

FROM THE NEW ZEALAND LISTENER ARCHIVE: TV & RADIO

July 3-9 2004 Vol 194 No 3347

TV review (BEHAVIOURS OF THE BACKPACKER)

by Diana Wichtel

DIVERSITY, DIVERSITY. IT'S everywhere. Except, of course in primetime. There's quite a lot of Maori stuff in Behaviours of the Backpacker, an eccentric look at our land – well, the 500km from Auckland to Cape Reinga – by resident Chinese/Hungarian/American film-maker Sandor Lau. His grip on colonialism in New Zealand would put most locals to shame (or, depending on their politics, make their fillings ache).

Lau hates cities – even Whangarei is too much of a seething metropolis for him. And he does his 500km in bad Australian shoes to avoid tainting his feet with the footwear of the evil multinationals. But the best bits involve Lau not in Michael Moore mode but just hanging out at various backpacker establishments, meeting fellow counterculture types from Israel, France, Japan, Moerewa ...

You can learn a lot by looking at your own country through an outsider's eyes. I learnt from Behaviours that many people who own backpacker establishments are bonkers. But then, seeing some of their customers, they'd need to be.

You may still catch this charming doco on TV1 if you're reading this before 2.40pm on Saturday, June 26. If not, we can only hope it gets the repeat it deserves, in a better timeslot.

<http://www.listener.co.nz/default,2186,2182,1.sm>

