My hat is off to those thousands of golf course employees who come to work every day, on time, and with a positive attitude. They do the best they can with the resources and direction provided. They use their initiative to stay productive if their equipment fails and no one is available to direct them. They see the big picture.

They communicate freely with all members of the staff. They don't hold grudges. They lend a hand whenever some one needs help. They operate and maintain the equipment safely and properly. They take pride in their work and get satisfaction from a job well done. They make suggestions and have ideas to improve the operation. They pay attention to details.

They are courteous to members, guests and fellow employees. They go the extra mile without being asked. They are honest. They will make mistakes, but they learn from them and don't repeat them. They ask questions when they don't understand directions or when they are curious about the job at hand. They earn my trust and respect.

They have a sense of humor.

The boss needs a sense of humor when the same few repeat offenders trot out a new generation of maladies and illnesses to replace the old, worn out, broken-alarm-clock and flat-tire stories. Remember, truth is stranger than fiction!

**Mechanical Malaise.** Day 1: "I can't come in today. Rain is forecasted and my windshield wiper motor is broken."
Day 2: "Still waiting for that wiper motor to come in. Hope it clears up soon. I need the money." Remedy: Open an account at the NAPA store.

**Silica Sillycosis.** "We were stranded at the beach. I saw Mark drop his keys in the sand. I told him he'd better pick them up or they'd get lost. He didn't. They did!" Remedy: Bend over.

**Intestinal Insensitivity.** "Something I ate last night didn't agree with me."
"What did you eat?" "Six dozen shrimp!" Remedy: Join Jenny Craig. She only gives you six shrimp!

**Sick Child Syndrome.** "I can't come in today. I have to take the baby to the doctor." "Can't your wife take the baby?" "No! She works!" Remedy: Hire the wife!

Ouch! That last one hurt didn't it? Maybe you make the workplace so pleasant it doesn't seem like work!

*Carpe diem!*