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Editorial 6

President Barack Obama entranced the nation when he ran for office in 2008, and continues to build his fan base despite the distaste of many. Like the divine Dionysus of the Greek play *Bacchae*, Obama has thrown people into a frenzied orgy.

Obama's popularity ratings suffer due to failure to deliver on many of his promises, including plans to end recession and bring our military. Despite the drop, CNN reported his ratings at just over 50 percent, people still rave that Obama is the answer.

Smoking bans and taxes seem to be more important to our president than any substantial legislation. During several press conferences this past year, Obama reiterated that many of the promises made would either have to be re-worked or removed.

An example of questionable legislation is in North Carolina, where smoking inside public buildings, including bars, will become illegal in 2010. Authorities outlawed the sale of flavored cigarettes nationwide in September and the reasoning behind these changes are vague.

Obama gave the FDA full control when he signed the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act in June of this year. The FDA has since gone wild with lust, resembling the women of the *Bacchae* during their festivals to Dionysus.

WebMD reports that flavored cigarettes were banned because they were more appealing to youth. This logic is completely illogical because most kids couldn't afford to start smoking flavored cigarettes. The average flavored cigarette cost more than six dollars per pack.

Ironically, menthol flavor was not banned.

The economy is in a recession and the FDA bans a large, taxable product. According to their officials, anyone seeing a business disregarding this law can call a special hot line and report them.

Like Pentheus in the *Bacchae* anyone attempting to undermine the orgy will be ripped apart, limb-for-limb.

That's just one example illustrating the mindless following Obama accumulated. Earlier this year, Obama addressed the House and Senate regarding the Health Care Reform. During this address he told Americans that, though he will take suggestions, any opposition will not be tolerated.

Obama told America during his speech on health care that, "Let there be no doubt: health care reform cannot wait, it must not wait, and it will not wait another year." Health Care Reform needs to happen, but is it seriously the only thing worth focusing on right now?

The US Military report hundreds of thousands of American troops are deployed in Iraq. Triple Diamond Energy Corporation, one of the leading energy companies in the United States, reports large areas in the nation are illegal to drill for oil. So, with issues like this, Obama has convinced the American public that cigarettes and the NCAA Final Four should be the focal point.

Dionysus blinded the women of the *Bacchae* and convinced them to focus on drinking and their orgies

dedicated to him. Those women destroyed any man who attempted to infiltrate their festivals, dismembering their king when he tried.

Obama's followers resemble the women of the *Bacchae*, and he encourages them. Obama refuses to hear opposing view points and tells Americans to report any naysayers to local authorities.

Homeland Security released a document in April of this year declaring right wing extremist to be potential terrorist. They included veterans and pro-lifers on their list of potential terrorists. This document was never passed.

America thrives on intelligent arguments and dialogue. Obama doesn't seem to appreciate this type of structure, according to his actions and speeches. But what is one to do? Anyone attempting to approach and change the way things are runs the risk becoming a modern Pentheus.