

PROBABLY NOT

according to the campus paper
police do not believe the white male,
age 23, 150 pounds, blond with a
mustache, who yesterday exposed himself to
a female student in one of the parking
lots, is the same man as the tall, dark
man in his 30's sought in connection
with a similar crime three weeks ago.

S. O. P.

the old drunk lady ahead of me
in the liquor store
wants to match pennies with the young counter clerk
for the change from the purchase,
double or nothing.
while he tries to explain
there's no way he can do that
a line queues up behind her,
mostly truckers and bikers and marines.
finally she says, "ah, give the goddamn change
to charity."
the young man nods towards two containers:
"do you want it to go
to save the animals
or to save our pier?"

"the pier? fuck the pier!
give it to the fucking animals."

"you're sure you don't want
to save our pier?"

"i hope the goddamn pier falls into
the motherfucking ocean."

the young man says, "it already did,"

and she says, "then i hope it stays there."

my sentiments exactly.
the merchants on main street
want a pier to bring in business,
and the property owners
want to fortify the tax base,
and my wife wants a pier
to parade our kids up and down,
but i can live without the fucker.