as a part of the city's first annual three-day blues festival. Doors open at 7 p.m. for Taylor's concert. Tickets are \$25 and benefit the Detroit Blues Society. Available 10 a.m.-5 p.m., through Friday at The Magic Bag box office or through Ticketmaster outlets and by calling (248) 645-6666. For more information about the festival, held in 12 Ferndale locations, call the Ferndale DDA at (248) 646-1632.



A chorus line: Sesame Street Live brings its latest Broadway-style musical to the Fox Theatre.

Monster Mania

Sesame Street Gang Ask 'Why can't we be friends?'

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Big Bird seems distracted. He's running late for a rehearsal of the latest live Sesame Street production *Let's Be Friends*. Elmo, Zoe and Cookie Monster are all waiting for him in a van that will take them to the theater in Bethlehem, Pa. It's one of the stops before the Sesame Street gang arrive at the Fox Theatre in Detroit on Jan. 24.

"Sorry," says Mitchell Garrett, a.k.a. Big Bird. "We were just getting ready to leave. It's been hectic."

Putting on a Broadway-style musical is never easy, especially when dancing across the stage as a big, yellow bird for 80 minutes with only one intermission. Garrett compares the theatrical treat to a kid's rock show with a chorus line of red,

Let's Be Friends

What: Sesame Street's Elmo and Zoe find the more friends the merrier when they start an exclusive club.
When: Thursday, Jan. 24 to Feb. 3
Where: Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward, Detroit
Tickets: \$10, \$14, \$18 with limited VIP seats: (248) 439-1515. For information, visit the Web site at www.sesamestreetlive.com

blue and orange monsters dancing alongside their feathered best friend. As usual, the Sesame Street characters have a lot of fun while delivering a message.

Please see MONSTERS, B2



Friends for life: Big Bird helps Elmo and Zoe start a friendship club for orange and red monsters only to discover the more the merrier.

BOOKS

Take a winter tour of sculptures around town

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
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Marcy Heller Fisher wished every child could experience the magic of Marshall M. Fredericks sculpture like she did when growing up.

Everywhere Fisher went with her parents, Fredericks' animals and figures decorated the landscape — from the big city of Detroit to Royal Oak, Birmingham and beyond.

Then in 1995 she walked into the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum at Saginaw Valley State University and rediscovered the wonder of the artist's work. She'd come to the museum with her sister Barbara Heller, head conservator at the Detroit Institute of Arts, while attending a conference. Fisher left with not only the perfect subject for the book she wanted to write but a way to introduce children to the art of Fredericks.

The Outdoor Museum: The Magic of Michigan's Marshall Fredericks follows a mother and little girl as they travel from Belle Isle to the Detroit Zoo and Cranbrook Educational Park in search of Fredericks' Two Bears, Pierdactyls, and The Lion and Mouse. Fisher



Sculpture tour: Marcy Heller Fisher takes readers on a sculpture tour in her children's book, *The Outdoor Museum: The Magic of Michigan's Marshall M. Fredericks*.

encourages readers to develop their own wonderful winter tour after enjoying the book which was illustrated by Grand Rapids artist Christine Collins Woomer and published by Wayne State University Press. The Smithsonian American Art Museum and Heritage Preservation liked the idea of turning art into a family outing so much they awarded it an SOSI (Save Outdoor Sculpture) Achievement Award Honorable Mention.

"I was so excited about the museum I'd written the book in my head coming back from the museum that day," said Fisher, a Bloomfield Hills resident. "It's everything I remember from my childhood. *The Boy and Bear*, *The Spirit of Detroit*, *Leaping Gazelle*. Everywhere we went was art and culture. I really did think he was in charge of decorating the city."

Initially, Fredericks turned down Fisher's idea for the book. Once she told him it was for children, he literally threw open the doors of his Birmingham home and Royal Oak studio. Even though the book remained unpublished until after his death at age 90 in 1998, Fredericks was able to read about Abby skating across Quanton Lake to peek at

the mysterious garden of "greenish-colored animals."

"He loved the story, he was thrilled," said Fisher. "The studio visit was really fun. I took Abigail, my daughter, with me. We spent hours there. On top of the fridge was the original sketch model for *The Spirit of Detroit*. It was exciting to be so close to everything. I felt privileged to be there. Marshall Fredericks was a tall, springy guy. He was humorous. We spent an afternoon in his garden. There must have been 50 sculptures in it. Everywhere you turned there was a duck or seagull. I shot 14 rolls of film there alone."

Fisher spent a year photographing Fredericks' sculpture at various sites around the state of Michigan. Abigail, then age 8, posed for the images which Woomer would later turn into paintings. It was a long tour from Interlochen to Rochester Hills, Farmington and Southfield in search of the work. Fredericks spent more than 60 years creating public art for government buildings, libraries, churches and schools. He especially loved doing animals. He and wife Rosalind had five children of their own.

Please see TOUR, B2