

Brahmin Shocker:
The Case of the Missing
\$58 Million Fortune

BY FRANCIS STORIS

Charlie Jacobs
and the Bad
News Bruins

BY JOHN GONZALEZ

The College
Applicant's New
Secret Weapon

BY JULIA REISCHEL

Road Rage: Why Our
Highways and Bridges
Are Falling Apart

BY JOHN WOLFSON

Boston

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Oh, Relax!

Your No-Stress Holiday Guide

209 Ways for
Bostonians
to Survive
(Even Enjoy!)
the Most
Hectic Time
of Year

WITH

Helpers for All Your
Yuletide Chores,
Massages for Every
Tired Body Part,
Easy Weekend Escapes,
the Most Blissful Spots
in Town, Smart Gift Ideas,
Seasonal Tipping Tips...
And More



Twelve Ways to Pamper

Ultraindulgent Spa-Going

Five cure-all experiences for when you've got the time and the cash.



5. For the bride-to-be

COZY COMFORT

Melt (3 hours, 30 minutes, \$250,
meltboston.com)

With just weeks until my 200-person, out-of-town wedding, "stressed" hardly begins to describe my state of mind. At fluffed-up Newbury Street spa Melt, I get shuffled off to a cushioned pedicure banquette with an extra throw pillow, a cinnamon scone, a cup of tea, and a copy of the new *InStyle*. I'm more relaxed already—and that's even before my toes are massaged, scrubbed, reflexed, and painted a spirited shade of candy-apple red, and my hands gloved in warm, moisturizing paraffin wax. From there, I was supposed to proceed to the head-to-foot polish, using Melt's seasonal cranberry-brown sugar scrub, which, if the mani-pedi was any indication, would be divine, but unfortunately, I couldn't stay. Did I mention I've got this wedding to plan?
—Blythe Copeland

The Holiday Survival Guide

December in Boston means crowded streets, crowded stores, gloomy weather, and even-more-irritating relatives. Don't let the bah-humbugs get the best of you. Our 12-part, 209-point playbook for getting through the most hectic time of year will keep you blissed out till New Year's (even in the face of a certain annoying Christmas ditty).

Photographs by **TANIT SAKAKINI**