

Mariners 3
Twins 2

Strong relief again from
Seattle bullpen

Sports 1C



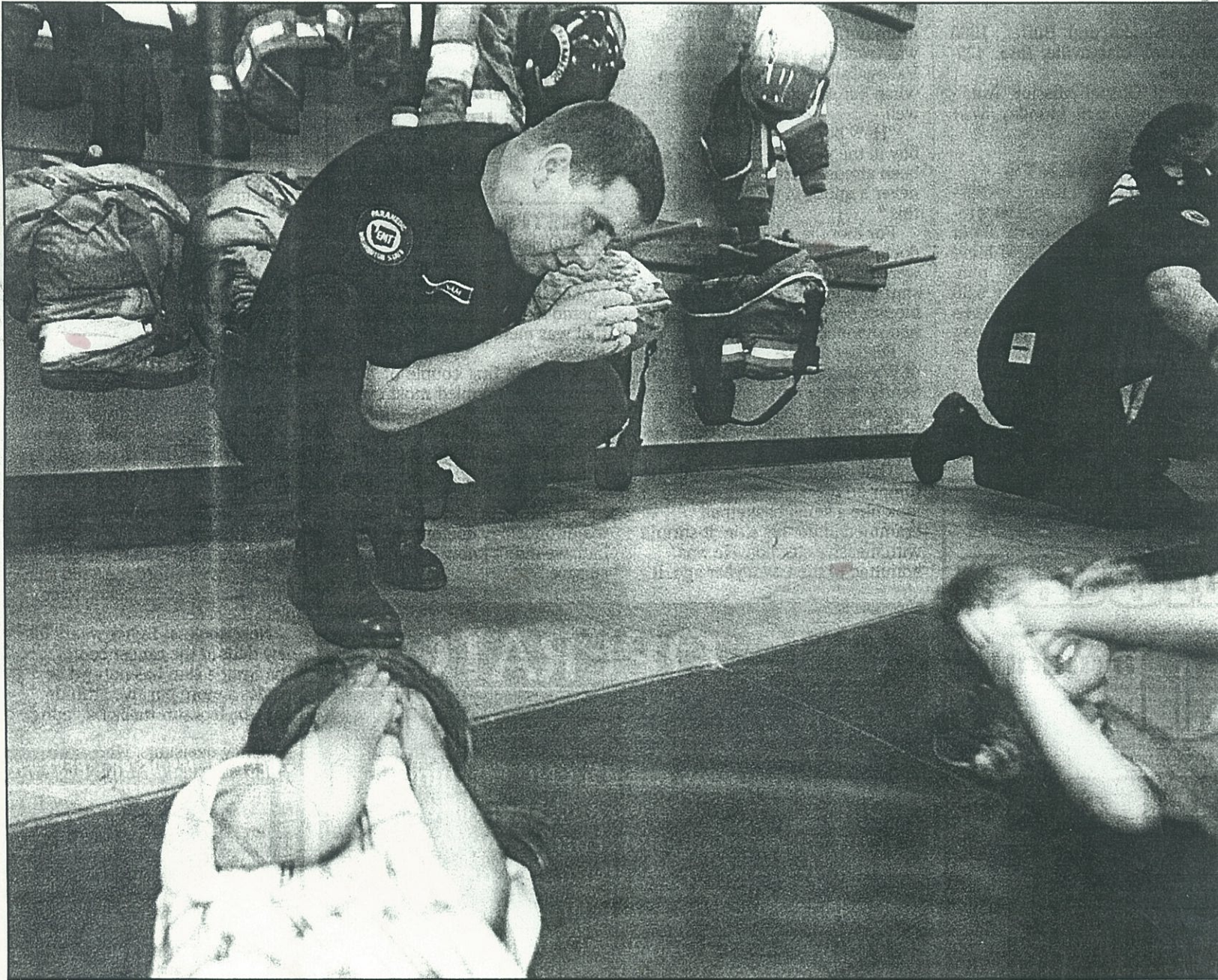
The Herald

FRIDAY

Serving SNOHOMISH
and ISLAND COUNTIES

APRIL 17, 1998

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HERO

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Crayons and books, and unsafe items that are not toys, like the stove, matches and lighters. Kits have a firefighter paper doll to dress who comes complete with his own Dalmatian.

Mascot Hero is proudly seen on many of the items. He also stars in a children's fire safety video.

Picou said as part of its role, the BIC Corp. pays for the program and teaches it across the nation to teachers and firefighters who, in turn, teach it to children in their communities. More than 23,000 kits are in use in the U.S. and Canada.

And with the help of local firefighters, children also are taught to "stop, drop, and roll" if their clothing catches fire. They are taught to crawl through smoke by using gray crepe paper streamers as mock smoke.

Marshall, a firefighter in Lake Stevens, said the program works because kids remember it.

"Kids are like sponges," he said. "They soak up information. And if you repeat it and emphasize it enough, they remember it."

Kits also are sent home with families with children who might have been seen playing with matches or starting fires, Marshall said.

Thursday's celebration included a big cake with a Dalmatian's face on it. Some students even dressed for the day, carrying "101 Dalmatians" umbrellas and jackets.

And Jessyka Garka, 3, wore her Dalmatian sweater.

"This is my Hero," she said.

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Lake Stevens firefighter Perry Putnam instructs Victoria Danielson (left) and Alysia Brengman as they practice the "stop, drop and roll" fire safety exercise at Snohomish County Fire District 8 headquarters.

TOP DOGS

Lake Stevens preschool wins fire safety contest

By **LESLIE MORIARTY**
Herald Writer

LAKE STEVENS — Everybody's a hero when they know fire safety rules.

Children celebrated their own fire safety "Hero" Thursday at Snohomish County Fire District 8 headquarters.

Hero is the new name of the Dalmatian puppy mascot for the BIC Corp.'s "Play Safe, Be Safe" children's fire safety program. The puppy's name was suggested by a group of children at Sunnyside Preschool in Lake Stevens in a nationwide contest.

"The kids started with names like 'Fire Saver Dog,' and 'People Saver Dog,'" said Cindy Brengman, director and teacher at the preschool. "And one student wanted to name

the puppy after his dog at home, Tasha.

"But my family had just gotten a new puppy, and in that process, we learned that the best name for a dog is a one-word, two-syllable name. So when Hero came up, the class voted on it and decided Hero was their entry."

Although the name Hero was submitted by several of the 335 schools that entered, Sunnyside Preschool was the first — and youngest — group to submit the name.

So BIC Corp. dubbed the class of 25 preschoolers as the winner.

For that, they got a new television and VCR for the school, and a pizza party Thursday after Fred Picou of BIC came from Portland to congratulate them.

To add to the festivities, student Racheal Joplin, 3, and her mother Charlotte brought their Dalmatian puppy to the fire station. Although that puppy doesn't have a name yet,

the Joplins are considering Hero in honor of the winning entry.

Brengman, with the cooperation of Robert Marshall of Fire District 8, has taught the "Play Safe, Be Safe" program to her students for the past three or four years. She was alerted to the contest through a newsletter she received from BIC. BIC Corp., with headquarters in Connecticut, is a leading manufacturer and distributor of writing instruments, lighters and shavers.

"It's a wonderful program," she said. "The kids find it a creative and fun way to learn about fire safety."

The program includes kits for kids which contain stickers, flash cards and card games to help teach the rules of fire safety. The children also are shown pictures of safe toys, like

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