Here are some odds and ends for your entertainment, placed in totally random order so you have to read all the way to the end -- because you never know what gems are hidden here.

Our fees are slipping. Well, here's hoping.

I did a column in March about the Sequoia National Forest Service's inability to account for how it's been spending fees it charges the public for alleged maintenance and upkeep on camping areas around Isabella Lake.

The double-talk was bad enough, but it really turned my stomach after residents sent me photos showing disgusting, broken porta-toilets and overflowing garbage that were supposed to be cleaned up by the Forest Service.

My conclusion was the Forest Service has done a terrible job not only caring for the sites, but communicating with the public about how they're spending our money.

Well, Sen. Max Baucus, D-Montana, apparently doesn't like the situation any better than I do and has introduced S868 to repeal the law under which the fees have been charged.

I called Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, to see what he thought of the bill. There is no house version, so he called the Western Caucus to see if they're going to create one and, if so, asked how he can help.

McCarthy represents the Kern River Valley area where residents have fretted over the fees and lack of service for some time.

"I think this will open the debate so we can discuss whether it's reasonable for the Forest Service to have these fees," McCarthy told me. "If so, we can talk about that, but there absolutely has to be better accountability."