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Lapin is as at home with the bulls on Wall Street as she is reporting the day's news.



DAWN PATROL

Nicole Lapin, an anchor at CNBC, sees cigars as a natural tool to create camaraderie

BY MERVYN ROTHSTEIN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID YELLEN

Hair and Makeup by Robert Huitron for Mark Edward Inc.

It's 3:17 in the morning on an unseasonably warm Tuesday in late November in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, and Nicole Lapin is hard at work.

Lapin, the 26-year-old co-anchor of CNBC's "Worldwide Exchange," is sitting at her office desk, cell phone in hand, in a three-way conference call with her colleagues in Europe and Asia. Their subjects of discussion include the day's Dow Jones futures; North Korea's deadly shelling of a South Korean fishing village (and its likely effect on world markets); an FBI raid on three hedge funds suspected of insider trading; the reaction to the bailout of the Irish economy; and the monthly survey of the United States residential real estate market.

The call continues as she gets up and walks down the hall to the network's makeup and hairstyling room, where two experts work in tandem, quickly and skillfully, to make her cosmetically ready for the camera. By now it's 3:31 a.m., and in 29 minutes, she will be at another desk, just down the hall in the cavernous, blue-walled and high-ceilinged TV studio in the world headquarters of CNBC, the global business-news network, working with her coanchors in London and Singapore, as "Worldwide Exchange" begins its two-hour report on what has happened, what's happening right now, and what is likely to happen later that day, in the wide and volatile world of high finance. The program, a rapid-fire mix