

## Beyond the White Coat

### Scrubs, Vows, and Bellevue

Many people know I'm an NYU lifer, but you may not know that I was married at Bellevue Hospital.

One late June morning my now husband, Tim, proposed over the Times crossword puzzle. Next question—when should we tie the knot? Tim at that time was the Associate Director of the Bellevue Chest Service and I was finishing up my first year as a cardiology attending. We looked at our schedules and saw that we could either get married in 3 weeks or in 6 months. We each had a big family affair with our first weddings and didn't see the need to do that again. Just our closest family and friends this time. So we decided to go with 3 weeks. Finding a restaurant for the reception was easy. It's not that easy to find a wedding venue on 3 weeks' notice in the summer, it turns out. Fortunately, Bellevue has beautiful chapels on the first floor of the C and D buildings (check them out sometime if you haven't).

Our wedding took place on a Thursday evening in July. People came down in scrubs to take part in the ceremony. Here is our wedding photo—notice the man on crutches!



Harmony R. Reynolds, MD

Joel E. and Joan L. Smilow Professor of Cardiology,  
Department of Medicine  
Director, Center for Women's Cardiovascular Health  
Director, Cardiovascular Clinical Research Center



Harmony R. Reynolds, MD, and her husband Tim outside the Bellevue Hospital Center on their wedding day

## The Book Report

*Yonathan Daniel, MD - Amusing Ourselves to Death*

Neil Postman's *Amusing Ourselves to Death* may have been written in 1985, but it reads today like prophecy. Postman's central warning—that television had not merely altered but flattened public discourse into shallow entertainment—feels startlingly relevant in today's age of TikTok, Instagram, and other bite-sized media ecosystems.

Postman's most powerful idea is that the medium itself determines the shape of our thought. In the "Age of Typography," print culture demanded patience, sustained attention, and logical reasoning. Arguments

were carefully built, debated, and understood in their full complexity. But when television became the dominant medium, messages had to conform to its grammar of entertainment: fast, colorful, emotional. Serious discourse was hollowed into performance. Today's short-form content pushes this trend even further.

The result is a flattening of culture and information. On a scrolling feed, everything looks the same: a dance challenge, a joke, a news headline about climate change, a snippet of political commentary. The distinctions between serious and trivial collapse because all are packaged with the same cadence and urgency. This collapse makes it easy to consume but hard to prioritize, contextualize, or think critically. Over time, this cultivates a mindset that favors binary judgments—good/bad, true/false, for/against—rather than the slow wrestling with ambiguity and subtext that real understanding requires.

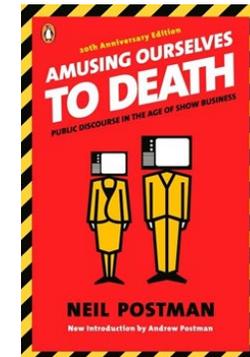
The implications are profound. A generation raised in this environment risks losing intellectual stamina to parse complexity, to hold multiple truths in tension, or to appreciate layered arguments. In politics, this encourages polarization; in culture, it rewards oversimplification; in personal life, it erodes patience for the complexity of real relationships. The flattening of culture does not censor ideas—it makes them trivial, stripping them of weight until we treat all knowledge as interchangeable content competing for attention.

Postman's concern wasn't just that we would be lied to, but that we would lose the very capacity to care about truth. Reading his book feels unsettling because it feels like Postman's warnings have been fulfilled beyond what even he may have expected. If television amused us to death, social media might end up burying us



Yonathan Daniel, MD

Internal Medicine Resident, PGY-2



## Faculty QuickTake Video

*A brief glimpse into the journeys of those who make our department exceptional.  
In each QuickTake video, a Department of Medicine member answers a few rapid-fire questions about their path to medicine, their passion for the work, and the advice that's stuck with them.*

**Featured: Harmony R. Reynolds, MD | Specialty: Cardiology**