# Isaac Asimov

Dear Critical Reader,

I used to say that *The Humanist* magazine, over the course of its 50-year history, has remained one of the best-kept secrets in publishing.

I don't say that any more. Now the secret is definitely out.

In the past two years, this feisty little journal has taken on new life, with a challenging series of articles on everything from the "satanic panic" sweeping the media to civil liberties in the computerized realm of "cyberspace"; from a hard-hitting look at the so-called "Drug War" to a concerned physician's impassioned discussion of euthanasia, pro and con; from a freewheeling debate on the animal-rights movement to a frightening look at the real -- and still unresolved -- issues behind the Iran-contra scandal.

Our uncompromising stance has earned us some enemies. It's also made us some friends. Our "Drug War" issue was cited by the media watchdog group Project Censored, which tracks the top 10 censored news stories each year, and was also featured on a Bill Moyers special. And our issue on the satanic panic in the media was lauded by the Society of Professional Journalists for its eye-opening coverage.

One of our readers, voicing his enthusiastic approval of our recent issue on the continuing scandals in the Reagan-Bush administrations, put it best when he said:

*A closed mind is a wonderful thing to lose.*

Do you agree? Then let me tell you a little more about who we are, what we stand for, and why we're writing to you.

*The Humanist* is a magazine with a mission. We state it right on our masthead: "A Magazine of Critical Inquiry and Social Comment." It's a truism that we live in an Information Age, and *The Humanist* is in the information business: information and analysis on a wide-ranging series of issues, information and analysis that you won't find in (for example) *Time* or *Newsweek*.

That's because *The Humanist* is also a magazine with a philosophy: to stand resolutely opposed to all forms of "magical thinking," secular or religious; to challenge the claims of