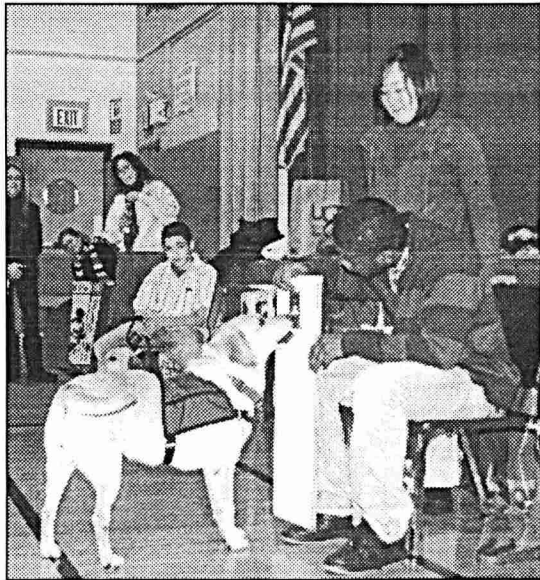


Service Dogs Go To School

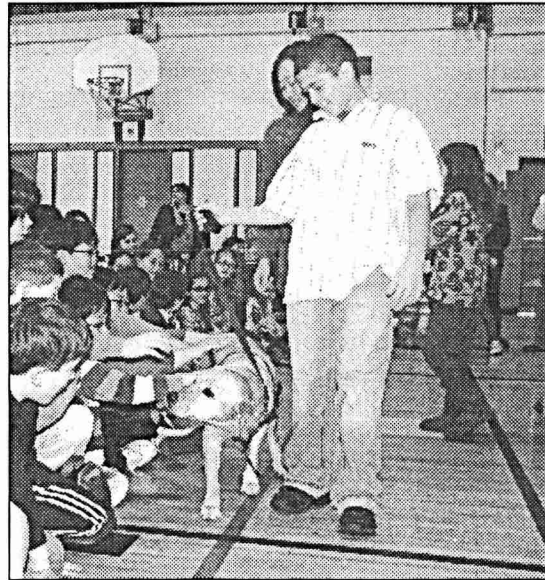
The students at Village Elementary School in Syosset got a special treat when two **MercyFirst** residents came to visit and brought along their four legged friends. The MercyFirst residents Angel and Yvenel are part of MercyFirst's dog training program, where they learn to train service dogs for people with disabilities. The trainers teach the dogs about 80 commands such as opening doors, picking things up, retrieving

medications for a client and even turning on light switches. All the students watched as Yvenel had his dog, Glory, turn on a light switch and then bring him a water bottle! After the skills demonstration, Angel walked around the room with his therapy dog, Mitsu. The students were invited to pet the therapy dog, Mitsu, whose job is to provide emotional and physical therapy while the other dog, Glory, could not be pet. She is a

service dog who provides assistance to someone with a disability. This can include people in wheelchairs; people with severe mental problems such as autism or retardation; and people with mobility problems. The students were really excited to have the dogs visit them at school and enjoyed watching the trainers show off what they have learned in the program.



Dog Trainer Yvenel demonstrates how his dog Glory can turn on the light switch!



Dog Trainer Angel walks Mitsu around the room for all the kids to pet.

