Region's employment program puts people 'on track'

By Paloma Migone
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Halton Region celebrated a milestone 20 years in the making.

The Region's pre-employment and life skills program, On Track, founded in 1988, turned 20 and Halton highlighted its success alongside the program's funding partners — Ontario's Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the Halton District School Board — at the Halton Regional Centre April 18.

"On Track is a program about people. It's about supporting people wanting to turn their lives around by providing participants with important employment skills," said Regional Chair Gary Carr. "We are working with them to be successful in their search for employment."

The program serves 100 people a year and has helped more than 1,800 participants over the past 20 years, of which 75 per cent received further training, education or permanent

employment. Within nine months, half of the program's participants were ensured employment, making a "difference in the lives of ordinary Ontarians," said MPP Kevin Flynn, who received a plaque from On Track as a representative of the Province.

"It really testifies that we look out for each other. It really speaks about who we are as human beings," he said.

On Track was built to help unemployed and low-income individuals in the region, offering three educational components: employment and life skills, job search and maintenance skills, and academics.

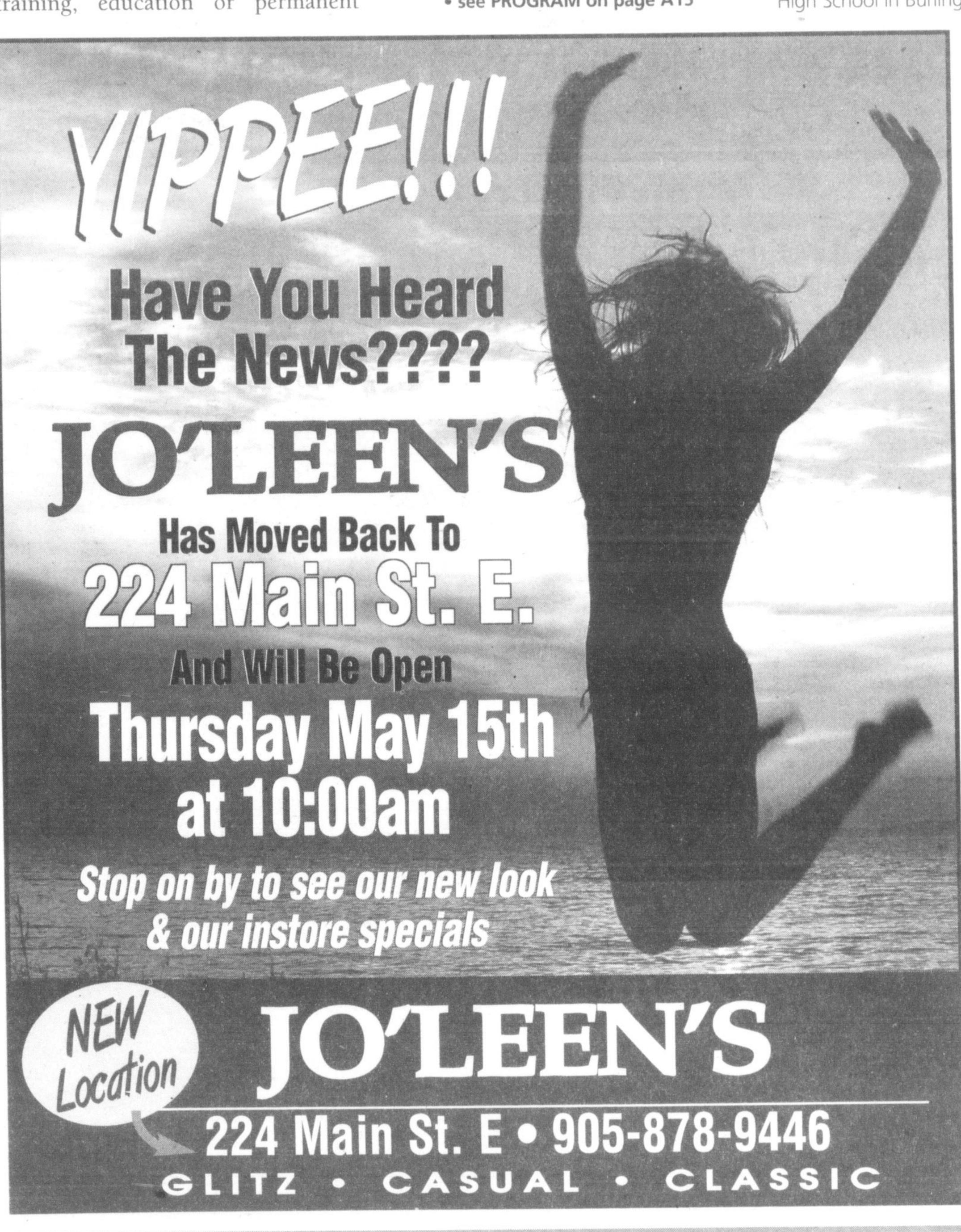
The program has classes on career planning, life skills, market trends, computer skills and high school credits at two sites, E.C. Drury High School in Milton and at Gary Allan High School in Burlington. The team consists of a coordinator, two life skills coaches, job coaches, a program co-ordinator and three Halton District School Board

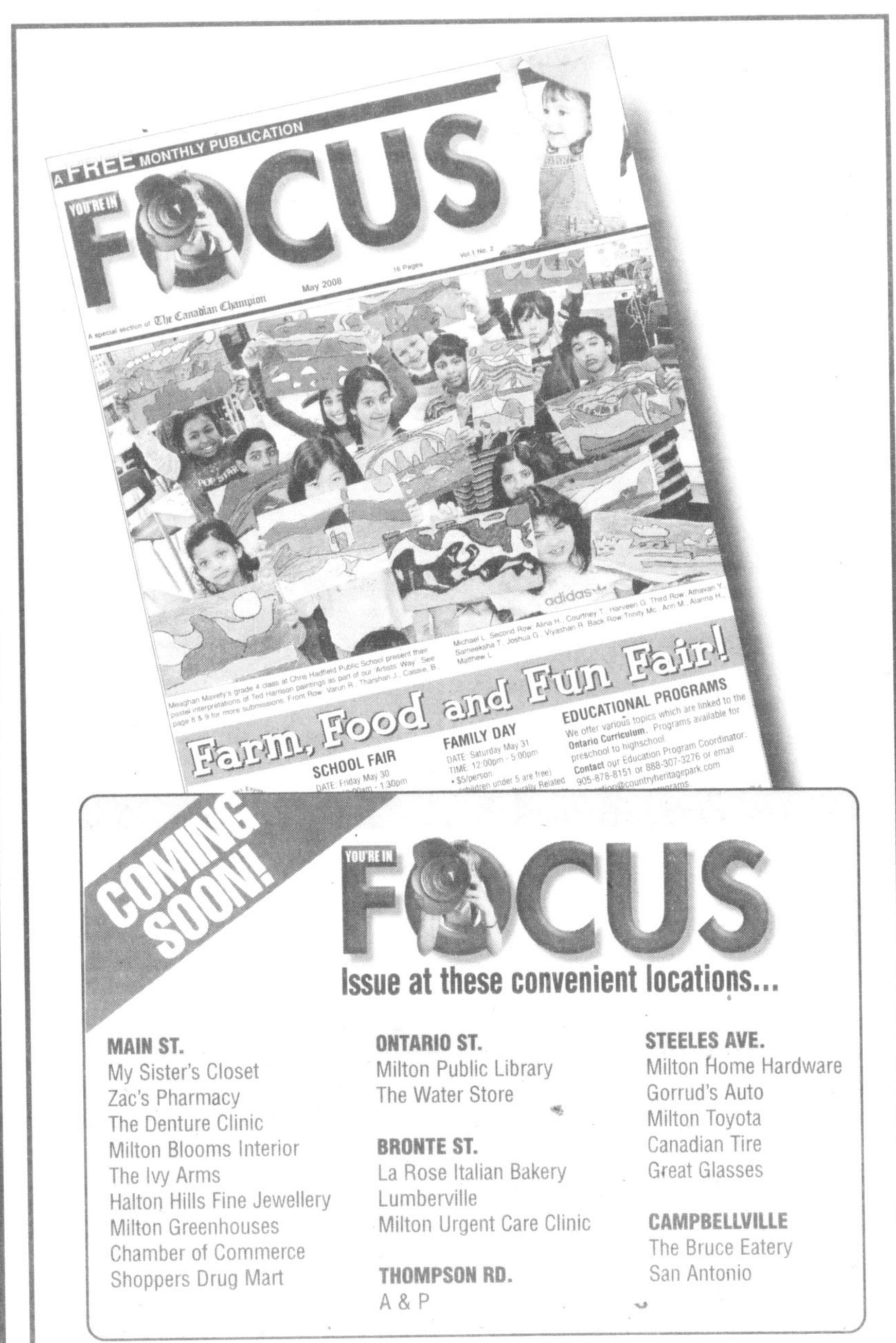
see PROGRAM on page A15



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MARKING A MILESTONE: From left, Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders, director income and employment services; Adelina Urbanski, commissioner, social and community services; Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr; Claire Kirkpatrick of Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities; MPP Kevin Flynn and David Boag, principal Gary Allan High School in Burlington celebrate On Track's 20th anniversary.







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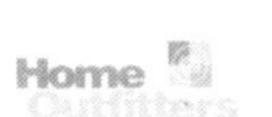












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