



Bexar County Line

Best of the Double Aughts

www.BexarCountyLine.com



by

[Kramer Wetzel](#) of astrofish.net

— 1 —

BexarCountyLine.com



Original Web Masthead:

For a writer, there's a relative paucity of words about this site. It's a photo-weblog. That's all. The guiding principle is easy: digital images from within the confines of the Bexar County Line, nothing staged, nothing expensive. No messing with the images, either, just simple, point-and-click stock. New image every day. There's an expectant glee when hitting the county line, and being a [perpetual tourist](#) helps.

Enjoy!

[-Kramer Wetzel](#)

www.BexarCountyLine.com

P.O. Box 830657

San Antonio, TX 78283

ISSN Library of Congress: 2150-685X

ISBN: 1453764178

EAN-13: 9781453764176

Laeti edimus qui nos subigant!



Introduction Preface Colophon Masthead

I was living and working in Austin, when I adopted a habit of carrying a small, cheap camera with me. That camera, was, at first, for recording catch-and-release fish. The point of a cheap camera is to have something, ready and able to take pictures when those images present themselves.

The site "BexarCountyLine.com" was born out of a backlog of tourist images. It's never been anything more than a side-project that's proven to be hugely amusing, even gratifying.

With a short introduction, there should be a long title. The title could read, "San Antonio, 365." There's been an image a day for several years, and there is no shortage of material in sight.

San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, sits at a unique crossroads as cultures, histories, stories, and environment shape the town and its confines. People, places, things. Sites, sights, smells, and sounds of one of the oldest cities in the New World. Old and new cultures bump and grind in a miasma new, and frequently undefined compounds and elements.



Table of Contents

<i>Keep San Antonio Lame</i>	6
<i>Kill Your TV</i>	8
<i>Our Lady of Flour Tortillas</i>	10
<i>Longhorn Ram</i>	12
<i>Vee Dub Van</i>	14
<i>Made in the USA</i>	16
<i>Fred's Ice House</i>	18
<i>Humble Oils</i>	20
<i>The Malt House</i>	22
<i>Virgo</i>	24
<i>Amols Clown</i>	26
<i>Puddle</i>	28
<i>Archbishop Only</i>	30
<i>Pepper Porn</i>	32
<i>Mondrain</i>	34
<i>Jupiter's Espresso</i>	36
<i>The Art of non-art</i>	38
<i>Thin Man</i>	40
<i>Virgen de Guadalupe, Street Art</i>	42
<i>No Parking Fish</i>	44
<i>Car-Vel Skateland</i>	46
<i>Coin Laundry</i>	50
<i>Wed. Cumbia</i>	52
<i>Chicken Fight</i>	54
<i>Smart Car Tower Reflection</i>	56
<i>Ruby Ann Cleaners</i>	60
<i>Big Red and Barbacoa everyday</i>	62
<i>Travis Park Methodist</i>	66
<i>December Fog: Tower of the Americas</i>	68



<http://www.bexarcountyline.com/?p=14>





Keep San Antonio Lame

May 26, 2007: It's a small "Keep San Antonio Lame" sticker observed on a small Vespa (type) scooter. Liked both the image, the background, and in keeping with the original premise, it was a cheap camera. Better yet, there's the barest hint, upon close inspection, the barest hint, just a shadow, of an image of person, perhaps with a camera in hand.

I was hitting San Antonio almost weekly, and living in Austin, with its "Keep Austin Weird" mantra.

This sticker kept popping up and seemed the funniest statement. Still is.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=35>





Kill Your TV

June 11, 2007: The color of the wall against a dead TV set that sat there for a week or more, lost and lonely, and in the creep of technology, the TV sets are increasingly regulated to antique stores and junk yards, a memento of the past, a footnote in media's history.

Later on, this image would repeat itself a hundred times over as the theme became the impetus for a book's cover. However, this was the first, a single and abandoned TV set making its sad statement about the headlong rush of technology.

<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=199>





Our Lady of Flour Tortillas

July 2, 2007: The Alameda Museum was new, just opening, and for a short time, this lady was there, in all her regal glory. While she stands atop a stack of pancakes, personally, and with Mi Tierra pretty much next door, the adopted name fits better.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=268>





Longhorn Ram

August 14, 2007: Parked someplace downtown, as I wandered past, the huge longhorns almost dwarfed the massive front end of the truck. It's Texas excess, at its finest. Snapped the image and posted it on the same day, couldn't resist.

There will always be more, as dead cattle skulls make for perfect bumpers and Texans, we love our trucks.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=126>





Vee Dub Van

September 10, 2007: This is a companion piece as there are two images, two frames, but only one is here. The image stuck inside the VW Van is from the Beatles' Abbey Road, and the second window has a Grateful Dead "Steal Your Face" sticker as punctuation.

Van was parked in the back of a coffee shop's lot for, seemed like, years. Never seemed to move. Finally migrated closer to the center of town, but the curious Beatles' placement was always a question.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=343>





Made in the USA

October 30, 2007: South Flores has a cacophony of businesses, in varying degrees of repair. The Party Supply Store is one, with its Jack-in-the-Box Clown sign, a loose arm swinging in the wind.

The apparent visual irony, a box of Federal Mexican flags, clearly labeled "Made in the USA."



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=206>





Fred's Ice House

November 20, 2007: South on Presa, there was a lonely, probably abandoned, bar and grill kind of place. Locally, they are known as "ice houses," dating to shortness of time when ice was a commodity, brokered and bought at ice houses, presumably.

The local lore and stories suggest that ice houses served as community gathering places, more than just ice and cold beer.

<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=427>





Humble Oils

December 14, 2007: One of my earliest fascinations with San Antonio and its surrounding Bexar County was the Humble Oils station, an original, possibly historic structure, in the shadow of a freeway, a few meters south of downtown.

Bricked up, it's still a common photographic target as it was, at one time, perhaps the last extant "Filling Station" like it – in the whole world.

<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=272>



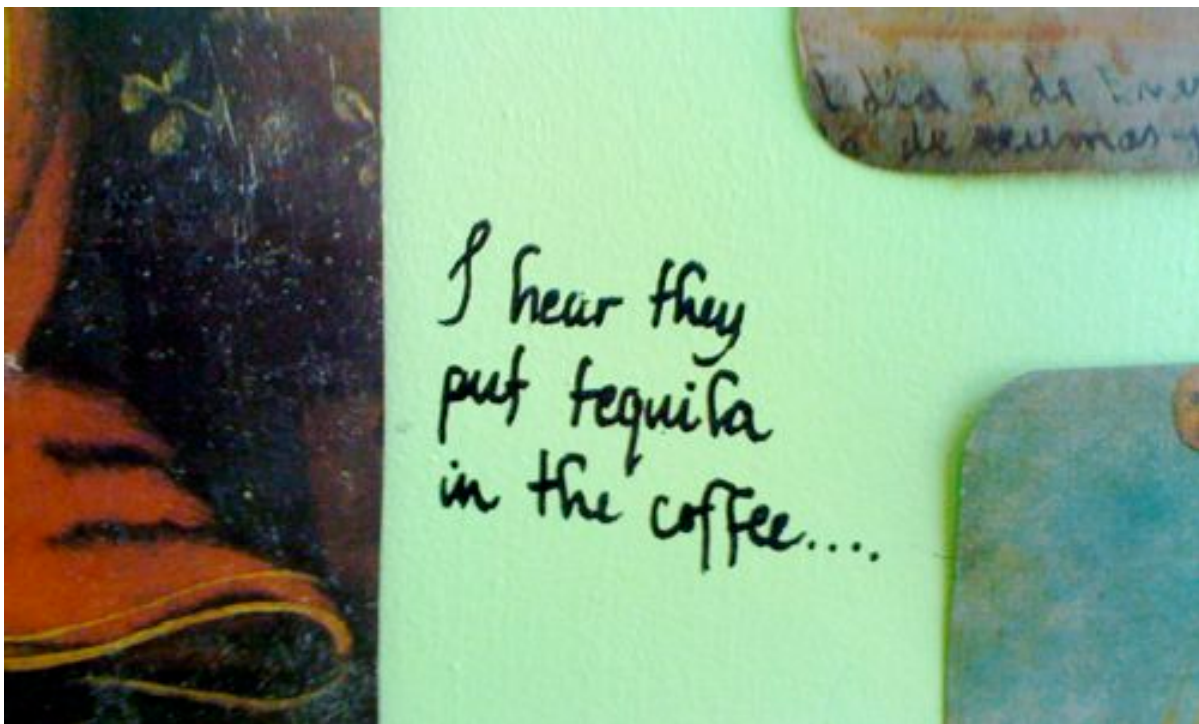


The Malt House

January 15, 2008: Like a bug frozen in amber for eons, the Malt House stands out as another, unique local institution. What captured my attention, at much later date, was a picture by a local artist, and it showed the Malt House some 30 years previous. Not much, if anything at all, had changed.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=612>





Virgo

February 6, 2008: "I hear they put tequila in the coffee," what the inscription said. Read the writing on the wall. It was part of story that never got properly translated. Still, as an image, it's highly evocative of the nature of San Antonio, and surrounding Bexar County.

<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=630>





Amols Clown

March 13, 2008: It's a South Flores institution, the holiday store, the old-school party supply place. Previously alluded to, as well. Part historical, the clown has been slightly refurbished and repositioned, and the building was painted, on the outside.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=743>





Puddle

April 5, 2008: It was the first of a theme, reflections in water. Puddles. Sometimes less successful, but this one capture was a stunning hit. To add some depth, it's in a SAWS parking lot: San Antonio Water Service. The concept was to find an image that is reflection in some part of the captured image.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=903>





Archbishop Only

May 16, 2008: The sign on the side of the San Fernando Cathedral intrigued me to the point of another reflective capture. There was some deeper meaning to the symbolism, but it escapes me now.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=579>





Pepper Porn

June 17, 2008: While the inspiration was drawn from several sources, this is a favorite example of the genre. Scotch Bonnet Peppers, in the grocery store. The original observation was that the local stores carry a larger variety of peppers than previously encountered in other parts of Texas. Image obsession begat "pepper porn."



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=1040>





Mondrain

July 15, 2008: The name, the title, is based on the work of an abstract modernist, and one of his later works reminded me, in an oblique way of the sign outside "The Skull." Lake Calaveras is part of the San Antonio River Authority parks system. In Spanish, Calaveras means skull, hence the lake's nickname among fishermen. The image is a dated piece, as there are more regulations now.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=605>





Jupiter's Espresso

August 22, 2008: In France, I encountered some of the finest espresso ever. In London, there was a local chain that produces "the finest espresso this side of Milan," so the advertising claim goes. Reasonable enough claim, and I would substantiate the claim. For a short time, San Antonio boasted an equal to the European ideal espresso. The evocative image serves as a book cover, and this was another image of an afternoon libation that was on par with the finest in the world over.

The capture and photo processing just further highlights the original premise and the driving guidelines.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=662>





The Art of non-art.

September 18, 2008: a South Flores staple, the building gets tagged, the owner paints over, and the cycles go onward. The building itself is of huge, to some, historical consequence, being an original, old-fashioned, neighborhood-run grocery store. The owner lived across the street.

The non-art of graffiti cover-up sparked a whole separate field of inquiry. The texture of this one building, too, that adds to the color.

<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=1518>





Thin Man.

October 24, 2008: Halloween is second behind Xmas in retail spending. In San Antonio, the heavy indigenous influence sees Dia de las Muertos as important and equally, if not more, celebrated.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=739>





Virgen de Guadalupe, Street Art.

November 28, 2008: The image was left over, culled, cropped, clipped and finally published again. The location was South Flores, and it was an abandoned building that got turned into pricey (fashionable) inner-city dwellings.

Before the conversion, there was folk art, visible from the street. Captured on older hardware, not a high-resolution image, the clip was shifted through various formats, and it showed up again, as classic example of a piece of art that sets San Antonio apart.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=380>





No Parking Fish

December 5, 2008: The building is gone, making this a mere ghost of a location, but even when the site was still occupied, the last tenant, a seafood restaurant of some ilk, that place was closed and gone.

The original theme was water, and my take was little off-center. However, I stayed well-within the guidelines.

The hue and artwork, though, spoke to a texture of town that was – still seems to be – in a kind of gentle decay while being reborn.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=2201>





Car-Vel Skateland.

January 25, 2009: The real meaning might be lost in the eons of time, the current incantation, though, speaks for itself, as a play land, of sorts, for adults and children. The side of the building is ever-changing in textures from new paint, new schemes, and new exterior decor.

Visible from Interstate 37, along the eastern side, when inbound from the coast, like an iconic reminder of the past, the present, and — one would hope — the future.

More than any other aspects, though, it's the colors.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=2728>





Alpha Hotel.

February 26, 2009: "Stay a Day or a Lifetime."

There's no valid source for that quote, which means it has nothing to do with that hotel. It's in downtown San Antonio, part of daily excursion. The image, the hotel's front, the sign, and what's there, even now, it's a sad statement about the lack of inner-city resources in an urban center.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=2837>





Coin Laundry.

March 19, 2009: Wash-Go. Coin Laundry. South Flores laundry center.

It's a stunning, to me, example of a bad image made worse. No, it's beautiful, but it's all wrong. Hot spring afternoon, northbound on a south-side street. Glance up. Point and click camera, just a hope and a hint.

The thematic elements were supposed to be sky. South Flores itself has deep historical roots that have to do with the floral shops and green grocers along the avenue, at one time. Hence the name. The street runs from the town's main square, with the rest of the city flowering alongside.

<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=890>



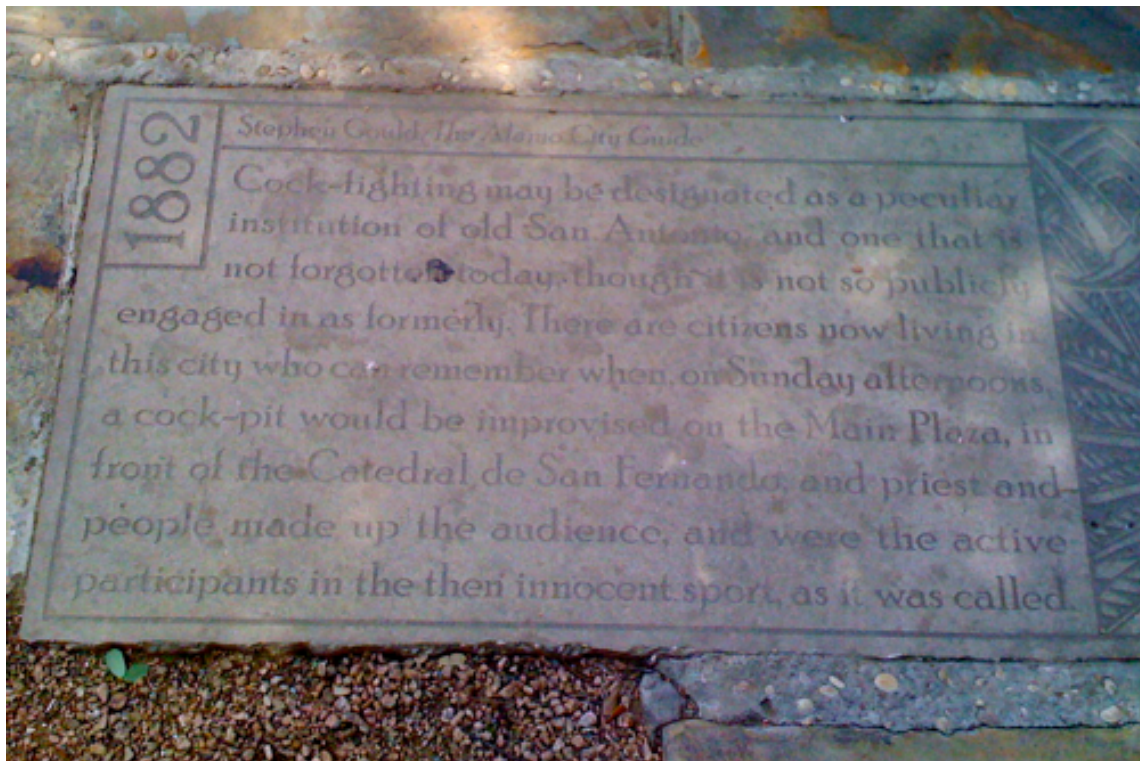


Wed. Cumbia.

April 4, 2009: The front of this bar, next to downtown, almost adjacent to the grand cathedral, this bar's exterior art is a subject unto itself, as it seems to change, practically every day. The purple was stunning, but only lasted a week before it was replaced with a bright, incandescent orange, images elsewhere. Judging from newsprint and other sources, it's also one of the most violent spots to drink. Apparently, despite the federal implication (ATF), alcohol and firearms are not a good combination.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=3890>





Chicken Fight

May 15, 2009: The plaque is part of Main Plaza, in front of the historic San Fernando Cathedral. Literally, in front. Piqued curiosity and black humor as the cockfighting and religious services seemed to go hand-in-hand with no apparent irony.

1882

Cock-fighting may be designated as a peculiar institution of old San Antonio and one that is not forgotten today though it is no so publicly engaged in as formerly. There are citizens now living in this city who can remember when, on Sunday afternoons, a cockpit would be improvised on the Main Plaza, in front of the Cathedral de San Fernando, and priest and people made up the audience and were the active participants in the then innocent sport, as it was called.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=3838>





Smart Car Tower Reflection

June 25, 2009: Coastal clouds and the iconic Tower of the Americas, reflected in a smart car's rear window. Combination of iconic elements that all seem, oddly out-of-place, and properly together, at the same time.

There's an added image bonus, with a 'self-portrait' reflection also present. I tend to not photograph people, as the original title, sort makes the project itself self-explanatory, the sub-text reads, "digital still life in the Alamo City."



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=3531>





Real-life Cartoon.

July 1, 2009: Along San Antonio's fabled, storied, and mythologically infused "Riverwalk," on an afternoon stroll, there it was. Best effort was a phone-camera, The bird is a heron, and there is a small water snake in the bird's beak. Literally, wrapped around the beak.

<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=4236>





Ruby Ann Cleaners.

August 11, 2009: It became a favorite target with its obvious misspelling, but over the course of years and travels, it also became a favorite business as well as a familiar landmark. The owner's tale about family, business, success, failure, life on the street, and the ever-changing face of South Flores, the neighborhood's rise and fall, decline and rebirth, all in single sign.

<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=1125>





Big Red and Barbacoa everyday

September 7, 2009: This particular sign is downtown, but its image and tag line are all over San Antonio. As it turns out, this is a localized treat, making it a selectively regional culinary treat. The meaning is deeper and more personal because a New York literary editor denied that Barbacoa was real. Then, the same stuff caused Liz Taylor's character to faint dead away in the Texas movie epic, "Giant."

The tag line and the sign became popular targets.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=1193>





Tail Fin

October 5, 2009: a simple shot of part of the rear of car from certain era. The rocket-ship time of automotive design, a thin window when style emulated rocket ships, with swoops, circular chrome, and best of all — tail fins. Garnered some ribald comments about my choice in anatomy (of a car).



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=1386>





Travis Park Methodist

November 18, 2009: Sepia Scenes, and as a submissions, it's really an older image, as it's one I passed frequently, at one point in my journeys, almost weekly for a year. The impact, involved as I am with other portions of a similar trade, the implication of the message itself, not the medium, the message's content, carries strength.



<http://www.BexarCountyLine.com/?p=5619>





December Fog: Tower of the Americas

December 17, 2009: Leftover from the 1968 World Hemisfair, certainly as emblematic and iconic to local lore as the Alamo itself, the Tower of the Americas is an integral part of San Antonio's landscape. The early winter fog provided a surreal and ethereal backdrop. It was a rare instance when the tower itself was shrouded in the coastal prairie moisture, on a warm winter's day. Looked much colder than it really was.



Ubiquitous fine print . . . Approved for septic tank use. All astrological information provided is deemed reliable but is not guaranteed. Information on this web site may contain inaccuracies or typographical errors. Information may be changed or updated without notice. Astrofish.net will not share your private information with any company, foreign government, or police agency, even if we are threatened with arrest, torture, or karaoke. This web site does not constitute an offer or contract. Astrofish.net makes no representations whatsoever about other web sites which you may access through this one. Do not copy or reuse these materials without permission. All of the text and graphics on astrofish.net are Copyright ©2006 Kramer Wetzel for astrofish.net. All Rights Reserved. Please do not copy on to disk, redistribute, attach e-mail, or post the graphics or text on any Web page, FTP site, news group, Intranet or mailing list. All “to go” orders subject to a 50 cent upcharge. Possession of a handgun under authority of Texas handgun permit law, Texas Civil Statute, article 4413 (29EE) is prohibited beyond this point. It is recommended that you read the README file before proceeding. Vehicle is independently owned and operated. Do not use this appliance while sleeping. Remember to upload the files in ASCII. Sheriff's Vehicles Only. Exact change only, please. No parking, fire lane. Guest parking behind building. Visitor parking only. Hard hat and safety glasses must be worn in plant area. Nobody deserved that. Commercial redistribution of all FGS Material without license in writing from FGS is strictly prohibited. If you are under 21 years of age or if it is illegal to view astrology material in your community, please leave now. We can't be held responsible for your actions. We are not acting in any way to send you this information; you are choosing to receive it! Continuing further means that you understand and accept responsibility for your own actions, thus releasing the creators of this Web page and our service provider from all liability. No dumping, drains to creek. Floodgate manually operated. Not a construction entrance. Please pay before fueling. State Property:all visitors register at Administration. Photo of “Kramer in Celestial Bass Boat, December 1994, Dallas, Texas,” by J.D. Talasek. No electrons or protons were harmed nor were any Astrologers covered in condiments during the production of this electronic document. Not tested on animals or Scorpios. For Entertainment Purposes Only. If you have a complaint about the sale or service of Alcoholic Beverages in this establishment, please contact the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Must be 18 or over. Not valid where prohibited by law. Some restrictions may apply. No horses in the rooms, please. See dealer for details. Prices subject to change without notice. Availability is limited to supplies on hand. Newton, Apple, Macintosh, PowerPC, and all that other stuff they own are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. All legally registered trademarked stuff belongs to those folks/companies/artificial entities. No extraterrestrials allowed. Capricorns need not apply. You cannot be discriminated against because of race, creed or gender. But you're in trouble if'n you're born outside of Texas. No running or diving. Children under 12 must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Quiet, please. Fishing Guide to the Stars is copyright 1995. And (c) 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999. No part of FGS may be broadcast, rebroadcast or publicly exhibited without the express written consent of the National Football League and Kramer's attorney (the guy writing this). Squad 51, KMG-365. Never order a margarita in a Chinese restaurant. The Toadies rock your world. I could do much better. I'm just holding back. I'm not defensive. Leave me alone. Stop touching me. Matt Lindenburg: Please call home. Do not remove tag under penalty of law. Void where prohibited. Item sold by volume, not weight. Items may shift during flight. Objects in mirror are closer than they appear. This is a test. This is only a test. Had this been an actual emergency, you would have received further instructions on how the world will end. We now return you to your regularly scheduled program. All movie related imagery is copyright their respective owners. No shoes, no shirt, no service. You must be at least THIS TALL to ride this ride. The enclosed materials are provided as a convenience and customer service to the members and supporters of the FGS, and said Materials are not to be relied upon as legal opinions rendered by FGS, or on their behalf, by any of their agents, servants, and/or employees. FGS, its agents, employees, officers, Board of Trustees or assigns, is/are not responsible for the accuracy of the contents of the information supplied herein and make(s) no representation(s) in any regard as to the same. No person or entity is authorized by FGS, its agents, employees, officers, Board of Trustees or assigns, does not warrant or guarantee this information to any extent or for any purpose whatsoever. If itching persists, please see your physician. Please keep your eyes on your own paper. Avoid driving a motor vehicle or operating heavy machinery while reading FGS. Please mind the platform gap. Alight to the left. No returns on sale items. Dry clean only. Household use only. If found, please return to owner. Refrigerate after opening. Do not write in this space. Keep away from children. When the bus is moving do not speak to or distract the driver. The characters depicted herein are fictitious and bear no resemblance to persons living or dead. Caution: Risk of electrical shock; do not open. Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information on this World Wide Web site, mistakes can occur. DO NOT EAT: Ageless Oxygen Absorber. Surgeon General's warning: Smoking is dangerous to your health.



This page is blank.

Don't ask, we're not sure why, either.