

# John Seven | Viewer's Discretion: French 'spy comedy,' doc discussing race are must-watch

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By John Seven, Eagle correspondent

## 'NOW HE'S OUT IN PUBLIC AND EVERYONE CAN SEE' (OVIDTV)

There are two ways to look at all those homemade videos online. One is that we are leaving an amazing record of our time, documenting down to the minutiae the thoughts of humans in the 21st Century about every aspect of our lives, and this will be invaluable to future historians. Another is that we're creating a load of nonsense that's just going to confuse future historians and make them wonder how we actually achieved any kind of future at all.

One thing's for certain — there's an awful lot of material available to be disseminated now by anyone wanting to investigate the human condition. That's what director Natalie Bookchin did following the election of Obama, compiling snippets of commentary video revolving around race from all vantage points. While she doesn't play up the exact focus of the rants in the documentary, some of them are obviously about Obama, while Tiger Woods, Henry Louis Gates, Michael Jackson and O.J. Simpson, but she puts them together in such a way that they create an extended group commentary about a meta-life of a symbolic Black American Everyman.

Bookchin's particularly interested in finding the commonalities in the rants, regardless of what viewpoint the person takes, and she brings together a startling number of sentences that are not unique to the speaker, implying that we aren't very individualistic when we express our thoughts, regardless of whether our thoughts themselves stand apart from the crowd.

And while what Bookchin has crafted becomes a dialogue, it's apparent that the original forms of these recordings are anything but, and you have to wonder what makes a person sit in front of a webcam and not only record their thoughts about a celebrity's experience, but also shoot them out to the world. Until someone like Bookchin comes along to unite them, it all seems rather lonely, and a little bit futile, since the lack of diversity in actual points and the way the points are expressed leads me to believe that more people doesn't necessarily mean more solutions. We're talking about race and that's great — but what exactly are we saying?

*John Seven is a writer in North Adams who has never been satisfied by movies and television that are easy to come by. He likes to do some digging. Find him online at [johnseven.me](http://johnseven.me).*

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