

Funny man



Jimmy Fallon performed at Rudder Theatre Wednesday night. Fallon is a cast member of "Saturday Night Live." Freudian Slip and Barry Sobel opened the show.

Earthquake rocks Seattle

SEATTLE (AP) — A powerful earthquake rocked the Northwest on Wednesday, shattering windows, showering bricks onto sidewalks and sending terrified crowds running into the streets of Seattle and Portland, Ore. At least 25 people were injured, none critically.

The strongest quake to hit Washington state in 52 years temporarily shut down the Seattle airport, knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of people, cracked the dome atop the state Capitol in Olympia and briefly trapped about 30 people atop a swaying Space Needle in Seattle.

"Everyone was panicked," said Paulette DeRooy, who scrambled onto a fire escape in a Seattle office building.

The magnitude-6.8 quake hit at 10:54 a.m. and was centered 35 miles southwest of Seattle, according to the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo.

Experts said its depth — in a fault about 30 miles underground — spared the Northwest catastrophic damage. Damage was relatively light in the highly developed region with more than 3 million residents. In recent years, millions of dollars have been spent to remodel schools, buildings and highways to protect

against earthquakes.

In contrast, the magnitude-6.7 Northridge quake in Los Angeles in 1994 struck just 11 miles underground. It caused an estimated \$40 billion in damage and killed 72 people.

The Northwest quake was felt in Vancouver and other parts of British Columbia and in southern Oregon, 300 miles away. Buildings in downtown Portland, 140 miles from the epicenter, swayed for nearly a half-minute and crowds gathered on street corners to talk about the quake.

Officials evacuated the city's Multnomah County Courthouse, which has not had a major retrofitting for earthquakes.

"I thought, 'If this building goes, we're doomed.' I didn't know what to do. Do I hide under my desk or what?" said Dee Stewart, 46, a judicial assistant who works on the fifth floor.

Of the 25 people treated at Seattle's Harborview Medical Center, five had serious injuries, a spokeswoman said. Authorities said two had been struck by falling debris.

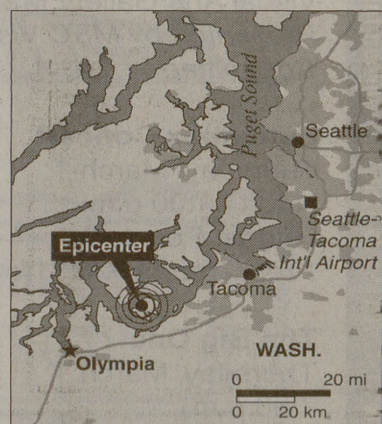
President Bush, on a two-day trip to sell his budget, said he had asked the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency,

Joe Allbaugh, to travel to Seattle to offer help.

"Our prayers are with those who were injured and their families and with the many thousands of people whose lives have been disrupted," Bush said.

Quake jolts the Pacific Northwest

A magnitude-6.8 earthquake struck the Northwest on Wednesday. Its epicenter was northeast of Olympia, Wash. The quake was felt across the region and into Canada.



Frozen toddler in critical condition

Eau Claire, Wis. (AP) — A year-old boy found lying in a snowbank and not breathing had an outside in subzero cold for up four hours, authorities said.

Les Hynek remained in critical condition Wednesday at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. "He's better. He's awake. I was too late when I found him," the boy's father Mark Hynek said. "I kept on praying for him and pinning for the best."

Elsewhere, a 13-month-old girl whose body was partially frozen whose heart had stopped during a night outside in the cold at Edmonton, Alberta, was playful and king and had been moved out of

intensive care, hospital officials said.

Les was wearing only a diaper, flannel pajamas and a sweat shirt when he wandered from his home on his parents' dairy farm sometime after 3 a.m. Tuesday. His father found him unconscious almost four hours later about 50 feet from the house, Eau Claire County Sheriff's Sgt. John Vogler said.

The National Weather Service said the temperature that night in Eau Claire fell to 4 below zero. Vogler said he had heard that the boy's body temperature was about 65 degrees soon after he was found, but there was no immediate confirmation.

Les had wanted to watch a video and his father, Mark Hynek, told investigators he must have fallen asleep in a chair after he started the videotape. He awoke at 6:40 a.m., realized his son was missing and found him outside, Vogler said.

The boy first was taken to Luther Hospital in Eau Claire, where he was revived after being hooked up to a blood-warming machine, Sheriff's Capt. David Schultz said. He later was transferred to a hospital at the Mayo Clinic.

"Frankly, from what I learned at the scene, I certainly didn't hold out hope, but since then, the situation has certainly brightened," Vogler said.

News in Brief

Violence erupts on Mardi Gras

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Mardi Gras revelry turned violent early Wednesday in Seattle, Philadelphia and Fresno, Calif., with crowds fighting, smashing storefronts and looting.

Police fought back on horseback and with pepper spray.

Some 100 people were arrested in Philadelphia. About 70 people were injured in Seattle,

and two of them were described as severely critical condition with head injuries, one from a fall off an overpass.

In Fresno, one person was stabbed as an unruly crowd stormed the city's Tower District, overturning portable toilets, smashing windows and hurling bottles at police officers.

By contrast, the more notorious pre-Lenten partying in New Orleans was largely peaceful, even though upward of a million people — many in costume and some in little more than a smile — had jammed the

streets as Fat Tuesday jiggled and giggled its way into Ash Wednesday.

Philadelphia revelers smashed windows and dozens of people looted a liquor store and other businesses on South Street, a trendy stretch of bars and shops at the edge of downtown. It took police about an hour to clear the street.

"Disappointing is the only word I can think to say," city managing director Joe Martz said early Wednesday as he walked down the street strewn with trash, broken glass, empty beer cans and a few lace bras. "It's disgraceful."

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