

The millennials - ever optimistic about jobs

By Allan Chernoff, CNN senior correspondent

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NEW YORK (CNNMoney) -- It's as if the recession never happened for many twenty-somethings.

Well-dressed young women fill the offices of Alison Brod Public Relations, a beauty and fashion marketing firm, buzzing with energy, brainstorming on the latest promotional campaigns, working tweets, phones and Facebook accounts. These are the "millennials", born in the 80's and early 90's, born to parents who praised and coddled, born to expect the world.

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"These kids have been told the most amazing thing on the face of this earth from the day they were born," says Alison Brod of her staff.

The four dozen millennials in her office are tech savvy and tireless. But, complains Brod, they also have a sense of entitlement even in

Millennials - Find that job

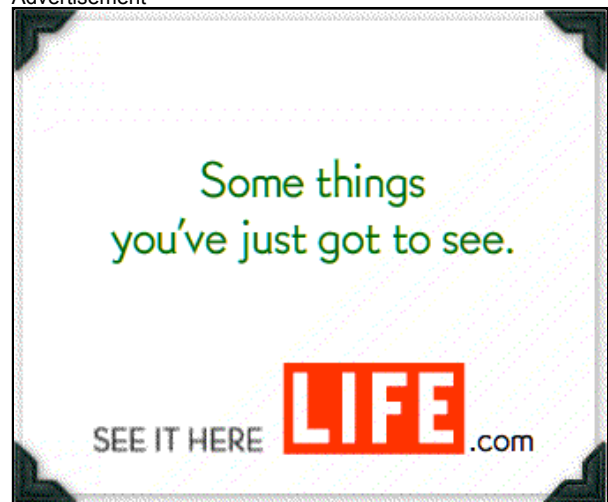
"They want to celebrate, they want bonuses, they want presents, it's Friday afternoon t hey want pizza parties and things like that. So there's this constant sense of number one," said Brod. "Everything should always be a celebration, but nobody should ever really be penalized if things go badly," said Brod.

Trophy Kids

With the unemployment rate at 9%, economic malaise and job insecurity still hover above millions of Americans even though it will be two years next month since the recession's "official" end. But millennials who are employed seem not terribly bothered, expecting favored treatment from their employers.

My parents have pushed that for me, told me I was the best at whatever I did, and, as a result, I think millennials crave that attention. They crave that praise," said Lauren Bishop, one of Brod's employees.

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all receive trophies in group sports, allowing everyone to feel like a winner -- many have retained their great expectations in spite of the country's economic turmoil.

Workplace consultant Mary Crane tells the story of a Denver law firm that sat its youngest lawyers down early in the recession to tell them they would not have to worry about layoffs even though business was suffering. The young lawyers responded, 'Given that there's not much work, why don't we go to our yoga class.'

"In general this continues to be a generation that is very demanding," said Crane.

It's not so much that younger workers are slackers. A just-completed survey of millennials by Euro RSCG found 73% believe hard work is key to achievement.

But millennials have a different style than the older generation. Time off is extremely important to them.

Work-life balance was the top priority in selecting a job for 34% of those surveyed; 31% said salary and 24% gave priority to workplace atmosphere.

Even so, they expect to rise rapidly in their careers. And why not with role models like 27-year-old Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg?

"They don't understand why the recession should impact them," said trend-spotting guru Marian Saltzman who is President of Euro RSCG Worldwide. "These kids feel they've mastered step one and are ready to come in as a junior executive."

...and they call it is a success for them to be the boss, but not to ask the additional workers the planet has ever seen, able to build business like a few key streets on Facebook. corporate ladder," said Crane. "They want to play games on their computers and side effects on a project, then they want to play with their friends." Experts say millennials have short attention spans and often communicate as they tweet -- in quick sound bites.

They live in a world where everything is 140-characters. They don't want to read more than a few sentences, and they don't read more than a few sentences," said Brod.



Crane advises bosses to manage to the millennial style: Give lots of feedback, set concrete goals and, think of yourself more as a T-ball coach than a boot camp instructor.