Biochemist boosts liberal arts

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and boredom is the most painful

disease ever invented." He de-
scribed the liberal arts for the
ancients as "a form of play
restrained to those who had
division of labor, and one
thing you will never exhaust and
that you will always enjoy."

He claimed that there is no
such thing as a "completed ed-
education." A "completed edu-
ca tion is a rapidly forgotten edu-
cation," College, rather than com-
pleting a person's education,
merely begins it. "Everything
you learn in college is an excuse
to allow you to continue your
education in other ways. It is an
opportunity to gain an interest
in something which will not be a
source of income, but rather will
be leading your brain to exer-
cise, and filling your leisure time
by amusing you in its own way."

In response to questions after
the lecture, which was part of
the BU College of Liberal Arts
Centennial Celebration, Azimov explained why he started writing
stories. "There was never any-
thing to read except magazines,
which my father wouldn't let me
read. One day, I realized that if
I wrote the stuff myself, I could
then read it."

"We've got maybe 30 years
before our technology and society fall apart," Azimov said in response to a question on his
view of the future. "The Ameri-
can standard of living is already
beginning to fall. We must learn
that we can hate our neighbor all
day long, just so long as we
cooperate with him. Even with a
restricted life in a physical sense,
there remains one resource
which is infinite - the human
mind. We can develop a civiliza-
tion which can grow inten-
sively, instead of extensively.
Perhaps we are now faced with
a Toynbeean challenge, and our
response will determine the
future of civilization."