

# Anchors await



**NETWORK:** If Katie Couric (above, second from left, with "Today" team) leaves NBC, two candidates to replace her are Natalie Morales (left) and Alexis Glick (right).

## NBC grooms Katie successor

By DON KAPLAN

**N**BC's "Today" show is grooming potential new anchors for its battle against ABC's "Good Morning America" — just in case flighty fixture Katie Couric doesn't re-join the team.

"What you're seeing is the development of a bench," says a "Today" insider.

The fastest-rising star on the "Today" show backup roster is Alexis Glick, a 32-year-old mother of two, who has a most remarkable story.

Just three years ago, Glick was a financial whiz with Morgan Stanley, overseeing more than 200 traders as the head of the company's New York Stock Ex-

change floor operations. She was the first woman to manage the floor operation for a top-tier Wall Street firm.

Shockingly, Glick traded in her big-bucks financial job for a shot on TV and landed at CNBC as the network's senior trading correspondent. In that job, she appeared live from the NYSE on a daily basis for CNBC's free-wheeling morning program "Squawk Box" and on other financial programming throughout the day.

After about a year, she went on maternity leave — but shortly after her return, NBC chief Jeff Zucker is said to have personally asked her to appear regularly on "Today." Now Glick works almost daily during the morning show's 9 a.m. hour.

"She has all the makings of a morning-show standout," says a TV-industry insider. "She's smart, engaging, authoritative, a mother — and the audience easily identifies with her. But she's no Katie Couric — yet."

The other up-and-comer is Natalie Morales, a savvy, smooth news presenter who joined MSNBC in 2002. These days, she has appeared frequently on "Today" during the show's first two hours, sometimes subbing for Couric, who is said to be among Morales' biggest boosters.

One way or another, the hosts of "Today" will eventually have to change, and NBC News is known for grooming talent long-term — as it did when Brian Williams was chosen to succeed Tom Brokaw.