Personal Finance: Credit Cards on PBS

Whether you're personal finance teachers, looking for a good online resource on credit, or just a person who would like to better understand credit cards, you are encouraged to check out part of the popular Frontline series, The Secret History of the Credit Card at the Public Broadcasting System website.

They talk with founders of the present day credit card industry, as well as, todays insiders. From Senator Chris Dodd who has tried numerous times to introduce legilation to curb credit card practices to Edward Yingling, president of the American Bankers Association, who discusses the benefits to consumers of ending usury laws on interest.

Other interviews included Elizabeth Warren, professor at Harvard Law and author of "The Two-Income Trap: Why Middle Class Mothers and Fathers are Going Broke." Julie Williams, acting comptroller of the currency, her agency, which regulates the national banks, has been engaged in what some call a "turf battle" with the states' regulators over consumer protection laws. Walter Wriston, former CEO of Citicorp; Edmund Mierzwindki, director of USPIRG; Bill Janklow, former governor of South Dakota, who first proposed lifting the lid on interest rates; and Andrew Kahr, financial services consultant who creative ideas include zero percent teaser rates and the two percent minimum monthly payment. Their page provides you with:

* Ability to Watch the Full Program On-line, divided into 5 segments of about 20 minutes each

* 8 things a Credit Card User Should Know

* Interviews - biography and summary of individuals in the program

* Credit Card Quiz - to test you knowledge

* More to Explore - 8 reports cover a wide range of subjects regarding credit, collection, foreign trends, credit scores, and finances

The expose is enlightening, educating and thought provoking - a must see.
After you watch the show, return and read our related articles:

"How to Read Credit Card Agreements"
"Pay One Bill Later - Get Punished by Many"
"The Gotcha's that can Get Ya"