

0 (1s):

You finally decided to learn how to ice skate. So you ordered the essentials. Every ice skater needs a pair of blades, a new helmet, and a good set of knee pads. And you used your bank of America cash rewards credit card, choosing to earn 3% cash back on online shopping rewards that you put towards the cost of an essential piece of post skating recovery, a heating pad Visit [bank of america.com/more](http://bankofamerica.com/more) rewarding to apply. Now copyright 2020 bank of America corporation.

2 (39s):

Glad that you've made time out of your day to join us on today's podcast of the Clark Howard show. And today on our Friday podcasts, we do something different. And it's where I hear from you feedback where you feel I have not delivered for you. It's called Clark Stinks and there's a place for you to post on Clark dot com, where you go to Clark dot com slash Clark Stinks. And if you feel that I've given bad advice, bad opinion, bad information, Ben in complete need my head examined, whatever it is, you can post there and then producers Christa and Joel do we call people, producers on Podcast.

2 (1m 29s):

Sure. Whatever, whatever I'll answer to anything. Okay. They go through your posts on Clark Stinks and share their favorites with you right here on the show.

1 (1m 44s):

I should have never been encouraged to, to speak to you. You must think I'm pretty stupid. You shouldn't be ashamed of yourself. Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe you're right.

2 (1m 60s):

And to begin with a humbling one, for me to dismiss a reassigned Christa she's either awkward or mean, or just not on board, her comment in your podcast and the quote was, that's why I'm still working for you. Look no further for why. Then that statement awkward mean are just not on board. Listen to how that came across in the Podcast that's you should've done this sooner man up. Nobody likes during the difficult conversations, but that's how you maintain a decent product and that's from C, but not me. See that Chris side in writing about myself. We got to see Clark. Yeah. So I'll just say I, since this was about something I said to you, I hope I didn't offend anyone saying that I went back and listened to it.

2 (2m 42s):

Cause I appreciate feedback. Just like Clark has taught me too with Clark Stinks and I didn't mean I'm just working for Clark to, just to make money. That meant that I need to learn from you everyday. Clark and that's why I love working with him with the CEO and, and I'm so grateful for this job. So dismiss me if you must.

3 (3m 3s):

No you're okay. You're good.

4 (3m 7s):

Let me get to the next one. Clark please. Clark I know the expression bag. Your job can be found on Google, but it sounds just so out of place. Why not? Why don't you just say quit your job like 99% of other people say Save the bagging for groceries on a positive note. I am happy that you don't say surf the web as much as you used to Thomas.

3 (3m 29s):

Well, I never thought about that. That's not a common expression to say bag. Do your job.

4 (3m 35s):

I think that's the Clark expression or Clark the sling. Yeah.

3 (3m 38s):

Okay. All right. Well, you see, I am wearing a grocery shirt today

2 (3m 43s):

And you took off your water burger, sweat shirt, and now you have on your little t-shirt

3 (3m 49s):

And I'm trying to remember. I don't remember who gave me the little t-shirt neither of you did, did you did. Thanks for it. You know, I'm just kidding. I didn't huh? I love having it. Okay.

2 (4m 2s):

Edward says, thanks for all your help these years. One thing that bothers me though, and speaking of stuff you wear is your reasoning for wearing a Kirkland branded shirt around town. Don't you think Costco has enough advertising in place to handle their business? After all Costco is a multi-billion dollar multinational corporation, enough of my brand is better than you are.

3 (4m 24s):

I'm love Kirkland signature. So here's the thing. Here's my obsession with Kirkland signature Costco, because everything they do is about their employees in the member that Costco sets out with every item that wears the Kirkland signature label to make something that is either identical and you know, made by the same company is makes the brand name or superior to the brand name, but at a cheaper price in either case. And I think they are been so forthright about that. Sweat Kirkland signature is about that. I am proud to wear a Kirkland signature sweatshirt.

3 (5m 7s):

I was so excited when I got it, which means I need a life donut. I mean, here I am excited about my Whataburger sweatshirt, my Kirkland signature sweatshirt, and my Leedle t-shirt. I'm like a walking billboard

RNA. My kids said that if I ever had in my car wrapped with advertising for one of my favorite companies, that they would never get in the car with me.

2 (5m 36s):

I love how you'd always say to someone would ask you what clubs do you belong to?

3 (5m 42s):

That's my private club.

4 (5m 44s):

All right, this next one that comes from Josh. He says, you're doing your audience, a huge disservice by talking about Bitcoin or any cryptocurrency because you clearly don't understand the market and how it works. I understand it's not the same as the typical world in which you made your money, but your comments about Bitcoin on your January 14th Podcast episode were not accurate. You should either educate yourself more on the topic or just stay out of making comments on it all together.

3 (6m 11s):

Thank you for your post on it. And at any time, all through the years, since Bitcoin went into existence, I have upset the Bitcoin enthusiastic. And the reason that you hear me talk with such negativity about Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies is the idea of having ledger based transactions is really a good idea. It reduces costs to move money around the world and it's a more efficient way to do it. But the problem with where we are today with Bitcoin and at San Mateo matters is they have not proven to be a stable value substitute for money, the enormous movements up and down hour by hour, day by day, create a situation where you don't know what store of value you have in your possession.

3 (7m 11s):

And you say, I don't understand the underlying purpose behind Bitcoin or cryptocurrency, please post again and give them more thorough explanation. Why you feel what you feel. I don't understand about it. And maybe there is an angle that I've missed. Christa

2 (7m 32s):

Couple about this. Clark it says Clark please say our new vice president's first name correctly. It's pronounced Camila, not Kamala. Thank you for everything you do.

3 (7m 45s):

Why don't I just say vice president Harris that because, you know, I mean, it's been a joke all through the years, how bad I am at pronunciations and how bad I am at using proper grammar. And it's, you know, I grew up in a state that at the time was very poor and education levels were not the best. And please

2 (8m 9s):

Give a good education. What are you talking about?

3 (8m 13s):

Joel

4 (8m 14s):

All right. In your last Clark Stinks you said that the moment you got that second COVID shot. If you go back out in the stores. No, no, no. It takes a while for full immunity to develop after the second vaccination, perhaps for weeks. So check with medical professionals to find out exactly when it's safe to venture out. Also don't forget that you'll still need to wear a mask social distance as much as possible and wash your hands. Even though you're probably immune to serious COVID illness, it's possible that you could still carry enough viruses to pass it on to other people. Rick, Rick,

3 (8m 43s):

Thank you. And Rick, you are right that I don't have my Superman Cape on the day. I have my second vaccine that at a minimum 14 days to have a significant effectiveness in place from the second vaccine. And I just got ahead of myself with my enthusiasm about being vaccinated. And I do understand that in order to protect others, since we don't know yet, if people who've had two vaccines will still be able to pass the virus on to others, I will do exactly what you said.

3 (9m 24s):

I will wear a mask. I will wear my shield. I, you should see me. I wear them in combination. And it's really weird when I'm out and about. I don't even speak and people still recognize me, even though I have this mask and shield on. So I must have a certain way. I walk and like a whole thing that, that people can still spot me, even with all the protective gear on and keeping the distance from people I will continue to do. So after I received the second vaccine and I was going to two weeks out from the second vaccine, I was going to go visit our daughter in California.

3 (10m 9s):

And then when I was at the final page to book the Southwest ticket, it said there were special rules in place in California. And I clicked on them. And when you land, you have to go into quarantine for 10 days. So I was only going to go for three. I would have been minus seven on being able to see her. So I did not proceed to check out and buy the ticket.

2 (10m 39s):

Clark I love listening to you, but I wish I could listen to your podcasts on my favorite platform. Pandora, is this something you'll be adding in the future and that's from Brandy.

3 (10m 50s):

So the, the first of all, how's that a Clark Stinks

2 (10m 53s):

Well, it's just, I guess it's maybe a question too, but I'll say this, I read this, I contacted our Podcast provider and that should be up and running very soon.

3 (11m 2s):

Now I see that service that is real service. So we're going to have Pandora before, you know it. Joel

4 (11m 11s):

All right. Clark this one starts out. I am longing for the past. Obviously I have no issue with the discontinuation of your radio program. I loved it, but that's your decision and the Podcast has consistently been great. And since it's free of charge, how could I complain? Well, I politely complained here. 20 minute podcast links in my opinion are way too short. What can you really tackle in that length of time to topics in one color or question? I find the new format length. Very unfortunate. I feel like I blink. And then you're done. Please reconsider at the minimum a half hour. Podcast your past radio shows were truncated two around the 30 minute Mark for your podcast listeners. You wouldn't want to deprive them of 10 more minutes of your eloquent voice daily.

4 (11m 52s):

Would you Greg,

3 (11m 55s):

Thank you for that. Our typical Podcast has been about 24 minutes, I think. Is that about right? Yeah, I'd say right in that, right in that area. And so it's possible occasionally there would be one that tends more towards 20 others will be closer to 30 as to the shorter length. A lot of people who've listened to podcasts like them have a length around 20 to 25 minutes. And so we're trying to hit The where people really want this content to be. But for people who were long-time loyal us radio listeners who were used to a format, that was, it was actually 33 minutes long.

3 (12m 40s):

Ah, you miss that and I really am sorry that we're not giving you as many minutes as you had been used to. So I hope that we pack as much punches we can in 24 minutes that you will still feel satisfied with that content. The best is when you always want more and you tune in to the next day's podcast. And by the way, when you want more information, you want a more deep dive on stuff we've talked about on the podcast, go to Clark dot com and for deals, check out Clark deals.com.

0 (13m 19s):

You decided to upgrade your outdoor deck. So you ordered the essentials, a power washer, a set of patio chairs and a shiny new grill. And you used your bank of America cash rewards credit card, choosing to earn 3% cash back on online shopping or up to 5.2, 5% as a preferred rewards member, which you put toward the cost of your most essential deck. Addition, a bird feeder apply for yours@bankofamerica.com slash More rewarding copyright 2020 bank of America corporation. You decided to upgrade your outdoor deck. So you ordered the essentials, a power washer, a set of patio chairs and a shiny new grill.

0 (14m 2s):

And you used your bank of America cash rewards credit card, choosing to earn 3% cash back on online shopping or up to 5.2, 5% as a preferred rewards member, which you put towards the cost of your most essential deck. Addition, a bird feeder apply for yours@bankofamerica.com slash More rewarding copyright 2020 bank of America corporation.

3 (14m 27s):

As we continue today, as Podcast, I wanted to tell you, if you just kind of landed here, it's easy to subscribe. If you go to Clark dot com slash podcast, you'll see what's up. And I really appreciate all the nice reviews that we've been getting on our 2021 edition of the podcast. And speaking of 21, I want to tell you about that is giving you a potential opportunity to go in to bonus time. There is something that any employers offer, not all their choice if they do, but it is a great employee benefit in certain situations.

3 (15m 8s):

And that's called FSA. The flexible spending accounts that are FSA is for dependent care. And there are FSA for medical bills, unreimbursed medical costs. And with these allow you to do is pay for child care and certain child centered activities up to a child turning 14. And then if you taking care of an aging parent, some of the care for them could be covered under dependent care. Although usually it's for kids and then the medical, you know, with higher and higher deductibles, we have more and more unreimbursed out-of-pocket. So FSA money allow for that shows you have to pay for those expenses.

3 (15m 55s):

Pre-tax pre-tax, which is huge because a dollar that you have is a dollar that stays with you to pay for the, these expenses, either dependent care and medical. So here's the problem in the money has to be used, or it defaults to your employer. If it's not used in the year that the money was designated for you, various acts involving coronavirus earlier and earlier about the late spring of 20 congressmen and unusual exception that allowed people to terminate their FSA To posits right in the middle of the year.

3 (16m 46s):

And as I recall, that's never happened before. And then in the most recent Corona virus act that passed just before the new year employers now at their option, can eliminate use it or lose it, allowing money for 20 to be used in 21. But it's up to your employer. And many may not even know that they have this ability to do

this. So you can politely ask your employer and let them know they have to be this ability to change the rules and allow carry over of that unused money from 20 in 21.

3 (17m 33s):

So we got to hope that employers overwhelmingly will we'll do this and not just look at it as an opportunity of unjust enrichment for the employer by pocketing these funds that they deducted from employee paychecks. So this is a pretty simple thing for an employer to do and immediately, whatever it is, if you've got money left over and either those 20, 20 FSA days contact, whatever it is, human resources, chief people, people, or whatever, they call it wherever you work and lobby for, or find out if they are going to do this and allow you to use the money this year.

3 (18m 23s):

Because what happened in 20 is a lot of people ended up with their kids at home because childcare facilities may have closed or whatever. And so you had no money going to paying those eligible expenses. Medical. A lot of people went on strike about going to the doctor and money they would have spent for medical care never was spent. So there were not things to be reimbursed. There were a number of reasons why the right thing for employers to do is to allow that money to be a full carry forward through 21. Christa is it your turn to ask me a question?

2 (19m 4s):

Sure. Clark I've been listening to you for years and I'm surprised that rarely, if ever, do you talk about influential books in your life? Will you share with you being a multiple time author? I was curious to hear what your most gifted recommended book on personal finance would be excluding your own. This is from Richard.

3 (19m 24s):

So Richard, this is going to be a stunner on personal finance. I don't recommend specific books because the marketplace has changed so much. I believe that the best information comes from a variety of financial websites and as well as Podcast that they're so specialized now. But in terms of a general one, I mentioned this recently, I love humble dollar.com and it's guides that do a very good job digging in with basic information in different areas of personal finance.

3 (20m 6s):

And then the continual columns that are posted there. It's a nonprofit website that lives off donations from its readers and it's, they are just to teach. And so I really, really liked that there are probably hundreds of financial podcast and I'm going to defer to Joel for a sec and Joel has his own financial podcast. And there are many others that I don't know if you call them competitors or colleagues, Joel hit me with some of your favorite podcasts.

2 (20m 42s):

Oh, well, they're definitely colleagues. There's so many people out there that it really, it comes down to having just a

4 (20m 48s):

Different voice, a diff different way that you want to get information out into the world, but there are some great ones out there. And Clark, you know, I think recently on the show we mentioned our friend, Paula pants Podcast afford anything. She's great. There's a couple of guys you have on the show a while back who host a podcast called choose F I and it's particularly for people who are excited about achieving financial independence early, there are, if you give a few try and look around in the personal finance genre, obviously still one of the best ones out there as this one, though.

3 (21m 20s):

And what about yours? What's yours.

4 (21m 24s):

Mine's called house of money and I put it out with my best buddy. And yeah, we're just both kind of personal finance nerds. Obviously working with you for 14 years has turned me into that. And so when you get that far down the rabbit hole, you kinda wanna help other people figure things out to. And so, yeah, we get to, to do it three times a week, put out, put up some content and we have a good time doing it.

3 (21m 47s):

I also love for people that are investment oriented, specifically, the Motley fool, the Gardner brothers do a great job with their continuous postings. They are really, really nice bright guys, but there are many, many, many sources of financial information. I am not a big book reader I've been through before. And when people have asked me the publications I read every day and every week and every month, and gosh, you just must wonder if you ever have heard me relate all the stuff I read, why my wife would ever want to be with me because I'm the delis human being ever alive in terms of books that I am have always been into reading.

3 (22m 38s):

They are ones about overcoming adversity, people who, who have faced dark times in society or in their lives and how they overcome that. I have read a lot of spiritual and religious books as well, but in terms of general reading, it's not books for me. It's all up to the minute publications. And every Saturday I'm so excited when Barron's drops and that can read that week's Barron's magazine. So if I could be any more dull than that, being an excitement for me every week, I don't think I could be y'all are both laughing.

4 (23m 29s):

I mean, I think we, we love your nerdiness. It's it's it's endearing. Let's get to the next question. Clark you, this one comes from Michael in Colorado. He says, what remedies are available to Petco customers when they learn of Petco's new nonsensical quote unquote easy return policy, simply put, they will not return items

purchased from a store because of COVID. This non-return policy was not disclosed in the store at that time of purchase, even though it was apparently in place to the contrary of the sales associate, helping me with purchasing items for a new pet reptile for my son made it seem easy to return items that didn't work out. But if you go on their website, that's not true. What can we do about it?

3 (24m 10s):

So, gosh, you're not the only person who's been upset about Petco's policy, which says easy returns, Petco. And then you go read and the policy after it says that due to COVID-19 and to help ensure Petco remains a safe place for our guests and store partners and store returns are temporarily unavailable. We will honor the original return period. Once returns are accepted again. So you don't have the ability right now to return items, to pet code till they decide that it's safe.

3 (24m 53s):

Again, although you are allowed, if it's an expensive enough item and it's worth it to you at your own cost, you can pay to ship an item back that they then say they will give you a refund. But I'd say that is way far from what they tell easy returns, free returns to store. Our policy is simple. If you're not a hundred percent satisfied with your purchase, you can return it to any of our pet co stores or to one of our warehouses. But right now they don't mean it so disappointing.

3 (25m 33s):

I hope you've not been disappointed by today's podcast. I hope you have loved it. Have a wonderful rest of your day, and we'll be serving you with our next podcast.