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Metro

# Cambridge couple recall cruise chaos

By **Matt Rocheleau** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT    JANUARY 16, 2012

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A Cambridge couple celebrating their honeymoon recalled a chaotic scene aboard the luxury cruise liner Costa Concordia when it ran aground and tipped over Friday night off the coast of Italy, killing at least five people and leaving another 15 people unaccounted for.

“People were running up and down the stairs. People were screaming. Children were crying. It was panic,” Benji Smith recalled by phone last night from a hotel room in Rome.

Smith, 34, and his wife, Emily Lau, 27, were in their cabin aboard the ship 14 days after their Cambridge wedding.

Suddenly, the ship began to lean. Objects in the cabin began to slide. At first, the couple thought it must have been a big

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wave. But when the lights flickered: “We knew something is really wrong,” Smith said.

▪ **Cruise ship’s captain held for questions**

The newlyweds grabbed their life vests and a cellphone to use as a flashlight, and went upstairs.

“The life boats were being loaded, women and children first,” he said. “All of the people felt like their families were being pulled apart.”


He recalled confusing messages being broadcast over the ship’s intercom.

“There was no system in place,” Smith said. “No orderliness.”

The first announcements assured passengers that there had been a problem with a generator and that they could return to their cabins.

But a crewmember stopped Smith and Lau as they were going back. By then, the ship was leaning heavily Smith said. “Finally, we heard: ‘Prepare to abandon ship.’ ”

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## In Canada, cod remain scarce despite ban

20 years after the Newfoundland cod fishery was shut down, the fish have not come back and a way of life is gone. New England scientists and fishermen fear it is an omen.

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## 4th Congressional District, meet Sean Bielat. Again.

Low-key and articulate, GOP contender Sean Bielat, who had a strong showing against Barney Frank in 2010, is preparing for a race against Joseph P. Kennedy III.

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## Casino vision divides Foxborough

As residents got their first look at the resort casino envisioned by developer Steve Wynn, opinion was mixed, with some recipients impressed and others dismissive.

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## iPad gives boy a voice at his bar mitzvah

Twelve-year-old Matthew Emmi, who is severely autistic and cannot read, write, or speak sentences, was able to lead the service by touching icons on an iPad.

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## Digital ad billboards coming to T stations

The MBTA plans to install digital ad displays at some of its busiest stations, a move officials believe could generate \$1 million annually atop conventional billboard income.

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## Olin College's application process stresses teamwork

Dozens of high school seniors gathered at the Olin College of Engineering for an innovative admissions process designed to test their ability to work with others.

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## Coalition seeks to curb youth violence

The Rev. Jeffrey Brown, who heads the Boston TenPoint Coalition, is convening a group of faith leaders, law enforcement officers, and criminal justice scholars to a summit in Washington.

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## A teddy bear vigil held for missing girl in Maine

More than 100 people gathered yesterday for a teddy bear vigil to remember a toddler missing for 10 weeks and to keep her case in the public eye.

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## State's new campaign aims to save lives in tunnels

On Thursday, state officials introduced a "Save Your Life . . . Not Your Car!" campaign, encouraging motorists to stay put after highway-tunnel accidents.

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## Girl Scouts mark 100 years of narrowing gender gap

As it celebrates its 100th anniversary this month, the Girl Scouts of the USA is highlighting a record of progressiveness.

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## This Day in History

Today is Sunday, March 4, the 64th day of 2012. There are 302 days left in the year.

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## Northeastern president named to Homeland Security council

Joseph E. Aoun was appointed to an academic advisory group tasked with finding how universities can contribute to anti-terrorism efforts.

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## Bird sightings

Recent bird sightings as reported to the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

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## Local fishermen resist cuts to cod catch

The most recent assessment of the local cod population would suggest that the job of fishermen will become even more difficult.

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## Wynn shows his hand to Foxborough

Casino mogul Steve Wynn wants to develop a casino and convention center modeled after the design of his own luxury home in Sun Valley, Idaho.

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