**Seminar Assignment #2**

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**Part One**

When considering this couple from an evolutionary perspective, there are certain qualities of these individuals that made them more likely to form a relationship. This perspective posits that individuals will pursue different attributes depending on if they are looking for a long-term or short-term relationship. For example, the male in this relationship pursued a younger, more attractive woman. From an evolutionary standpoint, one reason that our male may be attracted to the younger female could be because she is more likely to be fertile than an older woman. Alternatively, for the female, she may have chosen a less attractive partner because his financial prospects are good. When looking for a long-term mate, females would place more importance on income and resources to ensure that their partner can care for them and their future children.

The evolutionary perspective would argue that these mate preferences are a result of evolution through selection. Considering men and women have faced different adaptive problems throughout history, they have different ideas of what is required of a long-term mate. We can see this in our case study, as the female married an ordinary looking man, who may be more financially stable, and the male married a younger, much more attractive woman. These preferences could be a result of evolutionary selection.

**Part Two**

Many relationships tend to be similar in physical attractiveness, and since our male is notably less attractive than his partner, it may be contributing to his insecurity regarding the relationship. Furthermore, it is possible that our male fell victim to the “what is beautiful is good” judgement. By this I mean that in the beginning of the relationship he may have had an impression of his partner as feminine, agreeable, and conscientious but as time passes, he is realizing that she is not what he had expected. For example, her non-traditional views such as finding a job and pursuing outside activities could have been overlooked by her husband as his perceptions of her were biased by her beauty. As well, the fact that his wife is beautiful could be causing him to perceive her actions as more promiscuous than she intends, such as her friendly interactions with other men at the party.

One potential reason for the wife’s new interest in exploring new activities and a job could be that her satisfaction in the relationship is in a lull. Many couples are most satisfied at the beginning of their relationships but experience a lull as they adjust to the interdependence. This could be explained by the self-expansion model, which asserts that we are attracted to relationships that expand the range of our activities, interests, and skills. Since they have been married for eight years, they are very familiar and may be feeling bored. As such, my advice to the male partner would be to try some new activities together to reignite the interest and combat boredom. Subsequently, spending time together doing novel activities can generate interest in each other and encourage the wife to disclose feelings to the husband more, and the husband to tell his wife about his work anxieties.