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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 Pentheus, in Euripides' *Bacchae*, Obama's attempts to infiltrate and control how people live could end tragically.

Obama fails to deliver on many of his promises, including plans for the recession and bringing military out of the Middle East. Smoking bans and taxes, on the other hand, seem to be more important to our government.

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.

Pentheus attempted to blend in with women while they were worshipping their god so he could spy on them. He was King of the land, but that wasn't enough for him, he not only wanted to know everything, but also to control it.

Like Pentheus, Obama attempts to be the same as all of his people, though Obama hasn't dressed in drag, yet. When arrogance consumes a man into believing they can simply blend in and control, it can end disastrously.

Luckily for America, Pentheus' awful demise is unlikely for Obama. He was dismembered by those he sought to control. The death of Obama's popularity and respect, however, are almost as detrimental.

When Obama first stepped onto the scene, people everywhere praised his name and carried his banner. Now, it's becoming progressively more apparent that people are frustrated that not only is he not fulfilling promises, he is inhibiting many people's freedoms.

According to CNN, Obama's approval ratings fell to 67 percent in May '09, a nine point drop in three months. And FOX News polls showed another 8 point drop in July bringing the approval rating to 54 percent.

According to both CNN and FOX news' polls, people voice complaints that Obama is wasting tax money, not being clear about his plans for health care reform and many other issues.

All complaints center around the theme that Obama told the nation he was one of them, yet his actions seemingly contradict those claims. On the other hand, he did, in a presidential speech, tell Americans that he would struggle with them through it all.

Obama may be more like the divine Dionysus of *Bacchae* and have the entirety of a population under his spell. Any person attempting to infiltrate and topple his balance of control could meet the end of Pentheus instead.

Regardless of whether Obama is the demi-god Dionysus, or the foolish Pentheus, Americans don't need

a leader whose position is surrounded by hype and hollow lifestyles. Instead they need something decisive that they can cling to, clear guidance and a solid plan.