



# Algarve NEWS

50 escudos ANO XI No 162 December 2 1988

CINEMA LIST ON PG 12

Blood, sweat and Sweeney ... pg 5



FREE BUBBLY!  
... in Algarve News' Sunny Christmas Day competition



No socket for Smokey Joe ... pg 4

CLASSIFIEDS  
For the best buys in the Algarve ... pages 15-17

### Red Cross appeal in the wake of Carvoeiro, Ferragudo floods

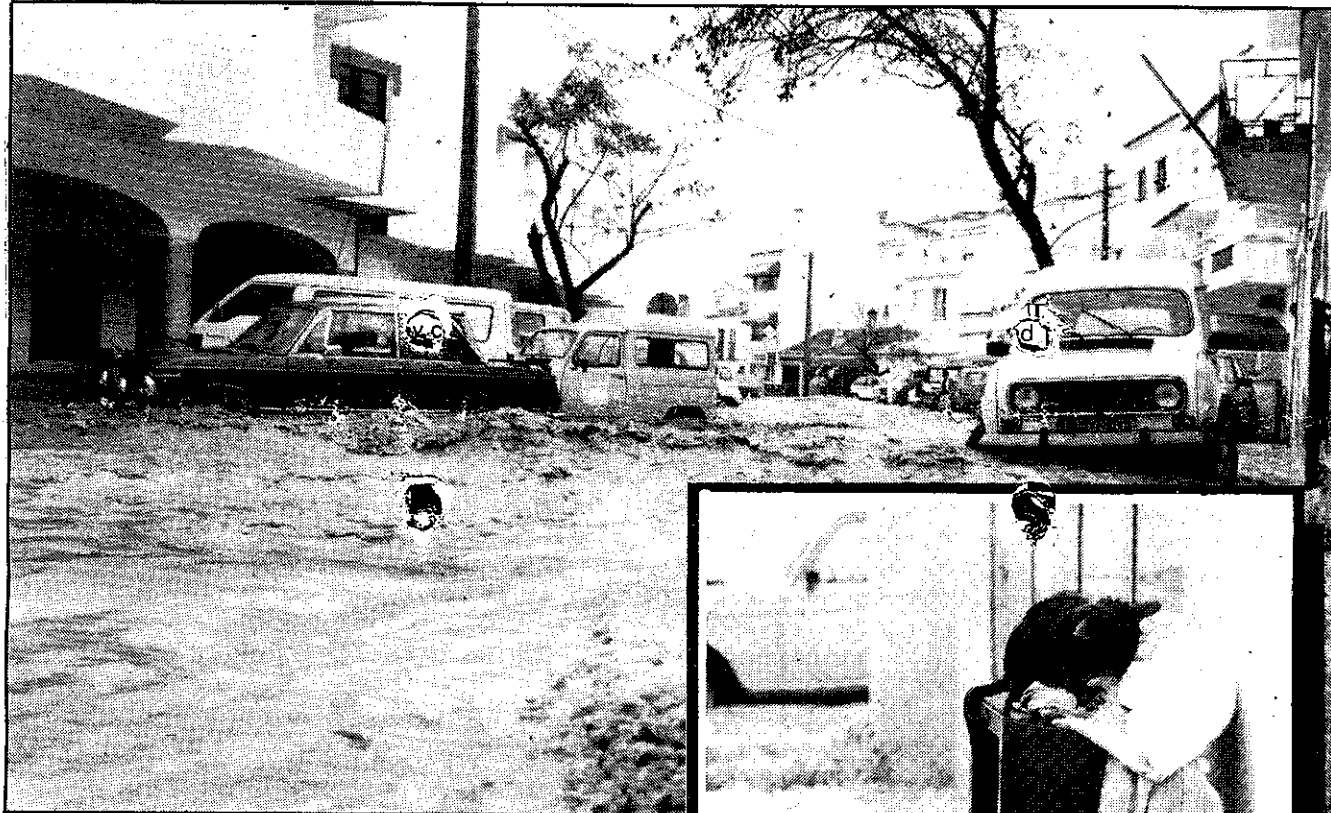
# STREETS OF WATER

by MICHAEL JOHNSON  
Houses and shops were flooded, crops ruined and thousands of contos' damage caused to properties in the Algarve by the storm which lashed the province last week.

There were no reports of injuries or death, but the Red Cross has appealed for donations of food, clothing and furniture to help people who lost possessions when floodwaters swept through the low-lying areas of Portimão, Ferragudo, Carvoeiro and Tavira on Friday, November 25.

Worst hit was Carvoeiro, where a cloudburst followed a night of steady rain to turn the village's two main roads into rivers which moved cars and swept away household goods. Shops and houses were awash, an underground beachfront bar flooded and fishing boats swept out to sea as the waters raged waist-deep through the village square and over the beach.

During the period from noon on November 23 to noon the following day 185 mm of rain was recorded in Sagres, according to a meteorologist at the Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia in Lisbon. A further 84mm was recorded in the following 24 hours.



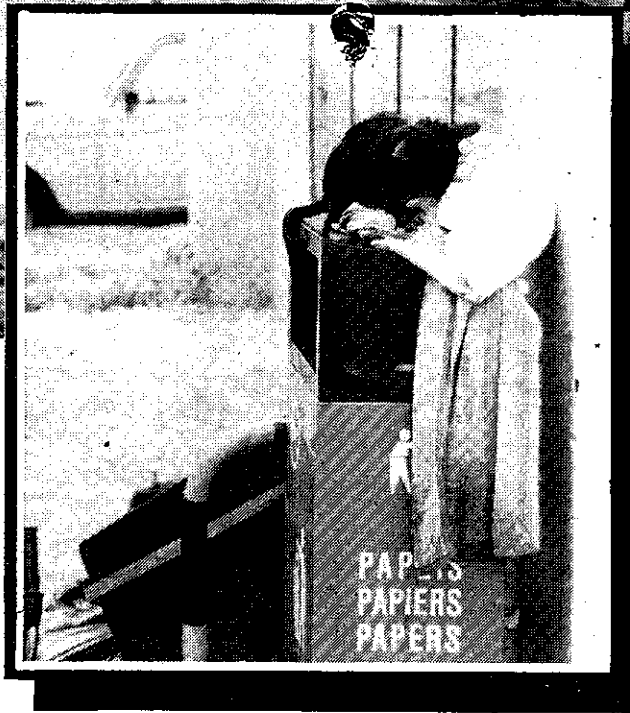
A standing wave forms as the rainwaters rush down Carvoeiro's main street towards the village square

Carvoeiro residents watched in disbelief as gutters overflowed into streets and the water began to rise. Few people managed to barricade their doors against a phenomenon which an old-timer said "has never happened in my 24 years here".

Those with vehicles parked in the village were not

prepared for the rate at which the water rose. The low road out of the village and the square connecting with the other exit routes were the first to fill, while the high road in rapidly clogged with building rubble, debris and household goods. Many cars were flooded where they stood. Other vehicles

continued on pgs 10 and 11



This drenched cat found refuge in a pile of dry towels on top of a rubbish bin

### 'You will thank me' — Algarve tax chief

by LEN PORT

Local councils will no longer be able to plead poverty when faced with public criticism about bad roads, water-supply cuts and inadequate garbage collection. They will have no excuse in future for failing to provide municipal services of a high standard, according to Gaspar Predade Silva da Encarnação, Director of Finance in Faro.

"I believe that two years from now people will look back and thank me for the benefits to the Algarve brought about by the increased revenue from property taxes," says the region's chief tax collector.

Revenue from rates (*contribuição predial*) goes directly to local councils to spend as they think fit, but câmara coffers have been far from overflowing. Traditionally, tax collecting in Portugal has been so inept that close compliance with the tax laws has been the exception rather than the rule.

Mr Encarnação is changing all this. He aims to provide the câmaras with all the money they need through his vigorous — some would say draconian — implementation of the tax laws.

During a recent informal discussion Mr Encarnação gave a tantalising insight into how he goes about his job. While lamenting a shortage of staff, he waxed enthusiastically about the Faro finance office's computer system which, he claims, is among the best in use by any government department in Portugal.

He also expressed satisfaction about the amount of

continued on page 3

Photographs by MICHAEL JOHNSON and NUNO CAMPOS. Pull-out photo-feature on pages 10 and 11

## Publicity firm's 5kg prestige awards weigh in at 160 contos apiece

by LEN PORT

Thirty local companies recently paid 160,000 escudos each for the dubious privilege of being presented with an 'Algarve International Prestige Award' at a gala dinner arranged by a British-registered "publicity firm".

The climax to the glittering evening at the five-star Marinotel, Vilamoura, came when certificates of merit and handsome trophies were ceremoniously handed over, amid applause, by Prestige Awards International Ltd president Jové Bergadá.

Prestige Awards International Ltd. has an accommodation address in Regent's Street, London, but Mr Bergadá is much more likely to be found on the first floor of lote 2, Rua Henrique Seixas in Cascais, near Lisbon.

He describes Prestige Awards International Ltd. as "a publicity firm" which is registered in Britain for tax purposes. He says it is just one of a number of similar companies he is associated with "all over the world".

Scores of companies in the

Algarve received notification that they were eligible for the 'Algarve International Prestige Award'. The good tidings, written in Portuguese on Prestige Awards International Ltd. letterhead, were posted in London.

continued on page 20