

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Twin brothers Jonathon (centre) and Richard Turner would rather be in class but they were recently sent home after a measles outbreak at their school. Their mother Marlene Turner of Gowland Crescent refused vaccinations for the boys, which means they temporarily cannot attend school.

Six-year-olds banned from school

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The vaccination, which also helps protect children from diphtheria, mumps, polio, rubella and tetanus, is 95 per cent effective, says the medical officer of health.

Mrs. Turner says she believes the risks of vaccines outweigh the benefits. Research has indicated that children can develop problems as severe as brain damage after receiving them.

She and her husband Ken are willing to take the risk of exposing their children to measles, which Mrs. Turner says many vaccinated children contract.

Because she pays taxes, Mrs. Turner says her children

should either be allowed in school or an alternative system of education — such as a tutor — should be provided by the government.

Dave Katz, the Halton Board of Education's superintendent of schools in the region's north, said the children's removal from Sam Sherratt is part and parcel of Mrs. Turner's decision to deny the vaccination.

"She has a choice," he said. "If she refuses, we don't have any alternative (form of education available)."

There is no provision in the Education Act which states an alternative form of education must be provided in Mrs. Turner's situation.

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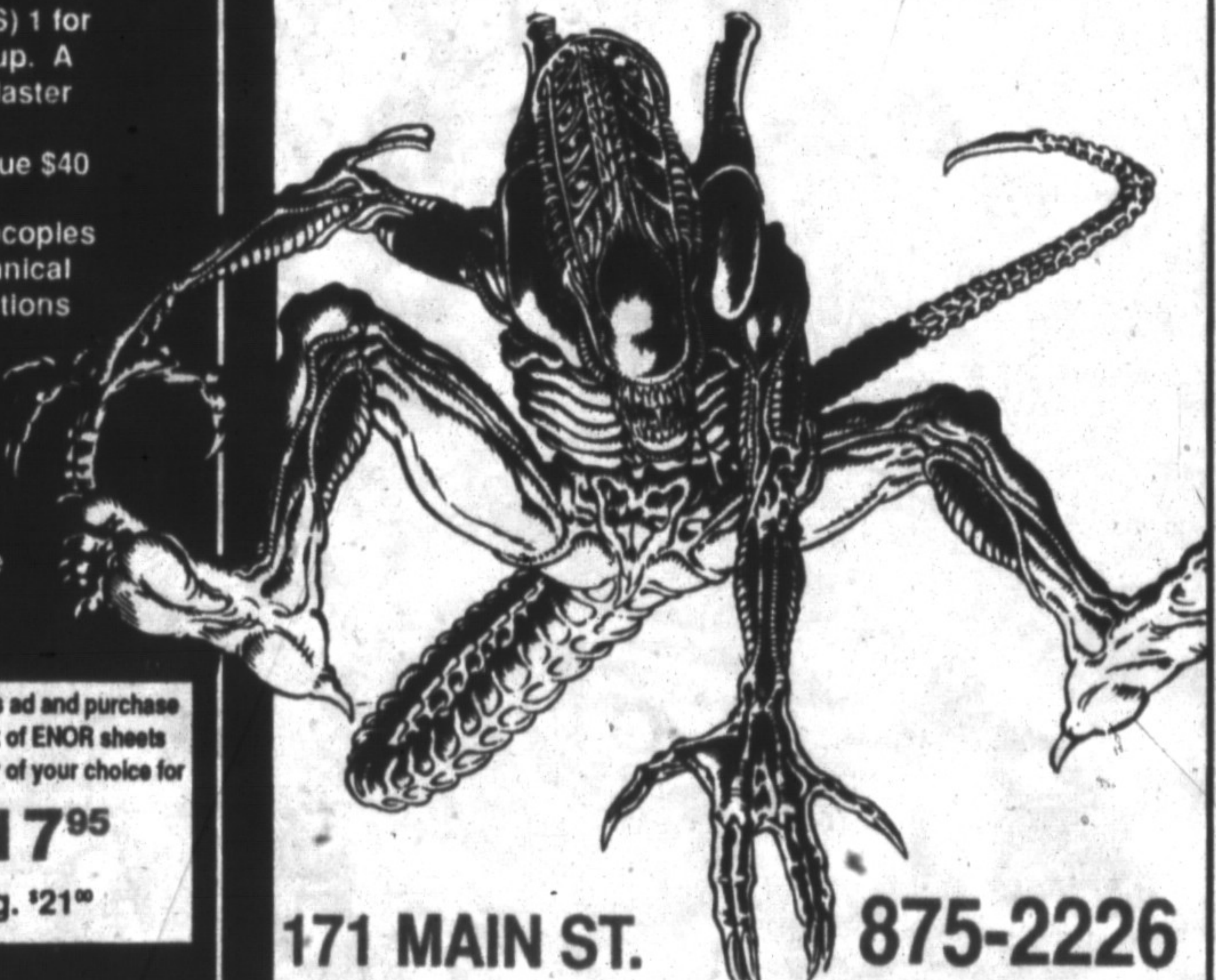
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