

Degree distinction depends on college

By Rusty Reno

If a person graduating with a bachelor's degree wants to merit distinction or high distinction, he may find it easier or tougher to achieve, according to his college.

Grade point averages (gpa) as low as 3.46 have ranked a distinction, said Gordon Culver, Teachers College professor, while the College of Agriculture requires a 3.7 gpa, according to Elvis Dickason, professor of entomology.

Other points are usually considered, however, such as overall performance in classes, type of program pursued, faculty approval and whether the person took 60 hours while in residence at UNL.

Candidates for distinction are proposed by a faculty committee within the college and that list is brought before the entire faculty for approval.

Upper ten per cent

Teachers College accepts the upper ten per cent, and in the past students have been added to the recommended list. Culver said the student's activities, recommendations from faculty and ability as a student teacher are also considered.

The College of Arts and Sciences considers the upper five per cent. Persons can be added to the distinction list by writing a thesis, completing an independent honors course and passing a comprehensive exam, said senior Jack Mayfield, a counselor with the college.

Associate Engineering and Technology Dean Lyle Young said persons have received distinction in the past by a vote of the faculty, but the college considers the upper eight per cent.

The College of Architecture requires a 3.6 gpa, faculty approval and "other evaluations" according to John Benson, assistant professor.

Upper six per cent

Last year, the College of Business Administration accepted a low of 3.5 gpa, and considers the upper six per cent, said Gary Schwendiman, associate dean.

To graduate with high distinction, the colleges' procedures are more uniform. The Colleges of Architecture, Arts and Sciences, Business, and Teachers College require a 3.8 gpa and the College of Agriculture requires a 3.9 for consideration. The College of Engineering and Technology considers those in the upper two per cent of the class.

The discrepancies between the colleges did not bother Schwendiman, he said. "The colleges award the degrees and each college is different in its programs, so they all set their own requirements. The university does not award degrees," Schwendiman said.

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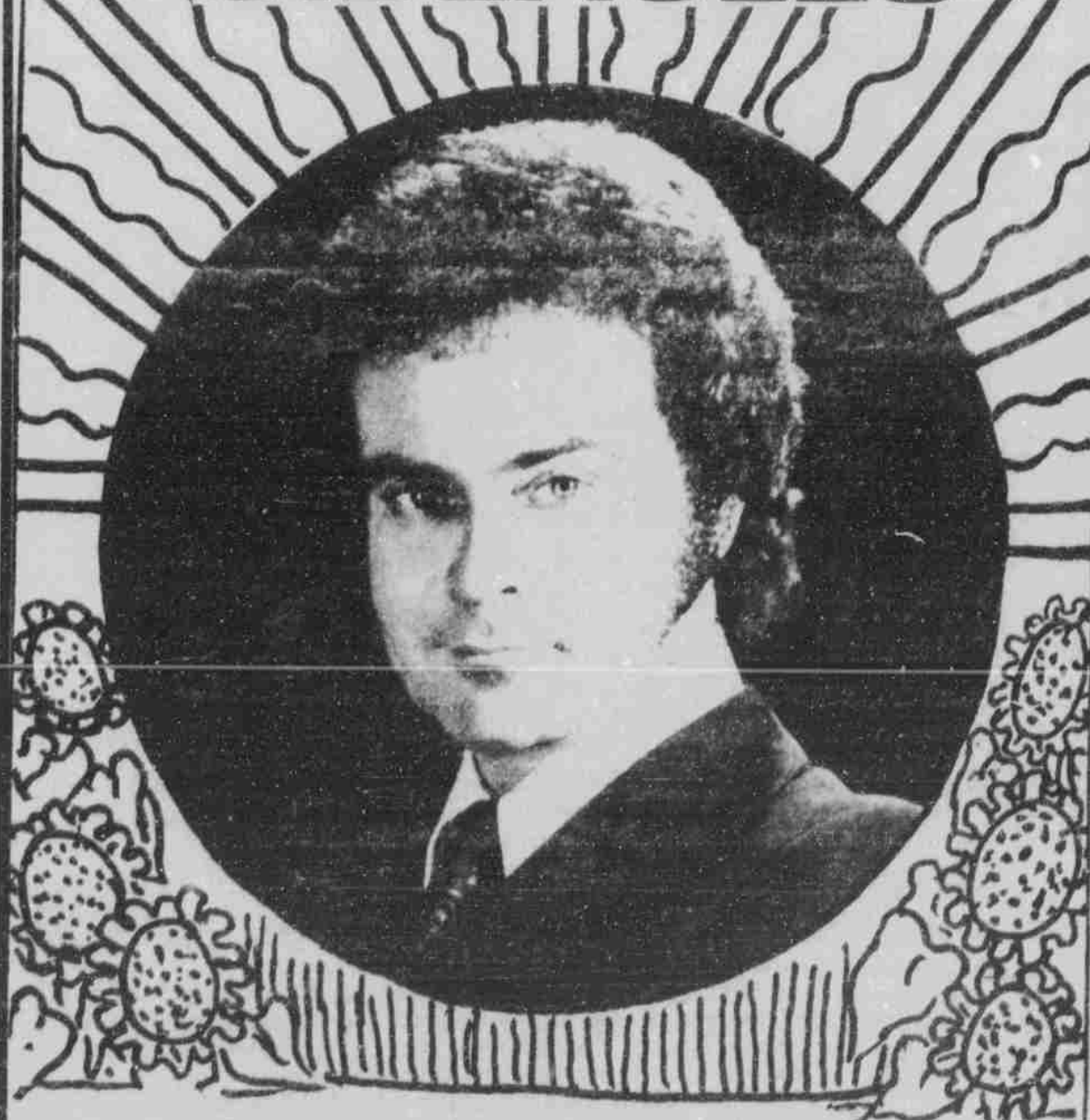
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