

THE CLONE FLU

A ONE-SHOT FOR *SOTB*

Second-rate geneticist **Dr Sawyer** runs a squalid g-mod clinic in the Jack Weyland Arcology of Nuevo Guayaquil (p 195). Dr Sawyer's clinic was on the verge of bankruptcy when, in desperation, he plotted to start making bioweapons for the Black Market.

But when it came to selling bioweapons, Dr Sawyer had no clients, no experience, and no reputation. What he needed was a public advertising stunt, a lethal "showcase virus" that would establish his brand. All the better if the virus attacked a population nobody cared about. So, Dr Sawyer and his lab assistants started working on a flu that targets clones.

GONE VIRAL

Two weeks ago, Dr Sawyer and his team released the flu virus into the wilds of Antiguo Guayaquil. Bodies started piling up overnight.

At the same time, they alerted the underworld that a new weapons supplier had emerged under the Beanstalk. The message was simple: *If we can do this to clones, think what we could do to your enemies.*

JINTEKI CORPORATION'S REACTION

The Jinteki Corporation isn't thrilled about their products terminating ahead of schedule; however, a few cunning minds see a way to turn the situation to the company's advantage by pinning blame for the virus on Human First. If Jinteki can prove Human First is behind the influenza, they can turn public opinion (and the NAPD) against the terrorist group—as well as their legal counterpart, Humanity Labor.

DR. SAWYER'S NEW CLIENTS

OrgCrime responded warmly to Sawyer's deadly advertising stunt. His clinic is meeting with gang reps to discuss the creation of more 'narrow-target' diseases.

JOB OFFER (GAME START)

Your team is contacted by Spider, a no-nonsense third-party recruiter working for Jinteki.

SPIDER INTRODUCES THE JOB:

Wanna know the cure for the common cold? Get born in a Jinteki cloning vat. Clones' immune systems are engineered to resist everything from chicken pox to colon cancer. Or so they thought.

Right now, an influenza is surging through Antiguo Guayaquil. It's killed 58 clones already—and

it's just getting started. Funny thing: the flu doesn't harm us humans at all. Now, the quacks on NBN say it's a human virus that mutated to exploit some glitch in clone DNA, but my clients at Jinteki don't buy it. They think this 'clone flu' stinks of Human First; those luddites found someone smart enough to cook up a specialty virus. In other words, it's old-school industrial sabotage. And Jinteki wants you to prove it.

Bring me evidence connecting Human First to the clone flu, and Jinteki will pay \$2000. There's a bonus of \$1000 if your data also implicates Humanity Labor.

HUMAN FIRST CELL

Spider says the NAPD backtracked Human First activity on the Net to a decrepit apartment complex in Ximena (p 196), suggesting HF operates a cell there.

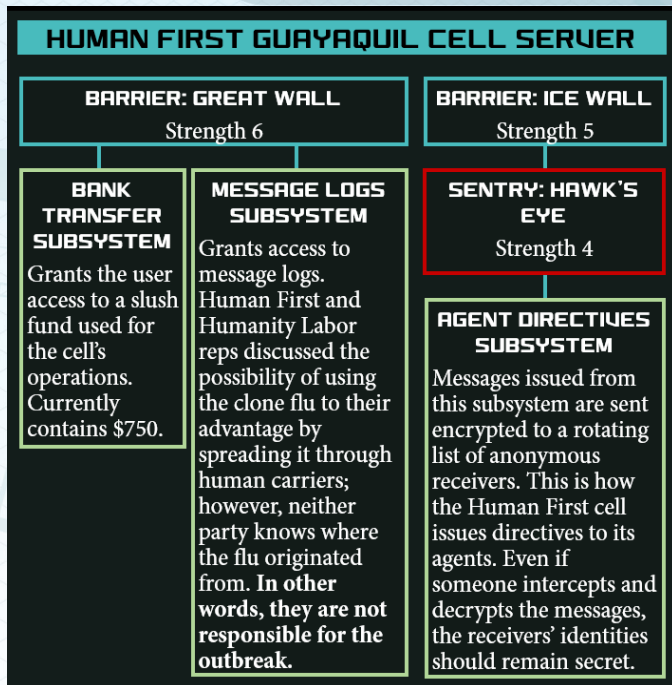
Ximena's low-income apartment complexes are piled star-high. Most units have power; some have running water; the Black Market supplies everything else. A bridge way slides you to the 189th level of a raw concrete building tented with drying clothes and solar sails. Streetbangers keep a lazy eye on the door.

Human First knocked down a wall between two units on the 189th floor: this is the Guayaquil cell's HQ. **Three groups of three Human First Extremists (p 237)** hang around the HQ at any given time. The cell's leader is Vintage, a rare 'full-timer' for HF who orchestrates rallies, coordinates with other cells, and, yes, directs attacks on androids. She emphasizes guerrilla-style mobility: her agents are masked and anonymous, and the HQ is rigged to burn down at the flip of a switch. Additionally, **two groups of three Streetbangers (p 223)** tend their own business on this floor; they're territorial, but won't attack without cause.

Hacking the Human First cell's private server is the obvious way to get evidence for Jinteki. But HF has dealt with enough cyber-enemies to have learned basic Net security.

Wireless access: Daunting (◆◆◆◆) Computers (Hacking) check to connect to HF server remotely.

- **Local access (any Net connection on the 189th floor):** Average (◆◆) Computers (Hacking) check.
- **Vintage defends the server as a Corporate Sysop (p 224).** With 2+ traces on a runner, she alerts her Extremists to search the apartment complex.



FILE NOT FOUND

At some point, the sleuths should realize they're on the wrong trail: Human First is *not* responsible for the clone flu. But Spider insists his client won't pay for a verdict of 'innocent': "Jinteki didn't hire you to uncover the truth, they hired you to get evidence."

Your players must decide where to go from here; make sure they understand that. Some options are...

- 1. Frame-up:** Falsify evidence connecting Human First to the clone flu. This could be accomplished many ways, and would satisfy Jinteki's contract.
- 2. Flip sides:** Tell Vintage that Jinteki means to frame Human First, and offer to pre-emptively clear their name by figuring out who's really behind the influenza. HF would owe a Big Favor in return.
- 3. Vaccinate:** Work with the affected clones in Guayaquil to create a cure, which requires access to a med lab and a Daunting (◆◆◆) Medicine check.

BACKTRACK THE VIRUS

If the heroes choose to investigate the true source of the clone flu, you may run it as a skill challenge:

- 10 successes needed before 4 failed checks.** Default difficulty: Average (◆◆). Core skills: Medicine, Streetwise, Computers (Hacking).
- Success:** The investigators track the clone flu back to Sawyer's clinic in the Jack Weyland Arcology.
- Failure:** Same as above, but Dr Sawyer is alerted; he may destroy evidence or even set an ambush.

SAWYER'S G-MOD CLINIC

The clinic occupies a storefront miles above ground in a bustling arcology that is reminiscent of an older, stuffier generation. The clinic's doors are locked 24/7. Through a filmy window, the operating table looks like it hasn't been cleaned in months.

SAWYER'S SECURITY

An Average (◆◆) Skullduggery check is needed to pick the clinic's locks, and another to rewire the cams.


Lab Assistants: Dr Sawyer's assistants double as his security force. **Two groups of four** assist his work, patrol the clinic, and shadow him during meetings.

Dr Sawyer himself is a Street Doc (p 224).

INSIDE THE G-MOD CLINIC

Flu Sample: A clinical sample provides evidence of Dr Sawyer's crimes. It also reduces the difficulty of making a vaccine to an Average (◆◆) Medicine check.

G-Mods: The clinic contains enough raw materials to reduce the cost of future g-mods by \$500 (one-time).

Client List: Sawyer's rolodex grants  on all Streetwise checks related to the Black Market. Stealing it requires an Average (◆◆) Computers (Hacking) check.

MEET & GREET

Dr Sawyer is wooing buyers for his bioweapons. The meetings are arranged on the Net, but take place either at his clinic or his clients' choice of location. Sawyer takes some measures to background-check his clients and prevent the meetings from being recorded, but he is new to the criminal life and may be out-witted. He's also *very* eager to make sales.

LAB ASSISTANT (MINION)



Skills (group only): Cool, Knowledge (Science), Perception, Ranged (Light).

Equipment: Synap Pistol (p 85), Flu Grenade (medium rng; Ranged [Light]; dmg 4, crit 3; Blast 4; characters who take 1+ wounds must make a Hard [◆◆◆] Resilience check or suffer 2 strain each turn and remove ◆ from all skill checks. An Average [◆◆] Medicine check with access to pharmaceuticals is required to remove the disease).