

Comic-actor was 43

Cambridge collapses, dies

Associated Press
BURBANK, Calif. — Godfrey Cambridge, the black comic-actor who wanted his movie roles to transcend color lines, has died of a heart attack after collapsing on a movie set. He was 43.

Cambridge collapsed last night while playing the role of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin on the set of the ABC television film "Victory at Entebbe." The movie portrays the daring Israeli commando rescue of hostages at the Entebbe, Uganda, airport last summer.

Godfrey did two small scenes earlier today and was doing a simple walk-on scene, speaking to the hostages," said producer Bob Gunnette. The scene had not even begun.

Godfrey was waiting for a cue and he collapsed.

"There was absolutely no forewarning, he just went down. I think it was apparent to most of us around that he was gone."

Gunnette said Cambridge had arrived from his home in Ridgefield, Conn., earlier in the day.

The actor was taken to nearby St. Joseph's Hospital, where a team of doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

Cambridge was raised in New York's Harlem by parents who emigrated from British Guiana. Graduating from Hofstra College in 1955, he worked as an airplane wing cleaner, judo instructor, maternity hospital ambulance driver, hot rod

racer and cab driver, while trying to break into acting.

He got his first role in 1956 as a bartender in an off-Broadway revival for which he earned \$15 a week. He won critical acclaim — and an Obie Award for Best Performance of 1961 — for his role in Jean Genet's savage drama about racial hatred, "The Blacks."

Once he had become established in movies by playing black roles, Cambridge insisted on acting parts that depicted him "as a man, rather than as a Negro." He played an Irishman in "The Troublemaker (1964)," a CIA agent in "The President's Analyst (1967)," a gangster in "The Busy Body (1967)," a Jewish cab driver in "Bye, Bye Braverman (1968)," and a white bigot who gets turned into a black man in "Night The Sun Came Out (1969)."

Ford will take active role

Republicans plan policy panel

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — At President Ford's suggestion, Republican leaders are drafting plans for a new policy panel to guide the party and speak on the issues after Democrat Jimmy Carter moves into the White House.

A Republican source said Ford has indicated he would take an active role in such an operation, patterned on the party committee that set and spoke policy a decade ago, during another GOP rebuilding effort.

Mary Louise Smith, the resigning national chairman, told Republican governors yesterday that she is exploring the possibility of setting up "a policy committee of Republican

leaders whose specific task would be to harness ideas and set directions."

That was the concept of the Republican Coordinating Committee, which charted GOP policy when Lyndon B. Johnson was president.

It included congressional leaders, including Ford, governors, former presidential nominees and other party officials, and spanned GOP ideology from right to left.

That was not the only familiar formula advanced on yesterday as GOP governors, only 12 of them surviving, discussed the Republican plight and future. Their two-day meeting winds up today.

The governors and other party

leaders spent yesterday talking of broadening GOP appeal, shelving ideological disputes and turning to a master organizer to lead rebuilding efforts for the next election.

In similar circumstances 12 years ago, their predecessors settled on much the same prescription. There were 17 Republican governors then, and Sen. Barry Goldwater had just lost a landslide to Johnson.

"The basic problem here is to broaden the base. That's the thing to be dealt with," said George Romney, the former Michigan governor, who was on hand yesterday as he was in 1964.

Now, as then, the Republicans are in need of a new national party chairman and, as before, the governors want a voice in the selection.

John B. Connally, the Republican convert who once was a Democratic governor of Texas, told them the GOP needs a spokesman at the party helm, then added at a corridor news conference that he might be available for the job.

His evident interest did not produce any swell of support among the governors. Several are pushing their own state chairmen for the job. Others are awaiting Ford's suggestion on a successor to Smith.

Former diplomat to speak

Tran Van Dinh, a former South Vietnamese ambassador to the United States, will speak here Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. in the Rudder Forum.

Dinh served as South Vietnam's ambassador for ten years before resigning in 1964 because of his views against foreign involvement in Southeast Asia. He is now a free-

lance writer for such periodicals as "The Christian Science Monitor," "The New Republic," "War/Peace Reports" and "The Washington Post."

Dinh's speech Wednesday will be on the "Emerging Third World." Admission is free.

—Cathy Ruedinger

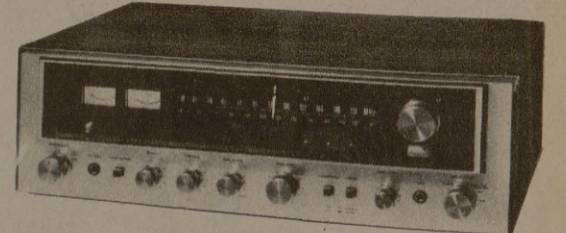
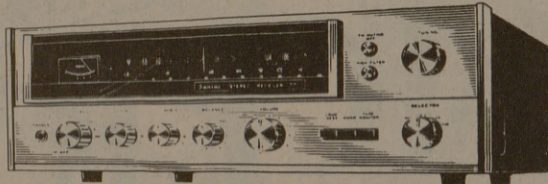
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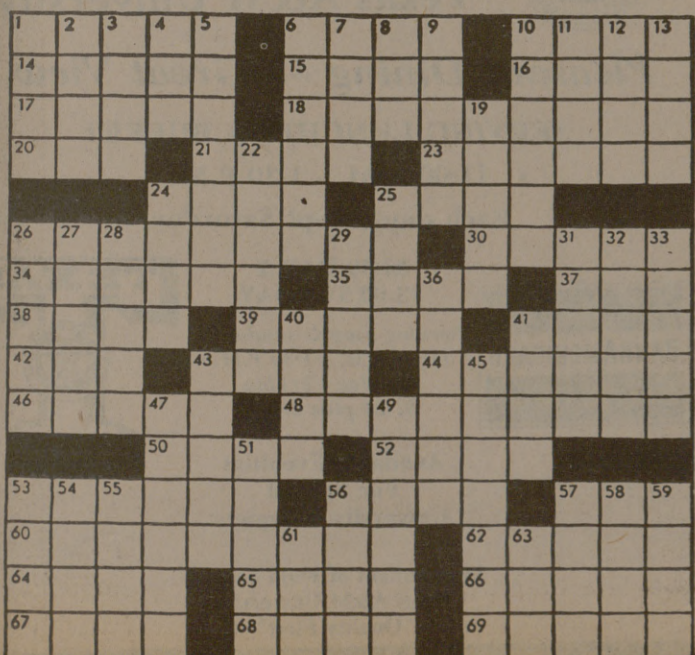
"The Emerging Third World"

Wednesday 8 p.m.
December 1 Rudder Forum
Free

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

UNITED Feature Syndicate

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 43 Singleton | 8 As well | 41 Costa --- |
| 1 Calendar entry | 44 Balancer | 9 Subject | 43 Noted Can. physician |
| 6 Home of the Panthers: | 46 John L. ---: Labor leader | 10 Layers of rock | 45 New York's neighbor |
| 10 Hindu garment | 48 --- de Paul: Que. community | 11 Russian sea | 47 Water-bound land |
| 14 Softly: Musical direction | 50 Venetian blind part | 12 Roast: French thought | 49 --- Forge: Historic site |
| 15 Ending with buck or kang | 52 Theater group: Abbr. | 13 Thought | 51 Fall flower |
| 16 Walked | 53 Certain knit goods | 19 Certain jackets | 53 Actress: Verna --- |
| 17 Not religious | 56 Parasitic insect | 22 Dried fruit | 54 Early Russ. Caucasian |
| 18 Work together | 57 Magazine, e.g.: Abbr. | 24 Pre-Easter period | 55 Graf von ---: Ger. admiral |
| 20 --- Anne de Beaupre | 60 Unbiased | 25 Statute: Abbr. | 56 Strike |
| 21 Facial expression | 62 Salary increase | 26 Deadly | 57 Funeral pyre |
| 23 Roma is its capital | 64 Observed | 27 Gothic vault | 58 Wilder |
| 24 Gaunt | 65 Mademoiselle | 28 Resume | 59 Greek letter |
| 25 Macbeth for one | 66 Land mass | 29 Compassion | 61 --- de France |
| 26 Prescience | 67 Angered | 31 Deer's relative | 63 Serpent |
| 30 Appellations | 68 Trust | 32 German city | |
| 34 Representatives | 69 Aida, for one | 33 Spring forth | |
| 35 Corn units | DOWN | 36 Be | |
| 37 Ordinary spring | 1 Syl ---: Hockey great | 40 Relaxation | |
| 38 Slight coloration | 2 Magpie: Var. | | |
| 39 Characterized by anger | 3 Craze | | |
| 41 Artist --- Bonheur | 4 --- nutshell | | |
| 42 Thoroughfare: Abbr. | 5 Of the greatest duration | | |
| | 6 Measuring by steps | | |
| | 7 --- Curtain | | |



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