Today we are bombarded with information about everything from the latest technology in music to the latest statistics on teen pregnancy. We are truly the information age. I along with our teachers remember when our parents were the source of what is important. Now we can get on our computer and google any topic we wish to gather information, good or bad. In the article, “Frightening—And Fantastic,” by Anna Quindlen, she discusses whether or not our children are being manipulated by fear through their politics, media,
Growing up, I used to walk to the store for my mother for a few eggs or some milk. I would play games and visit with neighbors on the way. If it began to rain, I could count on friends to pick me up and give me a ride home. Now, with the threat of sexual predators, I dare not send my daughter or son to walk the streets for milk. My memories of those walks to the store are still with me and they are fond memories. It is a shame my
Children are not able to have these same memories for fearing injury or death. Watching television can make you think that if you do not wear a condom you will receive during sex, a sure death sentence.

As Quindlen states in the article, Quindlen talks about a discussion about impregnating a woman she had with her son and how someday her son will have unprotected sex and the unbelievable look he gave her. Television does not discuss the love associated with sex nor the joy of finding that special someone you will share your life with and have a family. Television
Only instills fear of death or disease. And when there are these stories of love and happiness that come with sex, they are brushed aside as rare or in a fairy-tale and can not possibly be true for the masses. When we keep sex and a long life happen together.

This is strategy of mass that mean political leaders use fear to push an agenda that we can not win.

Fear is not only used by the media and parents to shape our world but fear is also used by our political leaders to push a war on us that we can not
win. President Bush and his advisors told us the people that if we didn't go after Saddam Hussein and stop him, he would use his weapons of mass destruction on us.

Our leaders of our country, whom we depend on for our safety, used the horrible effects of September 11th to convince us to send our children to fight for our freedom. "We are fighting them there [in Iraq] so we do not have to fight them here [the US]." is what the President has told us, but also and most of the people who believe the President.
plan to attack Iraq we now see that we can not impose our will on the Iraqi people and the year we got on 9/11 is not going to change the middle east. Fear is not a reason to kill or to be killed.

The old days are gone, we have let the cat out of the bag and can not put it back. Information, good and bad is everywhere and we have to hope that year can be used not only used for manipulation but for what it was intended, to stop us from harm, real harm. Yes the kind of harm we can get big not
The kind of harm we all know about, getting in cars with strangers or watching the drink you ordered when out with friends. I do not feel we need to use information against ourselves, against what could possibly be a brighter happier yet safer life. A life with information for informative sake. Knowledge as power, not a weapon.