STAFFER #1

WITTER
There is one outstanding issue...

Anticipating it, Sherman sighs *yeah*, reaches into his pocket...

SHERMAN
If I'm gonna be Surgeon General, I guess this is my last pack.

Off Sherman, looking with a mournful smile at the PACK OF CIGARETTES in his hand...

CHYRON: "THREE MONTHS LATER" over...

EXT. OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL (OSG) - ESTABLISHING

At the epicenter of power, a glass and steel K Street office tower overlooks the White House and the Washington Monument.

INT. OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL (OSG) - DAY

A palatial entrance bearing the caduceus, Navy anchor, and American Eagle proclaims "Office of the Surgeon General."

Doors fly open to a bustling bullpen of young STAFFERS in East Coast business attire and DOCTORS wearing lab coats in surrounding conference rooms and offices.

Sherman, now recovered from his injuries, cuts quite a figure as he strides along in his Navy Three-Star Vice Admiral blues. A Communications STAFFER hustles over.

STAFFER
Sir, the press conference is all set. 9:30, full Press Corps. And the White House just sent over this script for your remarks.

SHERMAN
Thanks.

Sherman grabs the script and drops it in a recycle bin without looking at it.

He shoves off past the surprised Staffer and is intercepted by **DR. CONNOR MCCALLAN** (36, tall, handsome, brash epidemiologist).

MCCALLAN
Vice Admiral --

SHERMAN
It's been almost three months. Call me John already.

PAMMY THE PARROT

56 OMITTED 56 *

57 INT. MARBELLA - LOUNGE - DAY (D7) 57 *

OPEN ON: The Jolly Roger skull and crossbones flag.

TILT DOWN to REVEAL Swashbuckling Shawn with Pammy the Parrot. We pull out to reveal a group of rapt kids -- *

PAMMY THE PARROT *
Who's ready for a pirate treasure hunt? *

The kids cheer! *

SWASHBUCKLING SHAWN *
I, Swashbuckling Shawn, must confess, I've buried some treasure at this address! I need yar helping hand finding my loot on this here land. *

*

1/1

61 CONTINUED: Sr. Executive 61

WIENER
Another story tomorrow. Goodnight, honey.

A second of silence. Ingrid enters. They look at each other. No words are needed.

62 INT. CNN FEED AREA - DUSK 62

Jordan yells at a Techie.

JORDAN
Get this into edit NOW!

Then he says to himself.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Honey.

63 INT. CNN NEWSROOM - ANCHOR DESK - DAY 63

Bernard Shaw reporting. Bernie's on the air.

BERNIE
Some extraordinary images from the Iraqi capital today. President Saddam Hussein held a face-to-face meeting with a group of British hostages, a meeting that was carried on Iraqi television. Our man in Baghdad is Jim Clancy...

64 INT. AN OFFICE DOOR WITH A PEACOCK ON IT 64

We hear an NBC SENIOR EXECUTIVE inside.

Start →

SENIOR EXECUTIVE (V.O.)
This is bullshit!

65 INT. THE NBC OFFICE - A MONITOR WITH THE CNN HOSTAGE STORY 65

A SENIOR and JUNIOR EXECUTIVE reacting.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE
It's irresponsible! They hand a dictator a microphone and call it journalism! Where's the editorial point of view?

JUNIOR EXECUTIVE
Maybe they're trusting the public to be able...

SENIOR EXECUTIVE
Maybe they're lazy!

/end

19 CONTINUED 19

NORRIE (cont'd)
Joe, do you ever wonder why it picked us? *

JOE
Sure. But I'm mainly just glad.

NORRIE
Excuse me?

JOE
I mean, it's weird and scary, but it's the first time anything like this has happened on Earth. That's awesome, in the true, 'awe' sense of awesome.
(shyly)
Not to mention, if it hadn't come down, I might've never met you. *

Ahead of them, Truman suddenly GROWLS in fear.

NORRIE
What's his problem?

JOE
Truman, you okay?

Truman suddenly startles and RUNS AWAY from the center, back in the direction of Joe's house.

JOE (cont'd)
Truman! TRUMAN!

NORRIE
He thinks something's wrong. Should we go, too?

JOE
We can't stop now. We're close.

As Joe takes Norrie's hand and they head onward --

20 EXT. CHESTER'S MILL CLINIC - DAY 20

Now forced to travel on foot, Barbie and Julia help Harriet waddle toward the Clinic. Barbie has the "go-bag" over his shoulder.

BARBIE
You doing okay, Harriet?

HARRIET
Longest five blocks of my life.

ORDERLY

20 CONTINUED 20

JULIA
(looks up)
Oh no.

They reach the Clinic doors -- and see an ORDERLY (male, 20s) TAPING UP A NOTE on the window: *"CLOSED UNTIL TOMORROW. ALWAYS NEED VOLUNTEERS!"*

Julia marching up to him --

JULIA (cont'd)
Hey! We have an emergency here.

ORDERLY
Sorry, Mrs. Shumway. Got no docs and our nurses are out patching up people who got hurt yesterday.

HARRIET
But my baby's on its way.

BARBIE
Can you help us?

ORDERLY
I learned first aid in lifeguard camp.

In other words, no way. Harriet suddenly grips her belly with a GROAN.

JULIA
Was that a contraction?

HARRIET
Oh God. I think so.

BARBIE
Just try to stay calm.

Julia sees a WHEELCHAIR abandoned by the entrance. She runs over and gets it, wheeling it back to Harriet.

ORDERLY
You can't take that!

JULIA
Bite me.
(to Harriet)
Alice Calvert's taking care of Joe McAlister. Let's try his place.

As they wheel her off --