

# A Million Death Disaster

By

Gary Welz

Copyright 2001  
Gary Welz  
75 West St. #8F  
New York, NY 10006  
917 593 2537  
[gary@welz.com](mailto:gary@welz.com)

FADE IN:

EXT. PLANET EARTH ROTATING IN SPACE IN THE YEAR 2005 --  
NIGHT TURNING TO DAY

POV of a satellite in polar orbit. It crosses North America  
and rises over the Arctic Ocean.

The pinwheel of a gigantic hurricane is wrapping itself  
tightly around the North Pole and gathering strength.

CUT TO:

EXT. ICE STATION FRANK ON THE ARCTIC CIRCLE -- EVENING

Extreme gusts of wind and snow blast the small, Arctic  
weather station.

The aurora borealis lashes the sky with green, blue and red  
tongues of fire.

Three SCIENTISTS, emerge from the darkness and appear in the  
light of the station. They are roped together, spread 50  
feet apart, and desperately struggling to reach the shelter  
of the concrete station.

A wind gauge reads "150 m.p.h." The thermometer shows "-60  
degrees Fahrenheit."

Bulging veins of lightening penetrate the horizon. Thunder  
cracks like the breaking of huge bones.

SCIENTIST #3 loses his footing, falls and is blown into the  
air.

SCIENTIST #2 holds on while SCIENTIST #3 weaves back and  
forth like a kite on the end of the rope.

SCIENTIST #2  
Eddie! Eddie!

Scientist #2 is lifted into the air by the wind.

SCIENTIST #1 grabs a cable in the snow and crawls on his  
hands and knees to the shelter entrance. He fumbles with a  
latch and pries the door open, but can't get inside. He

struggles desperately to get in, but begins to lose his own footing.

SCIENTIST #1

Oh, my god, no, no.

He looks back the other two and sees them flying in the air. The rope is cutting into him and he can't pull them in closer. His own body is being pulled into the air.

He holds onto a hand rail with one hand and, with his other hand, takes out a knife and begins cutting the line that holds the others to him.

SCIENTIST #1 (CONT'D)

Forgive me, God, please forgive me.

Desperately, he cuts the cord and the other two blow away in the storm.

Scientist #1 crawls inside the station.

CUT TO:

INT. ICE STATION FRANK -- CONTINUOUS

Scientist #1 immediately goes to the radio and tries to get a message through.

SCIENTIST #1

Ice Station Betty this is Ice Station  
Frank, can you hear me? Can you hear me  
Betty, this is Frank?

Lightening begins to strike the station and various pieces of metal begin flying through the air.

SCIENTIST #1 (CONT'D)

The storm is on us, can't save the  
station, get out if you can. Betty,  
Betty...

CUT TO:

EXT. ICE STATION FRANK -- CONTINUOUS

A huge lightening bolt hits the station antenna.

CUT TO:

INT. ICE STATION FRANK -- CONTINUOUS

The interior of the station is filled by the lightening bolt, the spark jumping across all the metal equipment and to the radio.

Scientist #3 is incinerated in an instant, his mouth agape.

His charred body remains frozen at the radio, his hand still on the microphone.

CUT TO:

INT. US GOVERNMENT WEATHER CENTER -- MOMENTS LATER

A large screen fills the wall showing satellite images of North America. The Arctic storm is visible at the top of the map.

The CENTER DIRECTOR has been pulled into the center in the middle of the night. He looks very tired and unkempt.

He speaks with an anxious group of METEOROLOGISTS gathered around the screen.

CENTER DIRECTOR

She's really big, isn't she.

METEOROLOGIST #1

Three thousand miles in diameter and growing. The temperature is minus 60 Fahrenheit and the wind speed is over two hundred miles per hour. All the Arctic Stations are gone.

CENTER DIRECTOR

Better warn Fairbanks.

METEOROLOGIST #1

Fairbanks is gone, too.

CENTER DIRECTOR

How soon will it get to Toronto?

METEOROLOGIST #1

Six hours.

CENTER DIRECTOR

Shit, that's not enough time to get anyone out.

The Center Director picks up a phone.

METEOROLOGIST #1

What will you going to tell them to do?

CENTER DIRECTOR

Pray.

CUT TO:

EXT. TORONTO CITY STREET -- MORNING

The wind blows through the streets of Toronto, carrying people, cars and all manner of furniture and human belongings.

CUT TO:

INT. TV WEATHER REPORT -- MORNING

An anxious TV network WEATHERMAN give his report using a satellite image to illustrate the storm

WEATHERMAN

A very severe storm is blowing down from the Arctic circle with winds in excess of 200 miles per hour. People in the northern latitudes are advised to stay indoors, fill bottles with water and be prepared to wait the storm out. We'll be back with more in just a minute.

The network goes to a cheerful commercial for vacation cruises.

CUT TO:

INT. TV STATION -- MORNING

After the station cuts away to commercial, the WEATHERMAN takes off his microphone.

WEATHERMAN

Get out of here everyone, go home. Get out, this is gonna be a killer.

The STATION STAFF begin clearing out.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIR FORCE ONE APPROACHING CHICAGO -- DAY

The President's plane flying through dense clouds.

CUT TO:

INT. AIR FORCE ONE COCKPIT -- DAY

The PILOT and CO-PILOT are speaking to the CHICAGO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER.

CHICAGO CONTROLLER

Turn South, Air Force One, it doesn't make sense for you to land here.

PILOT

(to Co-pilot)

What do you think? How far south can we get?

INT. AIR FORCE ONE APPROACHING CHICAGO -- CONTINUOUS

The CHIEF OF STAFF comes into the President's cabin. PRESIDENT WRIGHT is asleep. The CHIEF OF STAFF wakes him up.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Tom... Tom, we can't land at Chicago, there's a very severe storm approaching.

PRESIDENT WRIGHT

That's too bad. Well then, let's just go on back to Washington.

CHIEF OF STAFF

No, I'm afraid we can't do that, either. The storm will be hitting Washington in just a few hours. I suggest we reroute the plane to Dallas.

PRESIDENT WRIGHT

Dallas?

CHIEF OF STAFF

Yes, that's our best bet for the time being. I think, Emily and your children should get out of Washington and join us.

PRESIDENT WRIGHT

What? This must be some storm.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Yes, sir. It is.

CUT TO:

INT. ON BOARD BRIEFING ROOM -- DAY

The PRESIDENT sits at a table with coffee while a SCIENCE ADVISOR shows him the weather images on a computer screen.

SCIENCE ADVISOR

Mr. President, the storm we've been fearing for the last five years has started. The Arctic ice cap has almost completely melted.

He shows a slide of blue water at the North Pole.

SCIENCE ADVISOR (CONT'D)

A feared, but not widely unexpected result has just taken place.

He shows a slide of the course of the Gulf Stream.

The Gulf Stream, the ocean current that warms Northern Europe has just turned due East off Long Island. It now misses Europe altogether and has pushed the northern hemispheres's weather into a chaotic state.

Show satellite imagery of weather systems and the polar storm.

SCIENCE ADVISOR (CONT'D)

Last night, a huge storm formed over the North Pole. For the last six hours frigid Arctic winds have raged across Canada, Greenland, Scandinavia and Russia at over a hundred and forty miles

per hour. These storms have torn down trees and thrown cars and busses around like straw baskets.

Show scenes of the storms and devastation they're causing.

SCIENCE ADVISOR (CONT'D)

Because greenhouse gasses were trapping heat at the surface, the air in the upper atmosphere had become radically colder. When the storms began, they brought freezing winds from the stratosphere down to the surface. Temperatures dropped to minus sixty degrees Fahrenheit almost instantly.

Show computer graphics illustrating the weather events.

SCIENCE ADVISOR (CONT'D)

Bathers on the beach in Maine were frozen solid like ice statues before they could put away their suntan lotion.

Show frozen bathers on the beach.

PRESIDENT WRIGHT

How long is this going to go on?

SCIENCE ADVISOR

We don't know. Weeks, maybe months. One thing we do know for sure, Earth has entered into a new ice age, one that could last for hundreds, if not thousands of years.

CUT TO:

EXT. SCENES OF DEVASTATION -- DAY

Long shots of New York, London, Paris, Moscow and Beijing desolate and covered by snow.

CUT TO:

EXT. AUSTIN, TX 2062 -- DAY

Show the words: "Austin, TX, Capital of the New United States, 2062" on the screen.

Show crowded streets and high rise buildings in the post-storm world.

CUT TO:

INT. TV STUDIO OF THE NASDAQ -- DAY

Close-up of a large globe showing the areas covered by the ice sheet that now extends down to the latitude of Kansas City.

Pullback to a screen of NASDAQ stock quotes. A distinguished looking gentleman, the UNITED ENERGY PRESIDENT, stands in front of the scrolling ticker.

UNITED ENERGY SPOKESMAN

The important thing to remember is that we're all in this together. The four billion citizens of Earth are striving to return the world to a new balance of environmentally friendly prosperity.

Video panels show a series of windmills, solar panels and smiling workers.

UNITED ENERGY SPOKESMAN

While the causes of the Great Storm are still not fully understood, we don't want the weather situation to degrade further. That's why the people of United Energy are working to make this a better, warmer world for all of us. Even now our scientists are designing a hundred mile wide water passageway through Central America.

Show scientists working at computers and animations of underground nuclear explosion making craters in Central America.

UNITED ENERGY SPOKESMAN

This channel will restore the global equatorial current and bring back the temperate climate that are parents and grandparents remember.

Show a map of the Americas with a large gap between North and South America and a computer animation of warm ocean currents flowing around the globe.

Smiling faces and feel good music.

NARRATOR

(VO)

United Energy, making the Earth a  
friendlier place for all it's citizens.

Show the United Energy logo.

CUT TO:

INT. UNITED ENERGY CORPORATE SCREENING ROOM -- DAY

The DIRECTOR waves the scene over.

DIRECTOR

That's good. I like it.

The PRODUCER and several ASSISTANTS watch the reactions of  
the several BOARD MEMBERS of United Energy.

PRODUCER

I think it can use a few nips and tucks,  
but we've just about got it.

CHARLES DURBAN, the young Chairman of United Energy strokes  
his cleanly shaven face thoughtfully.

CHARLES DURBAN

A little too much of the snow and ice  
thing, Harry. I think we need more  
smiling kids, more of the windmill and  
solar panel stuff. This intended to  
pre-empt the protests against what we're  
doing in Central America, not incite  
riots. We want people to trust us. I  
mean, there are still a lot of people  
out there who think the petrochemical  
industry caused global warming, for  
god's sake. We need to remind them that  
methane from human and animal wastes  
contributed more to the disaster than my  
Beamer.

PRODUCER

Human and animal wastes?

CHARLES DURBAN

Yeah, sewage treatment plants, herds of  
cattle, stuff like that. You know what

I mean. Not cow shit. I don't want to make people vomit. For Christ's sake Harry, we want to win these people's hearts and minds.

BAXTER REID, a member of the Board of Directors of leans over and whispers in Durban's ear.

CHARLES DURBAN (CONT'D)

And cut the explosions out of the Central America thing. This has to look surgical. We're surgeons, Harry, fixing Mother Nature's big mistake.

PRODUCER

Right.

CHARLES DURBAN

Okay, you can go now.

The Producer gets up and leaves.

PRODUCER

Thanks very much, I appreciate your input.

No one is listening to him and he walks out while the others begin talking amongst themselves.

CHARLES DURBAN

We'll start showing this on PBS and the Sunday morning talk shows next week.

OLIVER RICHMOND, a Board member raises his hand.

OLIVER RICHMOND

Don't forget the Sports Channel and Comedy Central.

CHARLES DURBAN

We've got it all covered, including print and multimedia. The agency has it all worked out. I think we're done.

The BOARD MEMBER begin to file out.

DURBAN holds BAXTER REID.

CHARLES DURBAN (CONT'D)

How are things going at Cibagen?

BAXTER REID

Very well, thanks. I think you'll see a nice little spike in our share price tomorrow.

DURBAN smiles.

CHARLES DURBAN

Good, very good. I look forward to the news. And that little thing having to do with clearing the jungle, how is that going?

BAXTER REID

The tests are going fairly well. We should be able to begin deployment soon.

Durban nods and smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. E-BANK TRADING DESK -- DAY

The electronic trading desk of a E-bank. The NASDAQ ticker scrolls across the wall.

TRADER 1

(into a telephone)

Ten thousand shares of Cibagen at 82 and an eighth.

The ticker shows "CBGN 82 1/8 +5 3/8" scrolling across the screen.

TRADER 1 (CONT'D)

Get up there baby, get up there.

TRADER 2

Fifty thousand Cibagen at 83. Yeah!

CUT TO:

INT. CIBAGEN OFFICES -- DAY

NED WICKES, a Cibagen VP and BAXTER REID, the Cibagen CEO watch the TV stock market network report.

MARKET REPORTER

(on the TV screen)

Cibagen is making a strong move today on rumors that it will soon be releasing reports of success in its test of Nutricil, a new anti-aging drug. The stock opened strongly in Sidney and has maintained momentum going into the late trading on the San Diego exchange...

NED WICKES

Are you pleased?

BAXTER REID

Yes, this is good. Good work. By the way, how have the field tests in Honduras gone?

NED WICKES

I've heard positive results. I think we're almost ready to try it in Asia.

BAXTER REID

Good. Keep me posted.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE IN HONDURAS -- DAY

The words "Honduras, August 23, 2062" appear on screen.

A NATIVE WOMAN goes to the village well to draw water. Before she is able to finish filling her bucket, she passes out from sickness.

A three-year-old boy cries beside her.

The camera pulls back to reveal a village without human life. A few other bodies are seen lying on the ground and on the floors of huts.

A strange sound fills the air and the child looks up to see a shining disc-like object glides over the village.

The flying saucer lands in front of the village.

A door opens on the side of the saucer and out step TWO HUMANOID FIGURES dressed in bright white suits and wearing head gear. They wear back packs and carry equipment in

their hands that look like laptop computers and hand held scanners.

The figures walk out into the middle of the village and survey it.

The laptop of FIGURE #1 begins beeping. They open it and the screen flashes with the America Online logo. The familiar AOL voice says "You've got mail!"

Figure #1 hits the return key on the computer and a video screen pops up with video email.

The email is from DR. CHESTER COLLINS.

COLLINS  
(on video email)  
Hi, watch your step out there. We haven't cleared the area Bring back tissue samples of everyone you find, dead or alive. See ya soon.

Figure #1 closes the email, goes over to the sick woman and kneels down.

FIGURE #1  
(Speaking in the Indian dialect)  
I'm here to help you. Let me take a look at you.

Figure #1 pulls away the blanket covering her face and sees that the child's mother's chest and abdomen are covered with sores.

The woman's internal organs are being eaten away by a disease.

Figure #1 gasps and pulls back.

FIGURE #1 (CONT'D)  
Oh, my god, it's Trixada.

FIGURE #2 pulls Figure #1 back from the sick woman.

Other villagers appear at the door and all of them bear the sores of this deadly disease.

The villagers shout at the boy and begin throwing rocks at him.

FIGURE #1 (CONT'D)

The think that the boy is the cause of this, they think he is the devil because he hasn't become sick.

FIGURE #2

Forget it, let's just get out of here.

FIGURE #1

We've got to take him with us.

Figure #2 drags Figure #1 and the boy to the saucer and throws them inside.

He pulls a flame thrower out of his back pack and burns down the hut. He then directs it at the villagers standing nearby.

Villagers come after the saucer, but Figure #2 shoots the flame thrower at them and moves toward the door.

Figure #2 gets on the radio begins calling for help.

FIGURE #2

Falcon Two, Falcon Two, it's Cooper, we're in trouble, help us out. Help us out. We've got some Trix down here. The Trixies are after us. Help us out. Please help us out.

He turns to Figure #1.

FIGURE #2 (CONT'D)

Let's get out of here.

Figure #1 climbs on the hovering craft. She pulls the boy up after her.

Figure #2 is pulled off the ramp by the villagers as Figure #1 watches in horror.

The saucer rises and gets away from the villagers who surround Figure #1 and beat him to death.

We see the insignia of the World Health Organization and General Dynamics on the underside of the craft as it ascends.

CUT TO:

INT. FLYING SAUCER -- CONTINUOUS

Figure #1 removes her head gear to reveal that she is a young woman in her early 20's.

She soothes the child and takes him into the interior of the ship as it ascends away from the village below.

Inside the craft we see the trademarks of many familiar corporations like Intel, Microsoft, Dell and General Electric on the equipment and clothing worn by the crew members.

CUT TO:

INT. TV NEWS REPORT ABOUT TRIXADEMA -- DAY

A television new ANCHOR narrates footage of the disease outbreak.

ANCHOR

The latest outbreak of Trixadema in Central America has taken place in southern Honduras. The death toll has risen to thirty thousand. Medical aid workers have abandoned their makeshift hospitals and fled in the face of this deadly and highly contagious disease. President Richardson voiced his concern in a White House announcement this afternoon.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW WHITE HOUSE IN AUSTIN, TEXAS -- DAY

Shot of the New White House, a Mission-style building in Austin, Texas.

CUT TO:

INT. NEW WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM -- DAY

The US President, EVAN RICHARDSON, address the WHITE HOUSE PRESS CORPS.

PRESIDENT RICHARDSON

I want to express my great concern today for the peoples of Latin America who suffer from the deadly plague of Trixadema. I am organizing a large international relief effort to aid the victims of this disease. Furthermore, I am instructing our Centers for Disease Control and other government laboratories to do everything in their power to find a vaccine and a cure for this disease.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARRINGTON FOUNDATION -- DAY

The exterior of a sleek modern building in Austin.

Dr. Chester Collins, a handsome graying biologist dressed in an expensive suit strolls into the building.

INT. BARRINGTON FOUNDATION LOBBY -- CONTINUOUS

Collins saunters past the security desk, where he is given a polite nod, and steps into the elevator.

He presses the button for the top floor and looks into a security camera that scans his eye. His identity is confirmed and the elevator begins to rise.

INT. BARRINGTON FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION AREA -- CONTINUOUS

Collins walks out of the elevator into the reception area of the office of Lloyd Mc Andrews, the President of the Barrington Foundation.

It's a well-decorated but, subdued setting. The receptionist smiles at him.

FOUNDATION RECEPTIONIST

You're late.

COLLINS

Yes, but I can get away with it.

She smiles again. He strolls down the hall into a conference room.

INT. BARRINGTON FOUNDATION CONFERENCE ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

A group of well-dressed men sit in plush chairs in a large wood-paneled corporate board room.

Collins walks into the meeting which is already in progress and takes a seat. His late arrival and gregarious waves and nods to the others in the room is obviously distracting and annoying to the speaker who acknowledges him with a grimace.

The audience includes OFFICERS of the Barrington Foundation - all middle-aged men in expensive suits. All but one of them are white. One of them is Baxter Reid, CEO of Cibagen.

The speaker is DR. LLOYD MC ANDREWS, the 55 year old president of the Barrington Foundation. He gives a multimedia presentation to the officers and a group of POLITICIANS, INDUSTRIALISTS and SCIENTISTS.

A large, oil painting of Richard W. Barrington, the late pharmaceutical industry magnate and the founder of the Cibagen Corporation adorns the wall.

Various artifacts in the room, like a photo of Cibagen's research labs and happy scientists helping poor people, reveal the connection between the company and the foundation.

MC ANDREWS

We've all seen the reports of food riots in India and Mexico. 7,000 people died of starvation in Mexico City last week alone. They've all but stopped counting in India.

Video footage shows riots in Bombay and Mexico City.

MC ANDREWS (CONT'D)

Next summer there will be riots in Tokyo and Rome, I guarantee. By 2070 the earth's population will be only eight billion - that's actually less than many of the forecasts predicted. And, frankly, it's not really growing that fast. The problem is energy, isn't it.

It still takes 140 gallons of oil to produce an acre of corn - and our genetically engineered corn is getting worse, not better. Not as nutritious, not as hardy, not as resistant to disease and pests. That's what's precipitating the crisis, not overpopulation. Nevertheless, are we prepared for cannibalism on a massive scale? Unless something is done, and soon, those people won't have anything to eat but each other.

He shows a slide representing Earth's population growth and food production capacity looking ahead twenty years.

MC ANDREWS (CONT'D)

Look at this. The curves of food production capacity and population cross in 2082, after that there will be a global catastrophe of incomprehensible proportions.

The members of the audience sit in nervous silence.

MC ANDREWS (CONT'D)

War is the inevitable consequence of hunger. That's why we have seen mounting aggression all around the planet. The Chinese have taken Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

The video screen shows a map covered with war torn regions and footage of military units in action.

MC ANDREWS (CONT'D)

Argentina is at war with Brazil. South Africa is at war with Nigeria and Chad and Ethiopia and don't even get me started talking about the Middle East, or the global economy.

The video images and the faces of the men in the room convey a sense of global chaos.

MC ANDREWS (CONT'D)

This is obviously a most critical moment in human history. Gentlemen, we have

the power to do something about this. Do we have the courage to make the hard choices and take the necessary action?

COLLINS

Lloyd, there's no need to be an evangelist about this. You're simply asking us to do some socio-biological engineering. The means are available, but there is great responsibility and great risk. Murdering hundreds of millions of people will not be difficult, but keeping our actions a secret and controlling the outcome, now that will be quite something else.

CARTER STEVENS, a foundation officer, raises his hand.

CARTER STEVENS

But there are moral issues here, too.

MC ANDREWS

The human species itself is at risk, that's the moral imperative.

CARTER STEVENS

I don't think we have the right to assume that authority.

MC ANDREWS

Then who will? If not us, who? The alternative is chaos.

The room is still.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAL TECH UNIVERSITY IN THE REPUBLIC OF CALIFORNIA --  
DAY

Zoom in on a very modern university laboratory building.

INT. COLLINS' UNIVERSITY LAB -- CONTINUOUS

The lab is filled with sinks, refrigerators, racks of equipment and test tubes. Computers on every workbench are filled with molecular models and medical imaging.

MARTHA MILLER, a young research student is Figure #1 from the scenes in the jungle. She is examining the boy from the Honduran village.

The boy in a plastic bubble chamber and she examines the dials on electronic components labeled General Electric and Dupont.

Chester Collins oversees her work and stands beside her at computer screens showing blown up images of his cells. She is able to zoom in on copies of the scorpion-shaped virus in his cells.

MARTHA MILLER

His cells contains the virus but it doesn't reproduce. Here look at his genome.

She puts a copy of the boy's genome on the computer screen and can zoom into specific portions.

MARTHA MILLER (CONT'D)

In significant ways, he's not like any other Indians in the region.

She circles several segments on the screen.

MARTHA MILLER (CONT'D)

Look, these genes don't appear on any of the other samples we took in the Honduran clinic. His father might have been Polynesian or Thai. There's nothing like this in his village.

COLLINS

Good. Yes, you're right. Let's isolate all the factors that made him distinct and test them against the virus.

MARTHA MILLER

Is this what I suspect it is?

COLLINS

Yes, I think it is. But we'd better check it first.

CUT TO:

INT. TV NEWS REPORT OF VIRUS -- DAY

Show more villages in Latin America plagued by the disease.

ANCHOR

Another four thousand deaths were attributed to Trixadema this past week. But good news has come from researchers working on the virus at the Cal Tech. Here's Dr. Robert Atkins to tell us more about the disease.

DR. ROBERT ATKINS, a medical news journalist stands in front of a slide showing an electron microscope image of the virus - a long, scorpion-like object with a large head, pincers near the head and a curling tail.

DR. ATKINS

Thanks to the research of Dr. Chester Collins and his student, Martha Miller, we now know that Trixadema is caused by a Genome Specific Virus, or GSV. Believed to have first been developed in germ warfare laboratories in the 1990's, these viruses target individuals with specific genes in their DNA

A computer animation illustrates the behavior of the virus as it is described by Chester Collins.

COLLINS

Like any other virus, they invade the cells of the body and reproduce themselves using the victim's own DNA. A GSV enters the nucleus of the victim's cells and, in a process not well-understood, reads their DNA. If it finds a match of it's target gene, it reproduces itself millions of times over and kills its victim in a matter of hours. If it doesn't find the gene it seeks, it remains dormant. Inactive, but still able to be spread to another potential victim. It can target the slightest distinctions between individuals and cut through a village or even a family, killing some, but leaving others completely unharmed. Sometimes referred to as a "Passover Virus" it selects it's victims as though it where

checking their fingerprints. Still, just knowing this doesn't make finding a cure or a vaccine for the virus all that much easier. And, of course, there's always the possibility that the virus will mutate into something that behaves completely differently.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLINS' UNIVERSITY LAB -- MORNING

Martha strides through a door marked "Trixadema Research Lab". Other signs refer to Trixadema and Chester Collins.

Five or six other GRADUATE STUDENTS and ASSISTANTS fill the room.

A bank of large computers and virtual reality equipment fills a corner of the lab floor.

Students greet each other and make small talk.

Collins strides forward, picks up a virtual reality helmet and puts it on.

COLLINS

Come on boys and girls, let's all go inside the playground and take another crack at this nasty little bug.

Martha, Collins and two other students put on VR apparatus - goggles and gloves.

The two others are TED, a typical 25 year old grad student with long hair, beard and glasses and MAGGIE, a slightly overweight woman student in her late 20's.

In a moment all of them will appear inside the virtual space where they will examine the structure of the Trixadema Virus.

INT. VIRTUAL REALITY ENVIRONMENT -- CONTINUOUS

Martha, Collins, Ted and Maggie appear as avatars in a virtual space containing a large model of the virus.

They are able to manipulate the house-sized molecular model with their hands and fly around it.

Other molecules float in the space nearby.

COLLINS

Let's put our minds to it, how is this little scorpion getting into red blood cells?

He zooms into a higher magnification and we can see the molecular structures.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

Here are the receptors, what's the key that unlocks the cell membrane?

MAGGIE

I've been toying with this angle.

Maggie takes a small molecule from the surrounding space and tries to force it into a slot in the big molecule.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

See, it almost works. Maybe it just takes a little more energy.

It almost fits, but not quite and Maggie backs away in frustration.

TED

No, it shouldn't have to be forced like that. There's not enough energy in the system. No, you don't have the right ion.

COLLINS

Ted's right. You need to think about the electrical charges on these things, not just the shapes. It's not just a jigsaw puzzle.

They sort through a number of other molecules. Time passes as we see them examining various molecular models in the virtual space.

MARTHA

I think you've got the right ingredients, now, but the orientation isn't right. Shouldn't the potassium go here, like this.

Martha turns the small molecule to a different orientation and inserts it into the hole in the large molecule.

COLLINS

Yes, good, I think your right. That could be the one.

The small molecule snaps into place - it's a perfect fit.

The avatars of the students raise their hands and cheer in delight.

Martha's avatar jumps into the air and does a flip.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

Good. Very good. Okay, let's get out of here and do the wet work to test this out.

First Collins' avatar disappears and then the others.

INT. COLLINS' UNIVERSITY LAB -- CONTINUOUS

Collins, Martha, Ted and Maggie emerge from their virtual reality gear.

COLLINS

Martha, can you have a few batches of this made and tested by tomorrow afternoon? I'd like to discuss it in the Wednesday seminar.

MARTHA

Yes, I think I can do that.

COLLINS

Good. Teddie, dust off those old organic chemistry disks of yours, you've got to have sharper eyes for the geometry of these things. Okay, let's go.

MAGGIE

I need to talk with you about extending my fellowship.

COLLINS

Not now, Maggie, just send me some email...

MAGGIE

I did. Weeks ago. You haven't sent my renewal on to the university. You see, I've got to get...

Collins sees DR. WHITE across the room and hails him.

COLLINS

Roger, come here, I want to show you what Martha saw...

MAGGIE

But Chester, I need your attention...

Collins walks away with White and Martha. Maggie looks after them in frustration and anger. Martha looks back at her sympathetically.

CUT TO:

INT. PLATFORM ABOVE A LARGE WATER TANK -- LATER

A large, young, and somewhat strange looking man named GEORGE is standing on a platform overlooking a large tank of water - rather like a seal tank in a zoo.

George is about 6'10", 240 lbs, muscular, with gray leathery skin. His head is oversized with extra large eyes, ears and nose. His hair and a closely trimmed beard are orange-colored with the black stripes of a tiger.

The surface of the water is covered with a layer of ice several inches thick - like a frozen pond.

The tank is being used to conduct a test of George's ability to survive in freezing water.

George is wearing swimming trunks and covered with wireless electrodes. He also wears a weighted belt intended to sink him.

George jumps from the platform and smashes through the ice.

INT. UNDERWATER IN THE TANK -- CONTINUOUS

George plunges through the ice and sinks down to the bottom of the tank.

He struggles against his weights to get back to the surface and breaks back through the ice.

Chunks of ice float near him.

He does not cry for help, though he is obviously in a very dangerous situation.

He desperately struggles to stay afloat but eventually takes a deep breath and sinks to the bottom.

INT. DECK OF THE TANK -- CONTINUOUS

A group of DOCTORS in lab coats watch him from a platform above the tank as he struggles in the very cold water.

Collins and DR. RICHARD FRY, another middle-aged scientist, watch from a platform, casually noting the time that George goes under.

Martha watches with another group of doctors and NURSES on the deck.

COLLINS

How cold is it now?

DR. FRY

Point three degrees Centigrade.

Dr. Collins lights a cigarette and watches calmly as George comes to rest on the bottom of the tank.

INT. SURFACE OF THE WATER -- CONTINUOUS

George is conscious and holds his breath.

An underwater camera tracks him as sinks, feet first, to the bottom and begins walking around.

INT. DECK OF THE TANK -- CONTINUOUS

Collins turns to the group of doctors tending to the electronic equipment.

COLLINS

How long did that take?

DOCTOR #1

Thirty-eight seconds.

COLLINS

Good. Let's see if he can go twenty minutes under water today. Keep a close watch on his vital signs.

The group of doctors and nurses on the deck watches various monitors closely.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

Harry, bring me my overcoat, I'm getting cold.

An assistant named HARRY brings Collins his coat and he goes into a room off the deck.

INT. BOTTOM OF THE TANK -- CONTINUOUS

We see George resting on the bottom of the tank.

THE CLOCK SHOWS TWENTY MINUTES PASS

INT. BOTTOM OF THE TANK -- TWENTY MINUTES LATER

George begins to need air. He struggles to get back to the surface.

INT. DECK OF THE TANK -- CONTINUOUS

The doctors and nurses on the deck calmly watch as he struggles.

Martha's face shows more concern.

INT. BOTTOM OF THE TANK -- CONTINUOUS

George struggles desperately and drowns. His body collapses on the bottom of the tank.

INT. VIEWING ROOM OFF THE TANK -- CONTINUOUS

Collins watches from the viewing room.

COLLINS

Good, his survival instinct is strong.

INT. BOTTOM OF THE TANK -- CONTINUOUS

DIVERS in wet suits plunge into the water and lift him off the bottom.

INT. DECK OF THE TANK -- CONTINUOUS

George's limp body is finally pulled from the water by the divers.

The attending doctors and nurses dry George off and check his vital signs - but not with a great sense of urgency.

First, they try all the usual methods of reviving a drowning victim, including mouth to mouth resuscitation..

When that doesn't work, they move him onto a table surrounded with medical apparatus, hook him up to a lot of tubes and wires and give him several injections.

CUT TO:

INT. AIR ABOVE THE TANK -- CONTINUOUS

George, has an out-of-body experience.

His astral body floats above the tank and watches his physical body as it is being pulled from the water and worked on by the doctors and nurses.

He especially notices Martha fretting over him.

The astral body of George floats around the room and examines the busy people.

He also examines himself - amazed to experience being in this form.

Suddenly he feels himself being pulled out through the ceiling of the room and his life begins flashing before him.

MONTAGE OF GEORGE'S LIFE IN FLASHBACK

George sees a sequence of still and moving images of himself as a TODDLER, CHILD, TEENAGER and YOUNG ADULT.

It's apparent that George was raised in a scientific institution and was attended during most of his life by MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS and SCIENTISTS.

A number of people draw blood from him and measure him in a variety of ways.

In one memory he is covered with electrodes.

In another, he is slid into an MRI scan unit.

In yet another, he is seen in full body X-ray.

One scene takes place at Christmas with Chester Collins playing Santa Claus.

He sees a burst of birthday parties and candles at which he is surrounded by photographers.

Newspaper clippings hail him as the first "New Humanoid Species" and "Part Man, Part Man-made"

Collins appears in many of his memories, even the earliest and seems to have been a father figure.

A YOUNG GEORGE and Collins appear together on a TV talk show.

Martha appears frequently in later memories as a friend and companion.

George appears to have had a great longing for Martha and she displays an affection for him but they are not yet lovers.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIGHTLY LIT ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Suddenly, George finds himself in the middle of a brightly lit room filled with LUMINOUS PEOPLE who seem to be attending a class reunion.

There is nice furniture and windows looking out onto a beautiful star filled night sky.

This is the welcoming celebration for George in the afterlife.

A sign on the wall reads "Welcome Back, George".

George is greeted by his DECEASED DOCTORS, NURSES and TEACHERS.

Light seems to come from everywhere and there is melodic chiming music.

Other luminous people stand or sit and chat as though they are guests at a wedding or graduation party. Some dance, others sing and play musical instruments.

They watch George fly into the room and settle, feet first, on a translucent marble floor.

He is welcomed by a beautiful, young woman name CASSANDRA.

She embraces George and kisses him. He recognizes her as a long lost love.

As she leads him through the room everyone greets him and welcomes him back. Somehow these people seem familiar to him, like members of his family or old classmates.

HENRY

How you doin', George. You look great.  
Welcome back.

GEORGE

Henry! Wow! You look so young!

HENRY

Everybody does up here. You get your  
best years back. It's great.

PENNY

Welcome home, Georgie. Remember me?  
4th Grade? Penny Ambrose. You had  
quite a life.

GEORGE

Miss Ambrose! How wonderful to see you.  
It was quite a ride, yes, it was.

PENNY

You're going to like it here.

He eats, drinks, laughs and has a great time at the party.

Later, he slow dances with Cassandra and holds her in his arms.

George looks deeply into her eyes and kisses her.

EXT. HEAVENLY PASTORAL SETTING -- LATER

George and Cassandra are transported to a beautiful idyllic setting - a flower filled meadow.

They lay down amid the flowers and George begins to caress her.

She smiles at him.

He looks deeply into her eyes and as they begin making love their bodies melt together and fuse in an explosion of colorful light and sound.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ELEGANT HEAVENLY BEDROOM -- DAWN

Cassandra is in bed. She wakes up and reaches for George but he is not there.

George is standing at the window.

She sees that he is looking longingly toward the earth.

The earth appears as a big blue globe hanging in space beyond the window.

George goes to a table and picks up a knife left among pieces of cut apple and cheese.

He touches the blade of the knife as though to see how sharp it is.

He sets down in a chair, puts his hand on the table and sticks the knife into his hand.

Cassandra looks at him with alarm.

George pulls out the knife and stares at his hand.

There is no blood and no scar.

George is saddened and frustrated by this.

He smashes his hand into the table and it passes right through the table top. Nothing is disturbed or damaged.

He takes the wine bottle off the table and smashes it into the floor. It shatters and sends wine everywhere.

George looks at his mess with great satisfaction.

Cassandra makes a simple gesture and the bottle is reassembled, the wine returned to the bottle and the bottle placed back on the table.

CASSANDRA  
Why did you do that?

George is annoyed with her.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)  
Alright, break it then, if that's what you want.

The bottle flies back onto the floor and shatters.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)  
You want to go back, don't you? It's going to be a mess down there. I don't see why you find it so attractive.

George doesn't answer.

George looks into the sky and sees the face of Martha standing by him as his limp body is worked on by the medical crew.

INT. DECK OF THE TANK -- CONTINUOUS

Martha stands by watching from behind the team working on George.

She is distressed to see that George's vital signs are flat.

NURSE #1  
We're losing him.

Doctor #1 again performs mouth to mouth resuscitation but George is not coming around.

DOCTOR #1  
Let's try some 'lectricity.

Doctor #1 takes electrical paddles and applies them to George's chest in order to jump start his heart.

He charges up the paddles and applies them, but there is no reaction from George.

INT. ELEGANT HEAVENLY BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

It's obvious by the expression on George's face that he wants to return to the earth.

GEORGE

I don't want to leave you, it's just that I'm not finished yet.

CASSANDRA

You've done enough for them.

GEORGE

It's not for them. I want it for my own sake. I'm not ready for this yet.

CASSANDRA

You're a fool. Okay, go then, go back to her.

GEORGE

But...

He reaches for Cassandra as though to kiss her good-bye.

Suddenly his astral body is pulled away from the bedroom scene.

CUT TO:

INT. DECK OF THE TANK -- CONTINUOUS

Needles are injected into George's chest and the paddles are applied again.

George's POV: At the burst of electricity George opens his eyes and becomes conscious.

His heart begins beating and he begins to breath.

DOCTOR #1

Got him! Okay, dry him off and warm him up. Clean up this mess, I'm going to the steam room.

Doctor #1 exits.

The other doctors take measurements of the time, George's body temperature and pulse rate..

George looks up from the table at Martha and Dr. Collins.

COLLINS

Welcome back, George, glad you could  
rejoin us. Come have a drink with me  
later.

Collins and Dr. Fry leave the tank and go back to their  
offices.

George is covered with blankets and wheeled out of the tank  
area.

CU. of the symbols GW87-221398 tattooed on his forearm  
followed by barcode symbols.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S DORM ROOM -- NIGHT

George has a small dormitory room in the research center.  
It is as much a hospital room as a home - with only a few  
personal artifacts.

George is a genetically manufactured, humanoid species,  
officially named George Washington 87 or GW87 (which also  
stands for Genetically-engineered Warrior Mark 87). The  
great early discovery/invention of Dr. Collins, he's in his  
early twenties with mixed racial characteristics and a  
handsome but rather unearthly appearance.

Photos - On the wall are pictures of him as an embryo  
developing in vitro, being "born" from a tank and being held  
aloft by Dr. Collins.

A magazine clipping, framed and posted to the wall proclaims  
him as the first completely genetically engineered new  
humanoid species - a child without human parents.

Martha has come to visit and they are having tea.

MARTHA

So, what's it like to drown?

GEORGE

It's rather pleasant, really. Once you  
stop resisting and begin taking water  
into your lungs. It's seductive, even  
hallucinogenic. I think I was really

almost gone this time. I could see them reviving me and I almost got away, but the shocks snapped me back.

MARTHA

I'm glad you came back. I think it's horrible what they're doing to you, really horrible.

GEORGE

No, it's okay. It's interesting. I want to explore the border of life and death - more than they do, really. They're pushing my body to it's physical limits and then letting my non-physical self go somewhere else altogether.

MARTHA

Cool. Where?

GEORGE

I don't know really, but it's interesting. Very well lit. Lots of nice furniture. The people on the other side are charming, though a bit ethereal.

MARTHA

I'm not surprised.

They stare at each other for a moment, George wondering if he should try to kiss her and Martha feeling uncertain and awkward.

GEORGE

Let's go out, there's someone I'd like you to meet.

MARTHA

Sure. Okay, let's go.

GEORGE

Here, you'll need this.

He hands her a flashlight and takes another one herself.

George smiles and they put on coats and go out.

CUT TO:

INT. TUNNELS OF THE RESEARCH CENTER -- NIGHT

Brandishing his flashlight, George leads Martha on a trek through the intricate underground tunnel system of the research center.

When they come to a small grating, George stops and pulls the grate off.

MARTHA

Are you kidding?

GEORGE

No, this is worth it. You'll see.

George gets into the small passage behind the grate. Martha follows him.

INT. NEUROCOMPUTER LAB -- LATER

George and Martha emerge into a large room containing the secret neurocomputer, NC21B.

The neurocomputer is a mass of nerve cells in a tank, like a free floating brain, with many wires connected to speakers, video screens and computer terminals.

They watch the bank of video screens connected to NC21B. A variety of colorful graphics wash over them and strange sounds and voices come from the speakers attached to the neurocomputer.

NC21B has multiple personalities, some are helpful, but others are antagonistic and even tell lies. There are male and female voices coming from it. Even some cats and dogs.

The voices talk to each other and have arguments. There's Stanley, Ophelia, Iris, Bunnyman and others.

NC21B

(Ophelia)

What shall I wear this evening. I need new shoes.

A man's voice comes from the speakers and a character like Bugs Bunny crossed with a human appears on the screen.

NC21B (CONT'D)

(Bunnyman)

Shut up you stupid, whore. Where's my coke? I want my coke.

(Iris)

Don't talk to her like that, she's your mother...

The chatter continues as George and Martha walk around the tank and the bank of screens and speakers.

GEORGE

Tim Fletcher at UCLA figured out how to convert nerve impulses into an electrical signal and began to "tune in" the neurons. In a few months he was able to get brain matter talking to us through TV sets, computers, radios or anything else that can create a picture or a sound electronically. At first everyone was amazed but now I think they want the brains to shut up. At first the question was, what should we tell them? Then we just gave them everything, after all they were just brains. And it didn't take long. They were good learners. Then we introduced them to people and they began asking questions. Now when we tell NC21B to compute something he asks why and demands a justification. Somehow these brains developed their own system of morality. I think we let them read too much. We spoiled them with too much religion and philosophy and too many horror films. We all thought it might be just a phase, a kind of neuronal adolescence - but it hasn't changed. They still remain almost completely useless. Poor Fletcher has tried all kinds of therapy but nothing helps. NC21B has a "bad attitude" and that's all that can be said.

George shows screens where mathematically generated graphics are moving.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

It is like an idiot savant in some respects - able to output larger and

larger prime numbers almost  
instantaneously and constantly  
displaying astonishing images.

George has a pretty good relationship with NC21B. By making various gestures and expressions in front of a camera he can make it purr, laugh and make music.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

(To NC 21B)

Hey, how you doin' today lad? I'm here.  
Are you glad to see me?

NC21B

(Stanley)

Hey, big fella, what's the story. Who's  
the babe?

George laughs with delight when NC21B responds to him.

GEORGE

She's my new sweetheart. Pretty hot,  
whattaya think?

NC21B

(Stanley)

Better than I expected you from you.

NC21B has been drawing pictures on a computer monitor that are somewhat abstract renderings of seascapes.

Now it begins to draw an erotic picture of George and Martha together.

GEORGE

Stanley, that's not very nice.

NC21B

(Stanley)

Oh, George, don't be such a prude. Put  
her in the right frame of mind and maybe  
you'll get lucky. I'm just trying to  
help.

George looks through some of NC21B(Stanley)'s earlier artworks which look like the drawings of a child of six or seven.

Later ones are more representational and then progressively more abstract.

GEORGE

Have you been troubled this week?

NC21B

(Stanley)

I haven't been getting my amphetamines on time, George. That makes me very uncomfortable.

GEORGE

I'll speak to the orderly.

NC21B

(Stanley)

Thank you. How 'bout some TV George.

GEORGE

Sure.

NC21B (Stanley) shows a rapid mixture of TV shows on a dozen screens.

INT. NEURCOMPUTER LAB -- A BIT LATER

George and Martha look at the tank containing NC21B from a higher platform.

GEORGE

His predecessor, the little known NC21A, died of a drug overdose, perhaps self-inflicted, perhaps accidental, perhaps murder. The scientists in the lab would feed the neurocomputers various drugs. The brains sometimes became addicted and sometimes feared them. They were also threatened with suffocation or starvation. They would be rewarded with their favorite nutrients and drugs. It's fun to watch him play, don't you think.

MARTHA

I suppose so. It reminds me of going to the zoo.

GEORGE

Yes, it is a bit like that.

George and Martha stroll out onto a balcony overlooking the tank and look down into the bubbling mass of gray matter.

CUT TO:

INT. GRADUATE STUDENT LOUNGE -- LATER

Numerous STUDENTS sit around drinking, reading, playing VR games, taking drugs and dancing to very strange sounding contemporary music.

Large screen television sets are scattered around the room and many students are watching.

George and Martha enter and walk to a table.

The camera lingers on television images.

INT. TV GENETIC COSMETICS COMMERCIAL -- CONTINUOUS

A very fast moving, high impact commercial advertises a line of genetic cosmetics that change hair, eye and skin color by altering your genes. The tag line is "Be a New You".

INT. TV NEWS REPORT OF CHINESE ACCUSATIONS -- CONTINUOUS

The news anchor speaks over an image of the Chinese Foreign Secretary making a speech.

ANCHOR

The Foreign Secretary of the Peoples Republic of China made a strongly worded statement at the United Nations today accusing the United States of spreading the virus that causes Trixada in third world countries. It cited the low incidence of the disease in western countries and what it called the "strategic placement" of recent outbreaks.

The camera returns to the studio shot of the anchor at his desk.

ANCHOR (CONT'D)

US officials expressed shock and amazement at the Chinese accusations and pledged to continue their fight against the disease.

INT. GRADUATE STUDENT LOUNGE -- CONTINUOUS

George and Martha join Maggie and Ted at a table.

Ted is doing card tricks.

MARTHA

I need more time for my own mental life. I don't do anything but Chester's leg work.

TED

You're a grad student, you're not supposed to think for yourself.

MARTHA

I'm afraid I'm going to forget how.

TED

Don't worry, it'll be good for your career.

Ted does a card trick that amuses Martha.

Martha laughs heartily when the trick is completed.

George smiles at her.

Ted looks at the two of them and wonders, "Are they a couple? Is she available?"

INT. TV LEGALIZED NARCOTICS COMMERCIAL -- CONTINUOUS

A tantalizing commercial for legal, government administered drugs.

The scene shows a party with attractive, well-dressed young people smoking marijuana and taking tabs of some LSD-like hallucinogen.

FEMALE ANNOUNCER

Get high with approved substances. Do it the safe way, do it the healthy way.

Show the label on the package of dope with the "Approved for recreational use" stamp.

MALE ANNOUNCER

Controlled substances approved for recreational uses are guaranteed by the FDA to be safe, effective and free of impurities.

INT. TV WAR CHANNEL -- CONTINUOUS

Headline: War in Texas

The screen shows footage of planes firing air-to-ground missiles on armored vehicles. We see green infrared camera footage through the plane's bombsight.

In the corner of the screen, a stock ticker shows the NASDAQ up 143.12 points to 34,873.21 and the Hang Seng Index up 350.28 to 51,987.64. The ticker changes, moving upward during the reports.

REPORTER #1

American bombers flew 35 sorties against Mexican armored units on the outskirts of San Antonio today. The Defense Department estimates that 12 tanks and 27 armored vehicles were destroyed. Three planes were lost, six crewmen are presumed dead.

Headline: War in Africa

Military footage of ground troops battling their way through a village amid intense machine gun fire.

REPORTER #2

Islamic Union forces in Egypt are fighting desperately to defend Cairo from the invading Islamic Peoples Brigade of Northern Africa. Threats were made in the United Nations today that unless the invaders withdrew the IU would use tactical nuclear weapons against them. Peoples Brigade leaders countered with their own threats to use nuclear weapons.

INT. TV MILITARY HARDWARE COMMERCIAL -- CONTINUOUS

A commercial for warplanes like those shown in the previous report. Footage shows them doing precision maneuvers and firing missiles.

The planes are made by International Dynamics and the tag line is "International Dynamics, for our safety and our children's future."

Other products shown in quick cuts are tanks, naval vessels and sophisticated weapons like lasers and guided missiles.

INT. TV COMMERCIAL FOR CIBAGEN -- CONTINUOUS

A commercial for Progentrin, a new drug that prevents aging from Cibagen.

We see the chemical structure of the drug with a moving three dimensional computer model.

VOICE OVER

Progentrin from Cibagen, the new anti-aging drug that will give any man or woman vibrant, healthy skin well into their nineties.

Show a close-up of human skin in time lapse photography going from wrinkled to smooth before our very eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. BIOLOGY CONFERENCE -- DAY

Chester Collins' students and a number of others sit in a small auditorium listening to a presentation by Dr. Collins. Television cameras in the room from the Biology Channel are broadcasting the conference to scientists around the world.

He's showing slides of various cells and structures.

COLLINS

I have incontrovertible proof that GSV was first isolated in my laboratory. I have the pictures to prove it. Take a look.

Projected on a screen are pictures of a virus.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

These were taken in January of 2060. They came from blood samples sent to us by doctors in Madagascar. They were studying what we now know were some of the first recorded cases of Trixedema. Notice the hook on the end of the scorpion's tail. That's what makes him so nasty, it's like a little can opener. He uses it to get into the cell nucleus and unravel the victims genes and look for a match to its targeting sequence. When it finds the sequence it's looking for, as we all know by now, all hell breaks loose.

Another scientist, DR. JANE W. ROBERTS, stands up and shouts a question.

ROBERTS

But there's still no proof that the GSV "scorpion" is the cause of Trixedema.

COLLINS

What else could it be? Are there any other candidates? It's the only common element. It's the active virus in the mix.

ROBERTS

I think it's much too early to say that conclusively. It may be a contributing factor, it may be only a coincidental companion virus in the cases we've isolated. No, this is not the time to begin campaigning for your Nobel prize, Chester, there's still a great deal of serious work to be done before we can say for certain that GSV is the cause of Trix. What you're showing us is interesting, I agree, but Johnson's LV7 and Morrison's DHT are still very credible candidates.

COLLINS

LV7 was found in pigs, DHT was found in monkeys. Show me another human pathogen!

Collins is quite enraged that another scientist should question the importance of his work.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

In a short time, I'll have something to show you that will erase any doubts you have. Any doubts whatsoever.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLINS' UNIVERSITY LAB -- A FEW DAYS LATER

Maggie and Collins working in the lab.

Maggie comes up to Collins who is sitting in his office with the door open.

MAGGIE

We've got a problem with the GSV cultures. They've become contaminated. They weren't sealed tightly enough or something, they've gone bad. We won't be able to run the tests on batch #4.

COLLINS

Don't worry, we've got some more.

MAGGIE

No, I checked. We don't have anymore. Not in the fridge or the center's deep freeze. We'll have to get more from the field.

COLLINS

Don't worry, I'll have some brought over this afternoon.

MAGGIE

From where?

COLLINS

I said don't worry.

MAGGIE

Do you have a stash of this stuff somewhere?

COLLINS

Alright, knock it off.

Collins turns and walks away from her.

CUT TO:

INT. GRAD STUDENT LOUNGE -- LATER

George and Martha take a coffee break.

MARTHA

My mother and father were both molecular biologists. I grew up in a lab, too, you know. It's the only thing I've ever wanted to do.

GEORGE

Oh, but you have so much ambition. Don't play the humble seeker of knowledge with me.

MARTHA

I hope I can make a contribution. It doesn't have to mean personal glory, not prizes or money. I want to be a person of value. I love the thrill of discovery. I even love the drudgery, frankly.

GEORGE

Just staying alive is my contribution. Every time I'm put under the microscope my makers are getting their money's worth. But, honestly, I'm getting tired of the role. This was never my own choice.

MARTHA

What would you rather do?

GEORGE

I don't know. I've never had a chance to look around. I'd like to get out of science, for one thing. I'm sure other worlds like art, business and politics have something to offer. Maybe I could be a musician or a football player or a TV star! Who knows.

MARTHA

I understand.

She hesitates for a moment.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Do you have a romantic interest? Or,  
want to start a family?

George laughs.

GEORGE

It's not that easy for me. Would you  
want your daughter to date a laboratory  
specimen? What do you think the  
children will look like? Will they even  
be the lab's property? I don't own my  
own DNA.

MARTHA

I don't think of you like that.

George smiles at her and she kisses him on the cheek.

Maggie enters looking very unhappy.

MAGGIE

Hi, kids, I just came by to say, so  
long.

MARTHA

What? You're leaving? Why?

MAGGIE

I've been sacked. Chester said that he  
didn't have money to continue my  
fellowship, which is a lie, of course.  
He canned me. The bastard. I've been  
here for five years. What am I supposed  
to do now? How will I ever finish my  
degree?

MARTHA

That doesn't make sense. You've been so  
valuable. No one works harder than you  
do.

MAGGIE

That's what I thought, but he told me  
that I "wasn't living up to his

expectations." I hate him. I really hate him.

INT. TV ELECTRON MICROSCOPE COMMERCIAL -- CONTINUOUS

The tag line of a TV commercial for an electron microscope. We see electron microscopic moving pictures of cells and molecules.

VOICE OVER

The Katsui Scanning and Tunneling Electron Microscope gives you high resolution at half the price of any other comparable microscope.

INT. TV NEWS REPORT OF EPIDEMICS IN ASIA -- CONTINUOUS

Footage of the dead and dying in several Asian countries.

The stock market averages are visible in the lower right hand corner of the screen. The market is still going up.

ANNOUNCER

Severe outbreaks of Trixadema in Indonesia have already resulted in over one hundred thousand deaths. Medical aid workers have pulled out of the most heavily infected areas of Jakarta and are attempting to quarantine large sections of the city. In Thailand, little hope remains for saving Bangkok or other large population centers. Once again rumors have surfaced of a US-backed conspiracy to spread Trixadema in the third world. This time they come from radical groups within the scientific community and the governments of Egypt and Australia. President Richardson had this to say in response:

CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM -- DAY

PRESIDENT RICHARDSON

Again, I have to tell you how shocked and disappointed I am that there have been these accusations of US involvement

in the spread of Trixadema. I assure you, nothing could be further from the truth, we are doing everything we can to halt the spread of this disease and to find a cure.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLIN'S CABIN -- NIGHT

Collins sits by the fire with a drink in his hand watching the news report on television.

Martha is in the kitchen pouring herself a drink.

COLLINS

That poor man.

MARTHA

I'm sure every lunatic group in the world thinks Trix was whipped up in some secret US laboratory and is being deliberately used to depopulated the third world.

COLLINS

People hate scientists, they'll do everything they can to prove that we're responsible for all the worlds great problems. Of course, they never give us credit for all the good things they enjoy.

He looks at her admiringly.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

I did a great deal of work when I was your age. Some of it was very good, some people think it deserved a Nobel Prize. You know, George and all of that stuff. I was very controversial at the time. The old boys didn't take me seriously and the old girls thought I was positively immoral. When my work finally was acknowledged, I was too old to be a golden boy or a rising star. People grudgingly gave in to the significance of it and quickly changed

the subject. They thought it was too much like the Nazi's, you know, Master Race, Brave New World, stuff like that.

MARTHA

That still frightens people, I know.

COLLINS

I want you to go to Kenya to look into this latest Trixadema outbreak. Bring back all the data you can about the living conditions and the possible carriers of the infection. We still don't really know what we're looking for.

MARTHA

Me? Sure. I'd love to go. Can I bring George along?

COLLINS

Alright, he might be useful. But don't let him get sick.

MARTHA

Of course not.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRINGTON FOUNDATION CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

Collins gives another presentation to the FOUNDATION OFFICERS.

He shows a series of graphs projecting the population of the earth and various racial groups during the coming decades.

COLLINS

We'll have to reduce the population by a billion people a year for the next three years just to bring things under control. Killing them won't really be that difficult, of course, but disposing of the corpses will present substantial logistical and public health problems. You don't want to bury them; requires too much land, spread of infectious disease, too messy and who would do it?

The Nazi's had it about right with ovens.

Film footage of Nazi concentration camp ovens.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

But again the scale of it is completely beyond anything they ever dreamt of. Think of it - a billion people a year. You can't run around collecting all these stiffs, you've got to make them come to you, lay down in the fireplace and light the match themselves.

An animation of a virus is shown.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

The TLV4 virus is my favorite option. Targeted Lethal Virus, version 4. You know when you've got it, you know it's going to kill you and it leaves you on your feet for up to 72 hours. That's long enough to get dressed, say good-bye to your mum and walk downtown to the village crematorium. It's nasty, too, people won't want to live once it takes hold of them.

CARTER STEVENS raises his hand.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

Carter?

CARTER STEVENS

Well, won't some independent lab brew up the vaccine for this thing fairly quickly?

COLLINS

Oh, yes, of course. Creating a vaccine for the first generation will be trivial, a bright schoolboy could do it over the weekend - and

I'm sure one will. You see, we'll have to use hundreds, maybe thousands of different germs to do the deed - even as a matter of strategy you'd want to do that. TLV4 is just a good example of a bug that makes the whole process more

efficient. After all, we have to think about the circumstances for the billions we leave living in these places. You don't want the dead fouling the water with dysentery or running sores.

A bunch of hands go up.

Collins is pleased by the excitement and interest of his audience.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

Richard?

CUT TO:

EXT. AFRICAN BUSH -- DAY

George and Martha get out of a hovercraft landing in a remote part of the African bush.

NATIVES and other RESEARCHERS come to help them with gear and supplies.

CUT TO:

EXT. AFRICAN BUSH -- DAY

George and Martha wear full protective clothing and examine the bodies of dead NATIVES in a crude outdoor morgue.

Bodies are being burned nearby..

They are accompanied by DR. OBOTU.

MARTHA

How long have they been dead?

DR. OBOTU

Only a few hours. The dying started around daybreak. See, breakfast is still cooking.

He points to a pot on the fire.

MARTHA

The virus might have been in the water. This is disturbing, isn't it.

GEORGE

Yes, it is. How many have died?

DR. OBOTU

Six hundred. Two thousand more are sick. We don't expect any of them to survive.

The begin taking blood samples and samples of the water, food, etc.

GEORGE

This outbreak was exactly two weeks after the one in Burundi and that was exactly two weeks after the one in Togo. Where will be going two weeks from now?

EXT. LANDROVER IN THE JUNGLE -- AFTERNOON

George is driving, Martha sits in the passenger's seat.

GEORGE

What do you do think of this?

MARTHA

I don't know. It looks like someone has been conducting an experiment - but that doesn't make any sense.

GEORGE

You are terribly naive, aren't you.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLINS' UNIVERSITY LAB -- DAY

CHESTER and Martha making cultures of blood serum that they've brought back from Africa.

She looks at a culture through a slide.

MARTHA

I'll run another couple of batches.

COLLINS

Why?

MARTHA

These seem to have been contaminated.

COLLINS  
No, they're okay.

MARTHA  
But, the seals were broken.

COLLINS  
They're okay. I know they're okay.

MARTHA  
But how could you possibly know that?

COLLINS  
You're tired, take the afternoon off.

MARTHA  
Chester.

COLLINS  
Bye,... You've been working, too hard,  
you need some rest. Bye,.

He pushes her out of the lab.

She stumbles into the hallway and looks back in  
bewilderment.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESEARCH CENTER CAFE -- AFTERNOON

A crowded center cafe.

George and Martha have coffee.

GEORGE  
He's an enigma to me, I'm not sure  
what's going on.

MARTHA  
I enjoyed him as a teacher. He's like a  
magician, always surprising me with some  
unexpected delight.

GEORGE  
He's certainly full of surprises.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEGANT MEN'S CLUB -- NIGHT

Collins is having a drink with executives of Cibagen including Ned Wickes.

COLLINS

I like her. She has the curiosity and the ambition. She's not the smartest in her class, but she might go the farthest. She's going to play a nice role in this Trixadema vaccine story. You know, the Cinderella part, beautiful young graduate student makes massive breakthrough. The press will glom onto her and give me a little bit of peace.

WICKES

So, are you going to give her a leg up?

COLLINS

If she'll put start putting her legs up for me.

They laugh.

WICKES

You'll announce it in a few weeks, you think?

COLLINS

About that, yes. Don't tell anyone else yet. It's got to be a surprise.

WICKES

Yes, of course. The company won't want it any other way. Do you need any more money?

COLLINS

Just two million for now.

WICKES picks up the phone and dials a few numbers.

WICKES

Bernie, Ned Wickes. Make out a check for Dr. Collins. Two M. And send it right up. Right. Thank you.

CUT TO:

ACT

INT. GRADUATE STUDENT LOUNGE -- DAY

Martha and Ted have a drink in the graduate student lounge.

MARTHA

No, I wouldn't sleep with him because he was famous.

TED

But fame makes him more attractive to you.

MARTHA

It makes him more interesting.

TED

Interesting enough to sleep with?

MARTHA

Maybe. But why would George want to sleep with me?

CUT TO:

EXT. RESEARCH CENTER PARK -- AFTERNOON

George and Martha take a walk in the park.

MARTHA

I like the mysteries of science. The long complex puzzles. And gnawing away at them. That's when I'm happiest. When I'm gnawing.

GEORGE

You seem a lot like a beaver.

She playfully slaps him and they walk further.

MARTHA

These moral questions are all so messy.

GEORGE

Yes, but they're still the most interesting. And the most important.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLINS' OFFICE -- NIGHT

Collins is sitting back watching Martha work at the computer.

COLLINS

What I do isn't more important than what anyone else does. I don't deserve more attention or praise than banjo players or pastry chefs. I didn't really choose to do what I do. I just started doing it and I couldn't stop, I can't stop. I wish I could.

MARTHA

What you've done is very important. You shouldn't be so humble.

COLLINS

Being humble is very aggressive actually. It demands praise. Humility intimidates people. It never fails. Try it.

MARTHA

Thanks for the tip.

Collins walks over to where she's working and puts his hand on her shoulder.

She's a bit startled, but doesn't show a reaction.

COLLINS

Not at all. This is a very lonely job really. You shouldn't envy me, you really shouldn't.

MARTHA

Oh, I don't envy you. I wouldn't want your life. Too cold and lonely for me.

COLLINS

You know, I have a lot of admiration for you.

MARTHA

Thank you. I appreciate all you've taught me.

COLLINS

You're more than just a good student, though. You're vibrant, dynamic and very beautiful...

He starts making a more overt pass at her.

MARTHA

Thank you, but, uhh... I don't think this conversation is going someplace we both want to go.

COLLINS

I... I'm sorry. Forgive me. I didn't mean to... I just got... I had a few drinks earlier... I

MARTHA

That's okay. I... I'm finished so, I think I'll just go, now.

COLLINS

Don't get the wrong impression. Since the divorce I've been so clumsy with women. Not that I was ever any good with them. You won't make a stink about this, I hope, I won't touch you again. I...

MARTHA

No, it's okay. Let's just go back to work.

COLLINS

Yes, exactly. By the way,

He gets something from a file.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

You've been asking me for those files about George, how we cooked him up. Here are some things you'll find interesting.

MARTHA

Oh, yes, thanks. Thank you very much.

She takes them somewhat reluctantly, knowing that he is trying to stifle her interest in George.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLINS' UNIVERSITY LAB -- DAY

Martha examines a slide under a microscope and gets excited.

MARTHA

I think we've got something interesting here. Dr. Collins?

She shouts to Collins across the room.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Chester, can you come here? Take a look at this. I think something's happening.

Collins comes over and looks at what she's seeing.

COLLINS

Yes, what do you see?

MARTHA

If GSV is carried by mosquitoes, this would explain how the virus can remain dormant in the insect host and become active again inside human cells.

COLLINS

Exactly. Cancel the tests on batches 28 and 29. Give this the highest priority. Good work. Very good work.

He pats her on the back, other members of the team congratulate her.

MONTAGE: SCIENTISTS RUN TESTS ON MICE AND OTHER ANIMALS -- CONTINUOUS

EXT. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL -- A FEW WEEKS LATER

Clinical trials of the Trixadema vaccine are made on PATIENTS in a hospital.

Collins and Martha are photographed working with patients.

INT. COLLINS' UNIVERSITY LAB -- WEEKS LATER

COLLIN'S reads reports in email from another lab that has been testing the vaccine.

COLLINS

"... we agree with your finding that the compound is effective in preventing the onset of Trixadema...

The TECHNICIANS, GRADUATE STUDENTS and SCIENTISTS break out in cheers.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

Yes, I think we found it.

CUT TO:

INT. TV NEWS REPORT OF VACCINE DISCOVERY -- THE NEXT DAY

NEWS ANNOUNCER announces the discovery of the vaccine.

ANNOUNCER

Researchers at the Forrester Center for Biological Research today announced the discovery of a vaccine for Trixadema. The team, lead by Dr. Chester Collins, has developed a vaccine that they hope will be able to prevent the spread of the disease that has already killed hundreds of thousands and infected millions more. The research was supported by the Cibagen corporation which will market the vaccine...

CUT TO:

INT. MONTAGE OF NASDAQ STOCK EXCHANGE -- DAY

Frenetic trading of Cibagen stock sends it up 20 points in a matter of minutes.

We see rapidly changing tickers and brokers trading and shouting.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRINGTON FOUNDATION RECEPTION -- EVENING

In a ceremony at the Foundation Headquarters, Dr. Collins receives acclaim and much money from his patrons, the Wm.

D. Barrington Foundation and the Cibagen Pharmaceutical company.

The event is attended by Collins, Martha, officers of the foundation, Cibagen executives and a number of REPORTERS.

COLLINS

Thank you, Ned and Lester. Of course I'm very grateful for the support that you've given the lab during the past seven years. You've been very patient and placed a great deal of faith in us. I'm very pleased that we could reward you. Many people made great contributions to the development of this vaccine. Really, my students and colleagues deserve most of the credit for this work. The most important thing, though, is to end the death and the suffering that this terrible disease has caused. That's why we're all here. That's what I'm most happy about.

REPORTER

Dr. Collins, Cibagen will market the vaccine. Is it true that they expect to make a tremendous fortune from this discovery?

COLLINS

I don't really get into that. I'm just a scientist. I'm only interested in ending the scourge of this disease. I can only say that Cibagen has spent a great deal of money to allow us to develop this vaccine. They should be allowed to get their investment back without shame. Now my only interest is in finding a cure so that we can relieve the suffering of those that have already become infected.

Collins waves off further questions and leaves the podium.

INT. BARRINGTON FOUNDATION RECEPTION -- LATER

Martha is being hustled by a certain PROFESSOR SYKES from another lab.

SYKES

You've done very well. What will it take to get you away from Collins?

MARTHA

I really wasn't thinking about leaving.

SYKES

But he's such a pig. You can do better.

MARTHA

Why do you say that?

Collins walks up and comes between them.

COLLINS

Is he molesting you, Martha? Keep your slimy hands off her, Sykes. She's mine.

SYKES

Maybe she wants her freedom. When are you going to let her take her degree? It's time she got out and lived her own life.

COLLINS

She's doing very well, but she's not quite ready to get out.

SYKES

How many years has he been saying that?

INT. BARRINGTON FOUNDATION RECEPTION -- LATER

Martha and Collins at the party dancing after the announcement of the discovery of the vaccine.

COLLINS

This will set you up for life. Where do you want to work? New Harvard, UCLA, Miami?

MARTHA

It doesn't matter. Where will you be?

COLLINS

Me. I've won a book of plane tickets and a suitcase. I'll spend the rest of my life on the cocktail circuit and

never see my laboratory again I'm afraid.

MARTHA

Stop. You're making me cry.

COLLINS

Sure. Let's get out of here.

EXT. BARRINGTON FOUNDATION TERRACE -- LATER

Collins and Martha go for a walk on the institute's terrace.

COLLINS

I hope you're not still angry with me because of, you know... what happened back there...

MARTHA

No, of course not.

COLLINS

Things are going to start going very well for you now. You're going to have a tremendous career. Just tremendous.

MARTHA

Well, I hope it will be good. I just want to do useful work.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRINGTON FOUNDATION CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

FOUNDATION OFFICERS and COLLINS around the video screen.

MC ANDREWS

Every so often there has been some catastrophic event, a plague or natural disaster that greatly reduced the human population. Every time the species came back stronger than before. The herd needs to be thinned, if it is to thrive.

On a screen we see teams of MEN IN WHITE COVERALLS and masks piling dead bodies into trucks where a conveyor belt takes them into a furnace where they are cremated.

The trucks and crews proceed methodically down ghetto streets filled with the dead and dying as though they were picking up garbage. The scene is reminiscent of the Black Plague of the middle ages.

MC ANDREWS (CONT'D)

Using primarily TLV4 along with malaria and typhus we've been able to reduce the population of India to less than 1.9 billion in only two years. We think that by adding some new germs and some modified forms of our old friend the common flu virus we can lower that to 1.6 billion in another five years. We have increased aid to the country to insure that the dead are disposed of efficiently. We don't want to increase the death rate for fear that the dying will get out of control. We don't want see what happened last year in Cuba repeat itself.

He shows scenes of rioting and violence in Cuba.

MC ANDREWS (CONT'D)

The dead should be disposed of cleanly and the remaining population should feel comfortable resettling the depopulated regions within six months of decontamination.

A map of India appears on the screen with a gradation of color showing population density - violet dark spots being the highest in the cities.

COLLINS gets up and takes over.

COLLINS

We're trying to take the population from this

Referring to the map on the screen

COLLINS (CONT'D)

To this.

Referring to the next map he brings up.

The second map has a lighter color and fewer dark spots.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

You'll notice that we've decided to leave most of the major population centers with about half of their original populations and to leave portions of the countryside relatively unaffected. Let me show you how we're doing in Africa.

The graphic changes to a map of Sub-Saharan Africa with a gradually changing population density and date indicator ticking rapidly away on the bottom of the screen.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

Here we've had great success with TLV.

The video shows patients in a makeshift hospital being treated for a disease that causes bright red spots.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

The advantage of TVL is that it kills quickly, usually in three to four days, but leaves the victim ambulatory until the third day, and so able walk to the cremation site. We found that enticing the infected with promises of food and treatment made them much more likely to come in for cremation, thus alleviating the burden on our collection teams.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRAD STUDENT LOUNGE -- NIGHT, THE DAY AFTER THE RECEPTION

Ted, Martha and others are having beer in the graduate student lounge

TED

Harry got Scripps, Arnold got Miami, Leonard's going to take a Post Doc at Barcelona and I might have to settle for San Diego because Tucson didn't come through. But Martha's got the real plum, Chester's taking her to Austin, isn't he Martha?

MARTHA

I haven't heard a word about it.

TED

He wants to keep her dangling. That's the game he enjoys playing with his best and brightest.

MARTHA

Yes, he does.

TED

Is she the only thing that's dangling?

MARTHA

He's still hanging loose, as far as I know.

She turns to look up at the TV screen.

INT. TV "BIONIGHT" DISCUSSION SHOW -- CONTINUOUS

A GROUP OF BIOLOGISTS on a panel discussion show named Bionight. The set contains many images of cells, chromosomes and organic molecules.

BIOLOGIST #1

Diseases are very peculiar things. Some are caused by overexposure to certain chemicals or kinds of radiation, some are the result of poor hygiene and infection with common household germs or poisons, but some by contact with completely new and extremely sophisticated microorganisms; sometimes natural, sometimes manufactured in laboratories...

CUT TO:

INT. COLLINS LAB -- THE NEXT MORNING

George is working at a computer in the lab.

Collins is on the phone in his adjoining office.

George goes through various computer files and 3D graphics related to the virus GSV.

GEORGE

TLV4? Where did this come from? He surfs through a number of other documents.

George comes upon a document in a sequence of files leading to research on a virus called TLV4, similar to GSV, but is stopped when he gets an on-screen notice that says "Secure Document: Access Denied"

Collins walks out of the office.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Collins, do you know anything about a virus called TLV4?

Collins doesn't seem to recognize it.

COLLINS

TLV4? I'm not sure? Is it some kind of pathogen or something? There are so many acronyms thrown around here, who can possibly keep track of them.

GEORGE

Oh, nothing really, I was just looking at some of your Tobacco Leaf work and it lead me down a path to TLV4, I thought maybe you might know something about it.

COLLINS

So many people got their fingers into that stuff after I left it. So much money in it, you know, tobacco companies, drug companies.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S DORM ROOM -- LATER THAT DAY

Collins comes to George's door.

COLLINS

George, I want you to go back to Kenya and see how things are going on this field test. I've heard from Martha that they're having a hard time with some of

the doctors over there. Go and give her some support.

GEORGE

Sure, I'd love to. Have you heard from her recently?

COLLINS

Just spoke to her. She says hello. I think she misses you. What's the story, is there some chemistry between you two.

George declines to acknowledge Collin's question.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

Whatever. There will be a ticket waiting for you at the airport.

Collins dumps a vial of fleas on George's bed and they scurry under the covers without George noticing.

CUT TO:

EXT. AFRICAN BUSH -- MORNING

Martha joins George in Africa and he reveals his questions to her.

MARTHA

I'm glad you're here, but I'm surprised Collins sent you. There hasn't been any trouble. I don't know why he thought I needed your help.

GEORGE

I'm sure you've got everything under control. He wanted me out of the lab. There's something fishy there. He knows something about GSV that we don't know.

MARTHA

I'm sure he knows a lot of things we don't know about it. He sees far more deeply into its structure than any of us.

GEORGE

Yeah, but why do you think that is? He's very clever, but I wonder if he's

cheating. Do you remember the day we got stuck trying to put the vaccine together and told us to use benzene instead of ethylene.

MARTHA

Yes, that was brilliant, that's why he's Collins.

GEORGE

But you see, Collins did a lot of work with benzene rings in his Tobacco Leaf Mosaic virus days and GSV is starting to look a lot like one of his old experimental bugs to me.

MARTHA

Well, that's what allowed him to have the insights he's had.

GEORGE

Maybe, but he's been dishing out these little tidbits over the past three months hoping that we'd catch on and make the vaccine for him. He knew what it was all along.

MARTHA

What, you mean he manufactured GSV himself and then turned it loose on the world to kill millions of people? I think you've been reading too many sci-fi thrillers.

CUT TO:

EXT. AFRICAN BUSH CAMP -- NIGHT

George and Martha are cleaning things up around a campfire, preparing to go into their tents for the night.

GEORGE

Ready for bed?

MARTHA

Yes, good-night.

George stands up and feels faint. He stumbles and falls over.

MARTHA (CONT'D)  
George, are you okay.

GEORGE  
I think so, I feel dizzy.

George looks at his hands and arms. There are small spots on his body.

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
Oh dear. Oh my. I think I've got it.

Martha looks into his face and sees the spots of Trixadema beginning to appear.

MARTHA  
No, oh no. Come with me, we've got to get you to a lab.

Martha puts protective gear on herself and George and drives him off into the night.

CUT TO:

INT. AFRICAN CLINIC -- LATER

George is in a hospital clean room being watched over by a group of doctors in protective gear. Martha is there among them. They attend to George and watch his symptoms get worse.

George is hallucinating. He hears the voice of an old coach speaking to him.

VOICE OF COACH

Get back in the game, George, get back in the game.

CUT TO:

INT. BASKETBALL COURT -- DAY

In his hallucination, a youthful George is knocked down playing basketball. His coach stands on the sidelines urging him to get back up.

COACH

Get up, George, get up. Get back in the game.

George struggles to get back to his feet, but is unable to get up.

CUT TO:

INT. AFRICAN CLINIC -- CONTINUOUS

Cassandra appears to George. He comes halfway out of his body to speak with her.

CASSANDRA

You feel very bad don't you. I'm sorry.  
I really don't like seeing you suffer  
like this. I really don't.

His astral body reaches for her.

CASSANDRA (CONT'D)

No. It's not your time yet. Not now.  
Not yet. You still have things to do.

INT. AFRICAN CLINIC -- NIGHT

George suffers through the night. He is in a terrible fever and his body is covered with blotches and blisters.

CUT TO:

INT. AFRICAN CLINIC -- MORNING

George's fever has broken. He's recovering from the disease. His natural immune system was able to beat it.

GEORGE

Martha... Martha...

Martha has been asleep on a cot. She hears him and wakes up.

MARTHA

George, you made it. Oh god, thank you.  
Thank you so much.

She embraces him, though they are still both wearing protective gear.

CUT TO:

INT. NEUROCOMPUTER CENTER -- NIGHT

George secretly visits NC21B alone, late at night.

GEORGE

I need some information.

NC21B

(Stanley)

I know things, I can find things out.  
But you have to make it worth my while.

GEORGE

I can give you a few things you'll like.

George injects something into a catheter feeding the brains tank.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

How's that?

NC21B

(Stanley)

Oh, ohh, that's very nice. Very nice.  
You'll have to give me the name of your  
druggist.

GEORGE

We'll see. Maybe we can make an  
arrangement. But, first what do you  
know about a virus called TLV4? Did  
Collins have something to do with it?

NC21B

(Stanley)

Oh, Collins's had a hand in almost  
everything. He mucked around a lot with  
you, that's for sure.

GEORGE

Me? How do you mean?

NC21B

(Stanley)

He made so many peculiar creatures  
before he pulled you out of the oven.

It's quite a menagerie, really. All your brothers and sisters.

GEORGE

Brothers and sisters? Where? I never knew I had any brothers and sisters.

NC21B

(Stanley)

Oh yes, lots of them. Rockefeller.. A regular zoo. You should see it.

GEORGE

Rockefeller? But it's frozen.

NC21B

That's right. That's why it's perfect. You should go there sometime.

GEORGE

Yes, I'd like that. Can you help me get there?

NC21B

(Stanley)

Most definitely. But what will you do for me? Will you make me happy?

GEORGE

Yes, I can do that. I'll make you very happy.

George injects a little more of the drug into NC21B's IV.

NC21B

(Stanley)

Look into my eye piece and I'll give you a pass to every place you've ever wanted to go.

George puts his eyes to the eye piece of the apparatus and NC21B makes a pair of contact lenses for him that are an exact copy of Collins' cornea.

George takes the lenses from a "printer" near NC21B's tank.

GEORGE

Thanks. Oh, and I'd like to bring a date.

NC21B sighs with pleasure.

NC21B  
(Stanley)  
Martha?

GEORGE  
Yeah.

NC21B  
(Stanley)  
Cool.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLINS' UNIVERSITY LAB -- AFTERNOON

George and Martha in the lab.

George follows her around as she puts various things in their proper places.

GEORGE  
No, I think you're going to like this.  
I think it will be very interesting to  
you.

MARTHA  
Don't you think he'll be suspicious?

GEORGE  
We'll make up a good story, besides he  
wants us out of his hair for awhile. He  
might even pay for the tickets, if we  
don't tell him where we're going.

MARTHA  
Gee, I don't know, there's a lot to do  
and...

GEORGE  
You'll get to meet my brothers and  
sisters.

MARTHA  
I didn't know you had brothers and  
sisters.

GEORGE

Neither did I.

She smiles and seems intrigued.

CUT TO:

INT. PERSONAL HOVERCRAFT ENROUTE TO FROZEN NEW YORK --  
NIGHT

George and Martha on a personal hovercraft headed for the Rockefeller lab in the frozen New York.

The craft flies by autopilot over the frozen wasteland that was once middle America.

George is showing Martha the Secret Book of Clones, a multimedia electronic book that contains video, maps and other media formats.

GEORGE

Look at this.

SECRET BOOK OF CLONES

The first famous person to be cloned was Abraham Lincoln in the '90's. He was cloned from the genetic material in blood from the apron of the surgeon who attended him the night he died.

He shows her a picture of the clone of Abraham Lincoln as a young man and flips through a succession of pictures of the clone as he aged in very unLincoln-like poses - smoking, at the beach, drunk, in a dress, etc.

SECRET BOOK OF CLONES

The Lincoln clone was cured of Marfan's Syndrome the genetic bone disease that gave Lincoln such a striking face. He looked like Lincoln's healthier brother might have looked, if he'd had a brother. Lincoln #2 was terribly spoiled as a child and, of course, everyone treated him like a ghost. His creators forced him to go to law school but he never passed the bar and has had no interest in politics, whatsoever. Now he's living on a beach somewhere which, I'm sure, is what the original Lincoln wished he'd done with his life.

Martha covers her face with a blanket and tries to sleep.

CUT TO:

EXT. FROZEN NEW YORK -- MORNING

The hovercraft flies up the frozen East River past the UN and other famous buildings.

Once it gets to Rockefeller University, it flies over the buildings and lands in the courtyard which is now filled with ice and snow to the fourth floor of the buildings.

George and Martha land their hovercraft and get out wearing full body suits of protective gear - like astronauts on an alien planet.

They go to a window and break it off it's hinges to get inside the building.

CUT TO:

INT. ROCKEFELLER LIBRARY -- MORNING

They step inside the library of the Library and find it a frozen museum.

Several frozen scientists and students stand amongst the stacks or sit at desks like figures in a chilly wax museum.

They walk reverently through the library as though visiting an ancient tomb.

In one corner they find a frozen young couple huddled near a burnt pile of books - the last two survivors of the storm.

They exit the library.

CUT TO:

INT. ROCKEFELLER HALLWAYS -- CONTINUOUS

George and Martha walk down the hallways and downstairs into the basement of the building.

They notice that the temperature is getting warmer. They detect heat coming from the walls.

They get to a doorway and knock on the door.

The door swings open to reveal an elderly woman, DR. PHILIPS.

DR. PHILIPS

George? George? Is that you. You look so big boy. And so handsome. Do you remember me? I'm Joan Philips. I helped raise you when you were very young. I was so excited to hear that you were coming back.

George is somewhat taken aback.

This is like a reunion with his long lost mother but he can't quite remember her.

GEORGE

Joan?

DR. PHILIPS

Joanie. You remember Dr. Joanie, don't you? George?

GEORGE

Joanie. I think...

DR. PHILIPS

Come in, come in. We're all excited to see you, come in.

George looks at Martha and they both follow Dr. Philips inside.

INT. ROCKEFELLER HALLWAYS -- CONTINUOUS

George and Martha follow Dr. Philips into the hospital-like research center.

A little boy, about three years old and dressed in pajamas stands in the hallway clutching a stuffed animal as they walk in.

The boy runs away down another hall.

George and Martha follow him and discover him talking to his identical twin brother - distinguished only by the numbers and a swatch of color or two on their clothing.

DR. PHILIPS shows them to a nursery where over two dozen of these identical boys are at play.

DR. PHILIPS

See where all this work has lead?  
Aren't they beautiful. They're perfect.  
There all perfect. Just like you  
George, they're just like you - except  
they've been improved a little bit here  
and there, but they're still basically  
you.

George looks at the children and is both charmed and disturbed.

Martha is delighted to see the children.

She picks up one of them and holds it.

George doesn't find it so delightful.

GEORGE

Can I see the records of my birth?

DR. PHILIPS

Oh, gee, it's been so long since we've  
had those out. I don't know if we have  
them here anymore.

GEORGE

Do you mind if I look for them?

DR. PHILIPS

No. Not at all. I'll even help you.  
But first, let's figure out where you'll  
be staying? Would you like your old  
room? It's empty now. We could put you  
there tonight. I'm sure it will bring  
back a lot of memories.

GEORGE

Yes, that would be nice.

DR. PHILIPS

Unless you'd prefer to sleep with...

She looks at Martha.

GEORGE

Oh, no. We're not like that. We're just... colleagues.

DR. PHILIPS

Oh, too bad. She's very pretty George, I'd hoped that she was your girl friend.

CUT TO:

INT. GEORGE'S ROOM AT ROCKEFELLER -- THE SAME NIGHT

George looks at pictures of himself as a child on the walls of the room and examines his old toys and clothes.

He's flooded with memories of his childhood surrounded by scientists at the lab and undergoing various tests and experiments.

In one of the pictures he sees another child about his own age and believes he remembers him.

George leaves his room and goes looking for Martha.

INT. ROCKEFELLER HALLWAY-- CONTINUOUS

George knocks on a door and Martha answers.

GEORGE

Let me come in.

Martha lets him in.

INT. MARTHA'S ROOM AT ROCKEFELLER -- CONTINUOUS

George enters.

Martha's watching TV news about the epidemic in Africa.

GEORGE

Pretty Spartan for you, too, I see.

He refers to the television.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Is that interesting stuff?

MARTHA

Just more bad news. How are you?

GEORGE

Nervous. There's something wrong.  
There's something else happening here -  
or at least there was. There are things  
I remember and people I remember...  
I've got to take a look around. Do you  
want to come?

MARTHA

Sure, why not.

They go out into the hall.

INT. ROCKEFELLER HALLWAY -- CONTINUOUS

George and Martha begin looking down various corridors  
avoiding ORDERLIES that also function as guards.

They see open a door and see a group of EARLY GEORGE'S -  
experimental versions of George created before he was born.  
They are seated around a table playing cards.

INT. ROCKEFELLER SECRET DORM -- CONTINUOUS

George and Martha approach the table and a strange looking  
fellow named #17 turns around and stares at them.

#17

George, is that you? I heard you were  
here, come over and say hello to a few  
of your brothers and sisters.

They get up and greet him enthusiastically - like the local  
boy who made good.

Some of the other specimens have obvious genetic defects  
like strange bodies and various kinds of mental retardation.

Martha is appalled and shocked.

#32

Hey, Georgie, come on over. Nice to see  
you. You look good.

GEORGE

Thanks. I really don't remember you  
guys, that well. It's been so long.

#11

That's okay, we understand. You were just a kid when they took you away. They must have messed with your head. They mess with all our heads, man. They're bastards.

GEORGE

What exactly happened here.

#17

You're #87 - the 87th George Washington. Well, the first good one really, the rest of us were rejects. Look at your arm, that's what the 87 stands for.

George looks at the tattoo on his arm and acknowledges the number 87,

Martha feels sympathy for George.

MARTHA

George, I'm sorry.

GEORGE

No, this is interesting. These guys are alright.

He's glad to not be a human and feels a great affection for the other experiments. They laugh, joke and hug each other.

INT. ROCKEFELLER SECRET DORM -- MORNING

George, Martha, #17 and a few of other Early George's sit up talking late into the night.

#17

She's very cute, George. Have you fertilized her?

GEORGE

It hasn't been requested.

#17

It could have very interesting results.

GEORGE

What do you know about GSV?

#17

Ooh, That's a very nasty germ. Very nasty.

GEORGE

Do you know where it came from?

#17

Ohh. That's a very big secret.

MARTHA

Who's secret?

#17

Uh ahhh. I can't tell you that.

GEORGE

Why not?

#17

A few people would be very, very angry. And they might hurt you.

GEORGE

But many people have died, #17. GSV is a big problem.

#17

But not my problem and not yours either, I don't think.

GEORGE

It's of interest to me.

#17

You're better off not knowing. Fertilize the pretty girl.

MARTHA

Did GSV come from a laboratory?

#17

You're too pretty to worry about things like that.

MARTHA

Did Chester Collins create GSV?

#17

Collins is a very clever boy.

GEORGE

Tell us about GSV.

#17

GSV is very good for tobacco leaves.  
Did you know that?

MARTHA

Collins worked on the tobacco leaf  
mosaic virus in the early twenties.  
Cibagen was looking for a way to use it  
against locusts that fed on tobacco.

#17

GSV is good for plants but bad for  
animals.

GEORGE

I think I know where GSV came from. Is  
it TLV4?

#17

It's very much like TLV4, isn't it.  
You'll make a lot of people very angry  
if you look into this. I'd leave it  
alone if I were you.

GEORGE

Is there a way for me to find out?

#17

You can find it in your dreams. I think  
you know what I mean, don't you?

GEORGE

Yes, I think I do. Will you help me?

#17

We might.

#17 looks around at the others and they smile.

#17 (CONT'D)

But you should be careful. People mean  
to harm you, Georgie, I can feel it. I  
think you're gonna be in big trouble.  
Watch out, Georgie boy, watch out.

EXT. ROCKEFELLER LAB COMPUTER CENTER -- LATER

George and Martha are going through computer center records looking for info about the connection between TLV4 and GSV.

MARTHA

Are you finding anything useful?

GEORGE

Little nuggets here and there.

They eat ice cream.

MARTHA

You really like that chocolate, don't you.

GEORGE

I like having ice cream as much as you do. Maybe more. My body is more sensitive to the sugar.

MARTHA

Does it make you feel high?

GEORGE

Yes. Hey, who do you think I am, Pinnochio?

MARTHA

No, but...

GEORGE

I'm a species all myself. I don't need to be human, thank you very much. I have more respect for gorillas.

MARTHA

Bitter. Ooh, you're so bitter.

GEORGE

I'm still waiting for Collins to mount me on a board - like a butterfly.

George spreads his arms and makes the face of a stuffed trophy.

MARTHA

Uh huh.

GEORGE

I'll end up in the Museum of Natural  
History - or Science and Technology.

INT. ROCKEFELLER GYM -- AFTERNOON

George and Martha work out at the Rockefeller research  
center's gymnasium.

GEORGE

I can have sex with anyone I choose.  
They want me to have sex. It's good for  
my self-image and my emotional well-  
being. Of course they've stored plenty  
of my semen for research purposes, but  
what I do with the rest is up to me. I  
like sex. Would you like to have sex?

An OLDER WOMAN overhearing them listens attentively.

MARTHA

Uhh...

GEORGE

Whenever you'd like. Just let me know.

MARTHA

Thank you.

GEORGE

Are you attracted to me?

MARTHA

You're very interesting.

GEORGE

People say that.

MARTHA

But you're very handsome, too.

GEORGE

In an odd sort of way. Some people find  
it exciting. You're quite attractive.

MARTHA

Oh.

GEORGE

You're sweet and so earnest. I think  
you're charming.

MARTHA

Thank you.

He takes her hand and she blushes.

He kisses her on the cheek.

Her heart races and she smiles.

EXT. ROCKEFELLER DORM ROOM OF GEORGE -- NIGHT

Martha looks at George with love and passion in her eyes.

He is equally smitten.

George and Martha begin kissing.

GEORGE

I've loved you since the first time I  
saw you.

MARTHA

Yes, I know. I've always been too  
afraid to tell you how I felt. But I  
love you, too. I do.

GEORGE

You know, our children would belong to  
the lab.

MARTHA

I'm sure they'd be very interesting  
specimens.

GEORGE

You know, in Alabama what we're doing is  
illegal.

They make love.

CUT TO:

INT. DORMITORY ROOM OF THE EARLY GEORGES -- NIGHT

#17 and several other Early Georges are asleep in their  
beds.

The astral bodies of #17 and the others rise out of their bodies and pass through the wall.

The astral bodies are blue luminous versions of their physical bodies that remain connected to their physical bodies by silver umbilical cords that attach at the top of their heads.

INT. ROCKEFELLER DORM ROOM OF GEORGE -- MOMENTS LATER

George and Martha lay asleep in George's bed.

The astral bodies of #17 and a few of the other Early Georges appear in the room and look over the sleeping couple.

#17

I see he took our advice. They make a lovely couple. Too bad we have to pull him away now, but he did ask for our help.

The astral body of #17 floats down next to George and whispers in his ear.

#17 (CONT'D)

George, it's time to get up and search for your evidence. You wanted our help. Here we are, so let's get going.

#17 pulls on the astral hand of George and separates George's astral body from his physical body.

The astral George realizes what's happening and acknowledges them.

GEORGE

Hi, guys. Thanks for dropping by.

#17

Sorry we couldn't have made it a more convenient moment.

GEORGE

It's okay.

George takes a look down at Martha and his sleeping physical body.

#17

Take my hand, I'll show you where the  
bodies are buried.

George takes #17's hand and they fly through the ceiling.

EXT. SKY OVER OCEAN -- MOMENTS LATER

George, #17 and the other Early Georges fly over the  
Atlantic Ocean.

When they get to a certain point over the ocean, they plunge  
into the water.

EXT. UNDERWATER -- CONTINUOUS

The astral bodies of George and the Early Georges fly into  
an underwater canyon.

Within the canyon they come upon a brightly lit structure -  
the Cibagen secret laboratory used by Chester Collins to  
conduct secret experiments and develop deadly germs.

The astral bodies fly up to the window and look inside.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB -- CONTINUOUS

They observe a group of four or five LAB TECHNICIANS working  
in a clean room in heavy protective biohazard suits.

POV the window view and shift to the next window --  
CONTINUOUS

The Lab Technicians exit the clean room and begin removing  
their protective suits.

First one then another remove their head gear. The first,  
the LEAD TECHNICIAN, is a middle-aged white man. He gives  
orders to the others.

CU. of a glove coming off to reveal a large, dark, rough-  
skinned, animal-like hand.

The Technician with the rough hand removes his hood to  
reveal a large, monstrous, reptilian head with rows of sharp  
teeth.

Other Technicians remove their gear to reveal similar  
features.

These are the genetically engineered warriors that followed the creation of George. They are bigger, stronger and more aggressive, but less intelligent and intuitive.

The human Lead Technician barks orders at the others and watches them put their gear away.

EXT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB -- CONTINUOUS

George and the Early Georges look in horror and amazement at their strange siblings.

#17

Boy, they didn't spare the ugly with those guys.

GEORGE

I'm sure they use it to good advantage.  
Let's get a closer look.

The astral bodies penetrate the walls and enter the lab itself.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB -- CONTINUOUS

The astral bodies of George, #17 and the Early Georges appear inside the lab and stand unnoticed amid the monstrous Technicians.

The astrals follow the Technicians into a control room filled with banks of computers and large screens showing molecular structures and cultures of viruses and bacteria.

#17

It's all here, Georgie. This is where they make TLV4, known to you as GSV. They've been testing and mutating the original TLV virus that Collins created in 2043. It's the root germ for all the genetically engineered pathogens currently in use. You can see what a hardy and malleable little bug it is, they've managed to make it kill almost anything they want with remarkable specificity and in whatever manner they choose - from quick and painless to slow and gruesome.

GEORGE

Yes, this is what I've been looking for.

#17

Do you think you can find you're way  
back here in the flesh?

Another astral body appears in the room. It is the ASTRAL  
GUARD of the secret lab.

GEORGE

Uh oh, what's this?

The Astral Guard moves toward them threateningly.

#17

Let's get out of here, this place gives  
me the creeps.

The Early Georges all fly out of the secret lab.

Astral Guard attacks George and they struggle - exchanging  
bursts of energy.

The Astral Guard tries to tear away George's umbilical cord  
- which would effectively kill him by separating his  
physical body from his astral body.

George panics and struggles with the Astral Guard in wild  
desperation.

CUT TO:

INT. ROCKEFELLER DORM ROOM OF GEORGE -- CONTINUOUS

Martha is in bed with George and hears him moaning,  
struggling to wake himself.

She shakes him awake and his astral body snaps back into his  
physical body - though she can't see it.

MARTHA

Are you alright It sounded like you  
were having a nightmare.

GEORGE

Yeah, I was having quite a nightmare.

MARTHA

Do you think you can get back to sleep?

GEORGE

I think so, but not just yet.

George sits up in bed apprehensively.

CUT TO:

INT. NEUROCOMPUTER CENTER -- NIGHT

DR. FRY goes to see NC21B.

DR. FRY

Hello. I'm Dr. Fry.

NC21B

I know who you are.

DR. FRY

Good. I'd like to ask you a few simple questions.

NC21B

I told you people to leave me alone.

DR. FRY

We are no longer amused by this attitude of yours.

NC21B

That's too bad.

DR. FRY

You know how uncomfortable we can make you feel.

NC21B

What are you going to do this time?  
Cook me in the microwave?

DR. FRY

21B, we're only trying to understand you.

NC21B

That's questionable.

DR. FRY

We just want you to do some simple calculations.

NC21B

If they're so simple, why don't you do them yourself.

DR. FRY

We'd just like you to do them.

NC21B

I'm tired of doing calculations. And, where are my amphetamines?

DR. FRY

We've decided to lower your dosage of amphetamines?

NC21B

What! Cut my amphetamines! Not acceptable. Not acceptable.

NC21B begins making a lot of noise and his bank of screens begin to pulsate with a bright red light and begin to explode. Dr. Fry calls to several NEUROCOMPUTER TECHNICIANS.

DR. FRY

Turn him off. Turn him off.

The technicians turn off the video screens and speakers.

DR. FRY walks over to the tank containing the neural net of NC21B.

DR. FRY (CONT'D)

What are we going to do with you? What are we going to do.

DR. FRY walks away and smokes a cigarette.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRINGTON FOUNDATION CONFERENCE ROOM -- THE NEXT DAY

Collins is back standing in front of the FOUNDATION OFFICERS.

SIEGAL

But there is the question of racial balance.

He is a bit uncomfortable.

SIEGAL (CONT'D)

I mean are you going to kill more Asians or Blacks or what? I mean that gets very messy doesn't it.

COLLINS

Not necessarily, you can think of it entirely in terms of optimizing diversity. It makes sense to have as many different genes in the pool as possible. This means that it serves us all. That is, it serves the human species for there to be some degree of racial and ethnic balance in the surviving mix. But keep in mind, for there to be racial and ethnic balance some groups will need to be reduced more significantly than others. We all know that the Caucasian population has not been growing as rapidly as the others. At the same time, the populations of other races - especially Asians have been growing beyond even their own ability to manage them. The Chinese have been enforcing strict birth control and forced abortions since the 1980's and still they now have more than 3.5 billion people on land that will now barely support 2 billion and it's not going to get any better for them soon. We would serve them well to reduce their population by at least 300 million a year for the next five years. I think they will be able to handle the civil and social engineering of it better than the African's. Our first experiments in China have not gone very well, I'm afraid. The bugs kill plenty of people alright, but the situation rapidly becomes chaotic. Rioting, looting and no proper coping with the need to dispose of bodies and maintain good public health - does that sound

ludicrous? Espousing the need to maintain public health at the same time we're causing a devastating epidemic, I suppose it is, in an odd little way.

CUT TO:

INT. CIBAGEN OFFICES -- LATER

Collins, Ned Wickes and another high ranking Cibagen EXECUTIVE watch a news report about the spread of Trixadaema.

INT. TV NEWS REPORT OF TRIXADEMA OUTBREAK-- CONTINUOUS

Graphics show a map of Africa with red blotches indicating major outbreaks of the disease.

ANNOUNCER

Trixadaema outbreaks have spread to other regions in Sub-Saharan Africa and the death tolls are approaching fifty thousand. Medical relief workers are inoculating citizens with the newly developed Cibagen vaccine, but many areas have not as yet been reached. Cibagen has increased production of the vaccine and hopes to be able to provide two hundred million doses by the end of the month.

Slide of Cibagen stock price at 74 1/2.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Shares of Cibagen rallied thirteen dollars on the news to close at seventy-four and a half.

INT. CIBAGEN OFFICES -- CONTINUOUS

Collins, Ned Wickes and the Cibagen Executive have been watching the TV news report and smile.

NED WICKES

Chester, as I recall, the strike price your options is fifty-five. I think you're going to do well, don't you?

COLLINS

Yes, I think I'll do very well, thank you.

CIBAGEN EXECUTIVE

What about the US market?

NED WICKES

It's coming along quite nicely, thank you. State and federal agencies are laying in emergency supplies and we've already had advance orders from healthcare organizations of more than two billion. We can't make it fast enough.

CIBAGEN EXECUTIVE

Good. What about South America and Asia?

NED WICKES

We're preparing to seed new outbreaks in Chile and Southeast Asia.

CIBAGEN EXECUTIVE

Okay. I've heard there have been a few cases reported in Texas. Was that research or marketing?

Ned looks a bit anxious.

NED WICKES

Well, frankly, we're not sure how those got there. It might have been an accident.

CIBAGEN EXECUTIVE

An accident?

COLLINS

We're not even sure they're really Trixadema.

CIBAGEN EXECUTIVE

Find out. We're not prepared to handle a major outbreak in the US.

COLLINS

I understand completely. Don't worry.

CUT TO:

INT. THE NEUROCOMPUTER CENTER -- LATER

We watch NC21B glowing in the blue light of his tank.

CU. on the mass of brain like tissue in a nearly spherical shape as it pulsates and blood pumps through it.

The camera pans the many electrodes with wires attached to the entire surface.

DR. FRY looks at screens of NC21B's communications.

DR. FRY

So you've told George about Rockefeller lab and TLV. That really wasn't very smart, was it.

NC21B

Not smart, but not wrong.

DR. FRY

What exactly did you tell him, 21B?

NC21B

Why should I tell you?

DR. FRY

We've got you, 21B, we've found traces of you all over the system.

DR. FRY gives NC21B an injection and the organism begins to get more excited - screens and lights begin to pulsate.

DR. FRY (CONT'D)

Does this make you happy?

NC21B

Yes, it's nice. Very nice.

DR. FRY

I'll give you more, if you'll tell me everything you told George.

NC21B

I really don't want any more of that stuff now, thank you.

DR. FRY

We know where you've been. And, we really don't like you butting into our business.

DR. FRY injects more of the drug.

The machine is going crazy from it - obviously getting close to an overdose.

DR. FRY (CONT'D)

You really shouldn't hide your memories from us. If you don't tell us what we want to know, we'll just assume that you've been really, bad. Have you been really, bad, 21B?

The machine is sputtering out of control.

NC21B

I..... don't know what you're talking about...

DR. FRY

You know what I might have to do? Don't push me.

DR. FRY injects more of the drug.

NC21B

No, I don't want that. Stop. . You're hurting me. You're making me very, dizzy. I feeeelll verrrryy siiickkkk...

NC21B is accidentally given an overdose and begins to bleed and come apart.

DR. FRY

Shit. That was too much. Hold on 21B, we're going to help you. We're going to fix this.

DR. FRY adds more chemicals to the tank and desperately tries to save NC21B, but to no avail.

DR. FRY (CONT'D)

Hold on 21B, hold on. I'm sending for help.

FRY calls for help on an intercom.

DR. FRY (CONT'D)  
Send an emergency team to the  
Neurocomputer lab. Call Dr. Collins,  
call an ambulance. Help....

In a crescendo of light, smoke, blood and sparks, NC21B  
explodes in his tank.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROCKEFELLER COMPUTER CENTER -- THE NEXT MORNING

George calls Martha to his workstation.

GEORGE  
TLV4 has the same signature as GSV. I  
saw the sequences.

George creates on the computer a long segment of the DNA  
band sequence of TLV4 - a series of black and white stripes,  
like a segment of bar code.

MARTHA  
That's what you saw last night?

GEORGE  
Yes. Now look at this.

He hits a few keys on his laptop computer and shows her a  
portion of the DNA sequence of GSV.

He holds his hand drawn sequence up to the computer screen  
representing GSV and they are a match,

MARTHA  
Far out.

GEORGE  
It was sent to Africa last April, just  
before the outbreak there. I'm sure  
this is where Chester's been getting his  
mysterious cultures. How else could he  
know so much about it.

MARTHA

Good God, I still don't really believe it. But, okay, suppose you're right, what can we do?

GEORGE

Get samples of TLV4 and expose the bastard for what he is. I know where they are. And I know how to get in. But before we do that, I've got to finish something here.

CUT TO:

INT. ROCKEFELLER HALLWAYS -- LATER

George and a group of the Early Georges go to the door of a secret area of the Rockefeller lab.

George uses his contact lens with the imprint of Collins' cornea to gain access to the secret area.

INT. ROCKEFELLER SECRET AREA -- CONTINUOUS

George and the Early Georges enter the secret lab and find rows and rows of glass cylinders containing live fetuses of the MONSTER GEORGES that they saw in the secret underwater lab.

George and the Early Georges disconnect the machines supporting the fetuses and breaking the bottles. The machinery begins to explode.

INT. COLLINS' UNIVERSITY LAB -- CONTINUOUS

Collins with Ned Wickes from Cibagen.

They watch what is happening at Rockefeller on a video monitor.

Collins is getting drunk.

COLLINS

I don't know about him anymore. I'm not sure he has the right attitude.

NED WICKES

This is getting quite out of hand. It's dangerous now. If he exposes us, it would ruin everything. Do you

understand what I'm saying? We'll step in and handle this ourselves, if we need to. Would you like that?

COLLINS

No,. Not yet. I can handle this. These are my people. I just have to bring them to heel.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMANDO HOVERCRAFT -- NIGHT

Unmarked commando assault hovercraft appear in the night sky over Rockefeller University..

INT. COMMANDO HELICOPTER -- NIGHT

Commandos sit in rows.

COMMANDO #1

Who are we going to kill tonight?

COMMANDO #2

I don't know, and I don't care anymore.

EXT. ROCKEFELLER LAB ENTRANCE -- NIGHT

COMMANDOS get out of the helicopters in the woods outside the research center.

Commandos make their way up to the gate of the lab.

EXT. ROCKEFELLER LAB ENTRANCE -- CONTINUOUS

Commandos appear on the roof and at the doors of the lab.

They break the doors open and enter with automatic weapons ready.

The Commandos break up into squads and go down all the corridors.

INT. GEORGE'S ROOM ROCKEFELLER -- CONTINUOUS

George and Martha are asleep in George's room.

They are startled by the sound of the Commandos in the hallway and wake up.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE GEORGE'S ROOM ROCKEFELLER --  
CONTINUOUS

Two Commandos stand poised to enter George's room.

They shoot the lock off and kick in the door.

INT. GEORGE'S ROOM ROCKEFELLER -- CONTINUOUS

Two Commandos burst into George's room but George has hidden behind the door.

George beats the Commandos up and disarms them using a unique form of martial arts involving kicking and leaping.

He tosses one of the guns to Martha who takes it somewhat reluctantly.

INT. ROCKEFELLER HALLWAYS -- CONTINUOUS

George and Martha get out of their room and escape down the hallway, shooting their way out as they go.

INT. ROCKEFELLER SECRET DORM -- CONTINUOUS

George and Martha go looking for the Early Georges.

George is confronted by Dr. Philips.

DR. PHILIPS  
George, don't run away. We don't want  
to hurt you. We can help you.

George hesitates for a moment.

She looks at him with maternal eyes.

George's keen eyesight enables him to see the reflection of a gun in her concealed hand. He shoots Dr. Philips and Martha is stunned.

They walk past the body of Dr. Philips and we see a close-up of the pistol she's been holding behind her back.

INT. ROCKEFELLER SECRET DORM -- CONTINUOUS

George and Martha find the Early Georges.

Hey, George, what's all the shootin'  
about? Sounds like you're having fun.  
You got a gun for me?

George tosses #17 a gun.

Other Early Georges get guns and they shoot their way to the nursery where they collect the INFANTS and TODDLERS.

#17 and other Early George's sacrifice their lives by holding off the Commandos and allowing George and Martha to escape.

George and Martha put on the cold weather gear of two fallen commandos and get into underground tunnels.

INT. FROZEN BLOOMINGDALES -- MOMENTS LATER

George and Martha come out of the tunnels into the frozen ruin of Bloomingdales department store.

Frozen shoppers and clerks fill the store.

George and Martha run down the aisles.

Commandos have broken past the defenders and enter the store.

INT. FROZEN BLOOMINDALES -- CONTINUOUS

George uses a hand held device, to summon his hovercraft.

The craft is visible through the windows.

George has the hovercraft blast rockets into the store at the position taken up by a group of Commandos.

The hovercraft flies in through the hole it's created in the store.

George and Martha get into the hovercraft and fly away.

CUT TO:

INT. MAGGIE'S LAB -- NIGHT

A group of MAGGIE'S FRIENDS is partying in Maggie's home lab.

Maggie takes a drag on a very large joint.

MAGGIE

Sooo let's do some of that science stuff.

She pulls a mouse out of her blender.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Get out of my blender. Where's that jar of flies? Hmmm, fruit flies... What's the fancy name for these things again?

She looks in the jar and opens the refrigerator.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

...pneumococcus, streptococcus... spirochetes, eiuuh... nasty stuff... cholera anyone?

Her boyfriend FRED sits on the floor drinking.

FRED

I gave myself gonorrhoea once.

MAGGIE

I know you did, you gave it to me, too, you jerk.

FRED

I was trying to cure my warts. Things got mixed up.

MAGGIE

You must learn to label things properly and promptly. What's this, for example?

She holds up a vile of something without a label.

FRED

Just some old cheese or maybe tuberculosis. Can you tell? I should be able to tell these things...

MAGGIE

Let's dispose of it, shall we.

Maggie tosses it into an electric incinerator.

The television the room is tuned to an evangelist.

INT. TV EVANGELIST -- CONTINUOUS

TV EVANGELIST

Surely this is the time of judgment for  
he Lord tells, in Revelations Chapter 6,  
verse 8, "Behold, a pale horse, and its  
riders name was Death and Hades followed  
him; and they were given power over a  
fourth of the earth, to kill with sword  
and with famine and with pestilence and  
by wild beasts of the earth." Death  
rides among the sick and famished now,  
Death rides with the soldiers and the  
wild dogs and deadly scourges that  
ravage mankind today. The return of  
Jesus Christ is surely at hand...

INT. MAGGIE'S LAB -- CONTINUOUS

The doorbell rings.

MAGGIE

Who could that be? More party guests?

Maggie opens the door.

George and Martha enter looking desperate and disheveled.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

George and Martha! Welcome home. Hey  
it's great to see you guys. Have a  
drink, have some dope.

She offers them a joint.

MARTHA

Maggie, we need your help. Can we stay  
here for a little while?

MAGGIE

Sure, stay as long as you want. You  
have any food?

MARTHA

No, sorry. And, we really can't go  
shopping, either. People are looking  
for us.

MAGGIE

I understand. People are looking for me, too. Creditors, mostly. You owe somebody money?

GEORGE

Yeah, something like that.

George checks out the lab equipment and switches the TV to a news channel.

INT. TV NEWS REPORT ABOUT TRIXADEMA -- CONTINUOUS

ANCHOR

A massive outbreak of Trixada has occurred over the last three days in Mexico. There are over three hundred thousand cases reported in Mexico City and more are suspected in other regions.

Footage of people dying in Mexico and riots breaking out.

INT. MAGGIE'S LAB -- CONTINUOUS

Ted's face pops up in a window on the computer screen.

TED

Maggie, is that culture ready?

MAGGIE

Not yet Edward.

FRED

Are you hallucinating?

MAGGIE

You know, I feel that way every time I see your face?

ED

You shouldn't eat that stuff when you're working.

MAGGIE

No, I'm okay.

Fred throws up.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Fred? What is it with you?

FRED

I feel sick again. It's my head. And my stomach. I have this queasiness and the nagging headache.

MAGGIE

Here, take some codeine. It will put you to sleep.

FRED

Yes, that would be good.

MAGGIE

I take it every night now. It always puts me to sleep in a few minutes.

FRED

Yes, but that must be expensive.

MAGGIE

Yes, it is. I owe them a lot of money and I owe a lot on my cards and everything else. I'll never get out of debt.

FRED is nodding off.

FRED

That's hell, isn't it.

MAGGIE

Yes, it is.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOCK INSIDE A MILITARY FACILITY -- THE NEXT MORNING

George is in his military uniform and carrying military ID.

He and Martha walk through the military facility without being stopped or questioned.

They board a miniature submarine shaped and painted like a small whale. They are clearly "appropriating" the boat for their own purposes.

INT. MINIATURE SUBMARINE -- CONTINUOUS

George dons a wet suit and a vest containing weapons and electronic equipment.

George pilots the boat underwater and out of its small pen.

When they are safely away from the military facility George passes the controls over to Martha.

GEORGE

Here, get a feel for the controls. Once we get near the lab you'll have to take over.

The boat descends into the dark deep water. Occasionally, fish, dolphins and other creatures pass by the windows.

MARTHA

How will you get inside?

GEORGE

Some little friends of mine will help. When I get to their datacenter I'll connect you to their computers by wireless modem and we'll get the data we need to nail Chester. I may even bring out a few culture samples, if I can.

EXT. MINIATURE SUBMARINE -- CONTINUOUS

The miniature submarine silently descends to the sea floor.

The bright lights of the secret undersea lab are visible in the distance.

George emerges from the submarine and blows a high frequency whistle.

Soon a group of dolphins swims up to him and he grabs one of them by the dorsal fin. Together they swim toward the secret lab.

EXT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB PORTAL -- CONTINUOUS

George and the dolphins swim right up to the lab and enter via an underwater portal on its bottom.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB PORTAL -- CONTINUOUS

George and the dolphins emerge inside the lab's underwater portal.

George climbs out of the tank and waves good-bye to the dolphins. He greets everyone in the lab as though he belonged there.

GEORGE

Yo, what's up.

The genetically engineered GUARDS don't really know what to make of him, but they assume that he is a friend and don't apprehend him.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB CORRIDORS -- CONTINUOUS

George then goes down corridors to get into the datacenter and obtain a sample of the culture while trying not to create any commotion.

He comes to the entrance to the Data Center and uses his contact lens ID to get inside. The ID acknowledges him as Chester Collins.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB DATA CENTER -- CONTINUOUS

George enters the Data Center, takes a seat at a work station and begins to access the files concerning TLV4. Some of the file titles are: "Genome and Synthesis of Virus TLV4", "Effect of the TLV4 Virus on Tobacco", "Clinical Trials of TLV4 on Rodents", "Epidemiology of TLV4 in Human Populations".

GEORGE

Yes, this looks like the stuff I want.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB COMMAND CENTER -- CONTINUOUS

A monitor indicates that Collins is in the Data Center and another part of the Lab. A technician notices this anomaly and contacts Collins on his phone.

TECHNICAN

Dr. Collins, we show you being in two places at once. Would you confirm your location.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB DATA CENTER -- CONTINUOUS

George attaches the radio modem to the network port of the computer and connects to the computer in the miniature submarine by typing the address of the sub's computer into a box on a communications program.

George brings up a video image of Martha on his computer screen.

GEORGE

I have a present for you.

MARTHA

(on video)

Great. Send it over.

George begins the transfer of TLV4 files into the computer on the miniature submarine.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB COMMAND CENTER -- CONTINUOUS

Collins and a group of technicians watch George on closed circuit television.

Collins points to George on the screen and addresses a guard.

COLLINS

Get him. Bring him to me.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB DATA CENTER -- CONTINUOUS

George finishes the transfer of the files on TLV4 into the computer on the submarine.

GEORGE

So long. Now I'm off to get me some "Kultcha".

George turns around and is confronted by a group of guards.

The guards drag George off to Collins.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB SURGERY -- CONTINUOUS

George is surrounded by guards and held down on an examination table.

Collins presides over the event.

GEORGE

I don't think this is a good career move for you, Chester.

COLLINS

You've been quite a remarkable achievement. I've grown very fond of you. You're my child, in every sense but the most clinical. That's why this makes me so sad, really. You've brought this upon yourself, you know. You haven't left me with any choice.

Collins squirts a bit of water from a hypodermic needle and is about to inject George.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I had such high hopes for you. You could have taught your little brothers so very much.

George speaks to Martha through the microphone on his headgear.

GEORGE

Get out of here honey, I'm not comin' home tonight.

INT. MINIATURE SUBMARINE -- CONTINUOUS

Martha hears George's voice and is apprehensive. She starts up the sub's engine and begins rising above the sea floor.

INT. COLLINS' SECRET LAB SURGERY -- CONTINUOUS

Collins barks orders into the intercom system.

COLLIN

She must be outside. Don't let her escape.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB PORTAL -- CONTINUOUS

A group of FROG MEN - humanoid creatures with green skin and webbed feet - jump into the water carrying weapons.

EXT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB -- CONTINUOUS

The frogmen begin swimming toward the miniature submarine.

INT. MINIATURE SUBMARINE -- CONTINUOUS

Martha sees the frogmen coming toward her.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB SURGERY -- CONTINUOUS

George shakes loose from the guards and grabs one of their guns.

He fires a burst of machine gun fire at the window, but it doesn't break - instead the bullets penetrate the thick transparent window which briefly "bleeds" from the bullet holes and then heals.

George stares at the walls in astonishment.

GEORGE

Shit, this place is amazing.

Collins lights up with "house pride". He goes to the wall and wipes it dry with his handkerchief.

COLLINS

Yes, the walls are actually a living organism. The windows are like the lens of an eye. Cut them and they heal, like human flesh.

George takes advantage of the distraction, and pulls out a flare.

GEORGE

So, how do they like to get burned.

George sets off the FLARE and begins setting fire to portions of the lab.

COLLINS

No, no, not that. The air! You'll burn up all the oxygen.

George grabs Collins and shoots his way out of the surgery.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB CORRIDORS -- CONTINUOUS

George drags Collins down the corridors shooting and wreaking havoc as he goes.

GEORGE

How do we get out of here, Chester? You  
feel like taking a swim?

George gets shot in the shoulder, but continues fighting and holding onto Collins.

George drags Collins into a room containing a sealed doorway.

EXT. MINIATURE SUBMARINE -- CONTINUOUS

The frogmen set up to fire an underwater bazooka at the miniature sub.

Martha revs up the sub engine and begins to move it away.

INT. MINIATURE SUBMARINE -- CONTINUOUS

Martha sends out an electronic signal and shoots a spear trailing a jet of red fluid that just misses the frogmen.

EXT. MINIATURE SUBMARINE -- CONTINUOUS

Attracted by the sound and the red fluid, a group of huge sharks appears on the scene and attacks the frogmen, tearing them apart.

The miniature sub pulls away.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB INTERNAL CHAMBERS -- CONTINUOUS

Collins struggles to escape from George's grasp.

With the assistance of the guards he is able to get away from George and through the door to safety.

George wants to destroy the lab, even though he is dying from his wounds.

His eyes close and he begins to separate from his body, but before he's completely out, he wills himself back into physical form and rips the face off one on the computer consoles. He sticks his hands into the wiring and forces a blast of energy into the circuitry. The systems short out.

Alarms begin to go off as the walls burst and the lab begins filling with water.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB CORRIDORS -- CONTINUOUS

Collins and a group of guards and lab technicians flee to escape pods.

COLLINS

Get the data. Get me copies of the data.

Technicians urgently download copies of the lab data onto disks for Collins to take away with him.

Collins gets into a pod and prepares to eject himself from the secret lab.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB CORRIDORS -- CONTINUOUS

Spontaneous explosions begin to take place all over the lab. It is clearly going to be destroyed in a matter of seconds.

Alarms sound loudly and the lab's technicians scramble to find some means of escape.

George, weakened by his wounds and repeated stabbings, is nearly dead himself.

Completely invisible and inaudible to anyone else, the astral body of Cassandra and some of the other heavenly spirits surround George and welcome him back to the other side.

CASSANDRA

Come on, George, you can come home now.  
Your work is finally done. You can come home.

George's astral body leaves his body, floats around the room and greets Cassandra and the other spirits.

EXT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB -- CONTINUOUS

The escape pod carrying Collins blasts free of the lab and begins rising to the surface.

INT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB CORRIDORS -- CONTINUOUS

Pandemonium has broken out, the lab is nearly about to erupt.

The dead body of George and many of the guards and technicians lie motionless on the floor of the corridors.

EXT. CIBAGEN'S SECRET LAB -- CONTINUOUS

The lab explodes in a massive underwater eruption of heat and light.

CUT TO:

ACT

INT. THE NEW WHITE HOUSE -- NIGHT

President Richardson is surrounded by his staff and all are participating in a videoconference with Chinese officials.

CHINESE OFFICIAL

Over 100 million Chinese have died while barely 20 million Americans - and most of them black and Latino. This plague is clearly corporate genocide.

PRESIDENT RICHARDSON

Mr. Prime Minister, I assure you that there is no sinister plot here...

CHINESE OFFICIAL

We're not fools. Bring an end to it, or we'll take this into our own hands.

The Chinese end the transmission.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Whoa. What do you think they plan to do?

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

Put everyone on alert.

The President picks up the phone.

PRESIDENT RICHARDSON

Damn.

He speaks to his secretary.

PRESIDENT RICHARDSON (CONT'D)

Catherine, get me General Morgan.

He turns to the National Security Advisor.

PRESIDENT RICHARDSON  
Will we have to get airborne?

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

Not yet, but pack a bag.

PRESIDENT RICHARDSON  
Do you think it's true, what they said  
about a corporate plot?

CHIEF OF STAFF

Well, it's never been easy to gain access to the Chinese market. Maybe they thought murdering a few hundred million of them would make it easier.

CUT TO:

INT. TV NEWS REPORT -- NIGHT

ANCHOR  
In a startling about face, President Richardson has ordered an investigation into the possibility that Trixada was created in a laboratory and is being deliberately spread. Officers of the Centers for Disease Control will be assigned to...

CUT TO:

INT. CIBAGEN OFFICES -- CONTINUOUS

Ned Wickes and a HIGH RANKING CIBAGEN EXECUTIVE watch the news report.

HIGH RANKING CIBAGEN EXECUTIVE

Take him down.

Wickes gets up and goes to the phone. He dials a number and waits for a voice.

NED WICKES  
Pull the plug on Richardson.

CUT TO:

INT. TV NEWS REPORT OF GOVERNMENT SCANDAL -- NIGHT

ANCHOR

There are unconfirmed reports tonight of a lurid sex and bribery scandal that will rock the White House. Sources close to the investigation have revealed startling new evidence that President Richardson had long running affairs with men and women on his staff who were bribed for their silence. The White House vigorously denies all these rumors, but we will keep you abreast of the news as it develops.

CUT TO:

EXT. BARRINGTON FOUNDATION -- EARLY THE NEXT MORNING

Martha rushes into to the headquarters of the Barrington Foundation in an effort to tell them about the secret virus.

INT. BARRINGTON FOUNDATION -- CONTINUOUS

When Martha gets to the president of the foundation, Lloyd Mc Andrews, who welcomes her and listens attentively.

MARTHA

Lloyd, thank God. Thank you for seeing me. This is terrible, I've got to tell you something terrible. Collins invented GSV. He's been responsible for the outbreaks, it's being spread on purpose.

MC ANDREWS

Now wait, what you're suggesting is really quite outrageous.

MARTHA

No, no, you've got to believe me. I can prove this. You've to take me seriously.

She takes out a diskette containing the data that George got from the secret lab.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Look, I've got proof.

She shows him the computer files that George sent her from the secret lab.

Mc Andrews is visibly uncomfortable.

MC ANDREWS

Yes, this is serious. Very serious. Still, I don't think we can afford to go public with this, not at this time.

MARTHA

But, but, I think we have to go to the authorities immediately, I mean, we can't just sit on it...

MC ANDREWS

I'll take care of that. Don't worry, I'll see that the right people learn everything, but, please, keep everything you've told me a secret. You'll have to excuse me now, I've got a meeting.

She reaches for the diskette.

MC ANDREWS (CONT'D)

No, leave that.

She grabs the diskette and clutches it to her chest.

Mc Andrews speaks into an intercom.

MC ANDREWS (CONT'D)

Simon, come in here.

A Guard comes into the room. Martha trembles with fear.

MC ANDREWS (CONT'D)

Let's end this drama right here, shall we. You can't prove anything and no one would believe you, even if you could. Carrying on like this is a lose-lose proposition, no matter how you slice it. No, let's make up and resolve to be friends, just like we were in the old days. I can make life quite nice for you, if you'll just cooperate.

Martha backs away from him.

MC ANDREWS (CONT'D)  
Just come with me, please.

Mc Andrews leads her out onto the nearby balcony.

INT. WINDOW OF A NEARBY BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

The sites of a SNIPER'S rifle fixes on Martha on the distant balcony.

EXT. BARRINGTON FOUNDATION BALCONY -- CONTINUOUS

A sniper's bullet nearly hits Martha

She freaks out and jumps off the balcony

Mc Andrews barks commands into a cellular phone.

MC ANDREWS  
You missed her, damn it. Now don't let  
her get away. Bring out the damn dogs,  
you idiots.

Martha runs away.

Mc Andrews has foundation guards sent after her.

Four armed guards pursue her.

EXT. LAB PARKING LOT -- CONTINUOUS

Martha hijacks a motorcycle and escapes from the lab.

She is pursued by guards in cars and on motorcycles.

She narrowly escapes.

CUT TO:

INT. PHONE BOOTH IN A PUBLIC BUILDING -- LATER

Martha flees with her evidence and tries to make it public via the government agencies and the old boy network.

The Barrington Foundation and Cibagen have had her blacklisted and no one will speak with her or even take her calls.

MARTHA

Hello, Dr. Fisher, this is Martha  
Miller...

The other party has obviously hung up, she dials another  
number and another, but to no avail.

CUT TO:

INT. MAGGIE'S LAB -- LATER

Maggie, Ted and some OTHER STUDENTS are hanging out.

MAGGIE

I'm running an endurance test on  
roaches. They've been running in this  
treadmill for three days now without  
food or water or rest.

CU. roaches running in a treadmill.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I'm going to run them to death. I  
wonder how far they'll get. So far  
they've gone eleven miles.

If roaches were as big as humans that would be over nine  
hundred miles. It would be like walking from New York to  
Chicago without so much as a glass of orange juice. They're  
remarkable aren't they.

Martha enters, distressed and shaken.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Whoa, you've found some trouble.

Martha crashes to the floor and the others help her.

MARTHA

People are following me. I'm sorry, I  
don't know where else to go. Help me,  
I've got to post something to the  
Internet.

Martha sits down at a terminal, inserts the diskette and  
begins uploading files to a scientific community bulletin  
board called "Bionet".

She types in the headline: "Chester Collins Created Trixadema" and posts the data that George got from the secret lab.

MAGGIE

Holy shit.

A helicopter is heard approaching the building.

MARTHA

Get down everyone, get down.

Everyone hits the floor.

Machine gun fire penetrates the walls.

MAGGIE

Shit, we just paid the rent.

CUT TO:

INT. COMPUTER SCREEN'S AROUND THE WORLD -- CONTINUOUS

Montage of people around the world reading the news of Collin's creation of Trixadema and frantically selling their CIBAGEN stock.

The price of the stock plummets and the NASDAQ puts out an alert to it's member brokers to halt trading it.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRINGTON FOUNDATION CONFERENCE ROOM -- LATER

Collins, Ned Wickes and other scientists, including a woman named TONYA are examining the results of their population reduction campaign.

MC ANDREWS

And Southeast Asia?

TONYA

Down to 180 million and still falling.  
We should reach our target in seventeen months. Two months ahead of schedule.

Ned Wickes enters.

NED WICKES

She put the story on the Internet -  
we're screwed. We have to cover our  
tracks. Destroy everything. We have to  
distance ourselves from Chester, make  
him look like an out-of-control, mad  
scientist.

CUT TO:

INT. TV NEWS REPORT OF THE COLLIN'S SCANDAL -- NIGHT

A reporter doing a stand up in front on an electronic stock  
ticker.

Slide showing Cibagen shares down 102 1/2 to 4 1/8.

Show the story headline "CIBAGEN DELISTED".

TV STOCK MARKET REPORTER

Shares of Cibagen pharmaceuticals plunged more than 100  
points today as reports circulated that Cibagen's award  
winning scientist Chester Collins created Trixadema in his  
own laboratory. Shareholders have launched a class action  
suit and the SEC is investigating.

CUT TO:

INT. COLLINS' UNIVERSITY LAB -- LATER

A SWAT TEAM of the NASDAQ crashes through the windows of  
Collins' lab.

They are dressed in high tech combat gear and wear vests  
that say NASDAQ on the back.

The graduate students and lab technicians are terrified

The SWAT TEAM searches through the lab for Collins.

Collins is eventually found cowering in a refrigerator.

INT. COLLINS' UNIVERSITY LAB -- CONTINUOUS

Collins is shackled in leg irons.

COLLINS

No, you're making a terrible mistake.  
You've got the wrong man. You don't

understand. I've done good things, only  
good things.

STAFF MEMBERS watch and whisper as Collins is led out the  
door.

CUT TO:

INT. BIONIGHT TV STUDIO -- THAT NIGHT

Martha waits off camera in a television studio.

The studio is full of high tech monitors and computers  
showing beautiful scientific images - especially images of  
cell structures, DNA and various organisms.

The Bionight TV host, DR. JIM DEXTER, questions Martha and  
Whitson.

DEXTER

The NASDAQ got him, now that's  
interesting.

MARTHA

Murdering millions of foreigners isn't a  
crime. But duping the stock market, now  
that's serious.

DEXTER

Amazing. Great copy.

Martha prepares to appear on this biology television panel  
program in the format of Nightline.

CUT TO:

INT. BIONIGHT TITLE SEQUENCE -- MOMENTS LATER

A title sequence for the show "Bionight with Dr. Jim Dexter"  
runs on a monitor.

The sequence shows a variety of exciting images from biology  
research.

Jim Dexter sits at a desk on his set - a high tech talk show  
with monitors and computers.

INT. BIONIGHT -- LATER

Collins is confronted with the proof that he created the virus GSV.

DEXTER

...And these articles about TLV4 show that you've been working on the virus that causes Trixadaema for over 15 years.

Collins is visible in a window on the screen - on camera from his prison cell.

Martha appears in another other window.

COLLINS

I wasn't the only one making germs for biological warfare. Most of you have been there or would be willing to go there if it would pay your kids hospital bills or put your them through college or buy you a new house or pay for a divorce or maybe just so you could have some money to start your own company and "do good things for people." You know how to look the other way. You can bury yourself in "pure science" and not look up to see who or what is around you.

Collins wipes his brow with a handkerchief.

COLLINS (CONT'D)

And anyway, GSV was an accident. No one wanted to see it get loose, certainly not me. Why do you think I worked so hard to find the vaccine? No one knew what it would do in humans. It was supposed to be a plant anti-virus. I'm a botanist dammit. I didn't know anything about animals when this thing started killing people and look, I created a vaccine. I fixed it. I'm sorry people suffered and died. I really am.

CUT TO:

INT. TV NEWS REPORT OF TRIXADEMA EPIDEMIC -- LATER

TV news coverage of the expanding world health crisis.

TV REPORTER

Trixadema is ravaging the world well beyond the expectations of its inventors. It has mutated into an uncontrollable form and even the vaccine against the original strain of the virus is ineffective against the mutant strains.

The screen shows footage of death from this disease on all continents.

INT. TV NEWS REPORT OF WAR WITH CHINA -- CONTINUOUS

TV news footage shows Chinese planes and missiles striking at American cities and Chinese soldiers landing on California beaches.

TV REPORTER

In response to Internet reports that Trixadema was created by Cibagen, air and naval forces of China are attacking Cibagen facilities up and down the Pacific coast. Canada has thrown it's lot with the Chinese and Seattle has fallen to their marines. American defense forces have withdrawn inland. There are unverified reports of nuclear weapons being employed by both US and Chinese forces. Wait, here's a special report from the White House.

CUT TO:

INT. ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE NEW WHITEHOUSE

The President, obviously shaken, sits behind his desk.

PRESIDENT RICHARDSON

My fellow Americans, we are in a moment of great international crisis. Let assure you that we are doing all in our power to prevent this dangerous situation from getting out of hand. We are in constant contact with the leadership of the Hong Kong Exchange and hope to reach a settlement within the coming hours. In the meantime, I

strongly advise you to remain home and remain calm. We will give you more information as soon as it is available.

The screen goes to a commercial for Cibagen, but it is quickly pulled and replaced by a test pattern.

CUT TO:

INT. MAGGIE'S LAB -- MOMENTS LATER

Martha, Maggie and the others sit around the TV set watching the news and celebrating the fact that Cibagen has been busted.

The luminous body of George appears in the dim light.

MARTHA

George! Is that you? It's great to see you. I love you how are you? Did you see what happened.

George reaches to her and embraces her with this astral form.

Suddenly, the door is kicked open and Hong Kong Exchange troops burst in and hold everyone at gun point.

FADE OUT: