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LOOK WHO'S TALKING

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A self-professed "nerd," Lapin is the new face of news.

HOT OFF THE PRESS! *CNN.com's Nicole Lapin makes the news worth watching.*

Growing up in Los Angeles with parents who never watched the news, Nicole Lapin would "rebel" by "sneaking in" *Nightline* and *60 Minutes*. "I felt like I was watching an R-rated movie!" she jokes. "Now I am so busy, they have to watch the news or they would never see me." Lapin now anchors four hours a day on CNN Pipeline (CNN.com's live, commercial-free video news service), delivers two live hits daily for CNN Headline News, regularly shoots TV segments for CNN and related TV networks like CNN International, and writes news copy for CNN.com.

The 23-year-old wunderkind was valedictorian of her class at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism, then studied European Union politics at L'Institut d'Études Politique de Paris before learning the ropes at CBS affiliates in South Dakota and Kentucky. As a reporter for KPSP-TV in Palm Springs, Lapin provided live updates from San Quentin during the execution of Stanley "Tookie" Williams, then the prospect of becoming one of the nascent Pipeline's pioneering anchors lured her to CNN last May.

Lapin is also an ambassador for the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation, and counts Katie Couric, Helen Thomas and Lisa Ling among her role models. "I'm living my dream," she marvels. "I feel it's my responsibility to give a voice to people and causes that can't speak for themselves. Television gives me an opportunity to do that every day."

HOTS: French manicures; Green Market at Piedmont Park; stilettos and jeans; Trader Vic's; Maureen Dowd; Midtown Arts Cinema's independent movies; spending the afternoon at Borders reading; brunching; gold jewelry; smiling. **NOTS:** Fake Kabbalah bracelets; apple martinis; strip tease exercise classes; debt; not saying "hello" when you pass someone on the street; tanning beds; apathy; enormous cars; designer everything.