

Jon Winokur's recently published *Encyclopedia Neurotica* (St. Martins Press, \$23.95) highlights all of our worst fears, anxieties and other peculiar tendencies under one book cover. Winokur lists 19 phobias you've probably never heard of, defining them as intense, irrational and often disabling fears.

Some estimates claim that one in five Americans suffer from at least one phobia and that new phobias are identified constantly. A few of my favorites in the never-heard-of-category include:

Arachibutyrophobia: fear of peanut butter getting stuck to the roof of the mouth.

Metrophobia: fear of poetry (sign me up!).

Penteraphobia: fear of one's mother-in-law.

But Winokur left out an entire subset of phobias related to that most unusual species of human prone to intensely irrational and often disabling anxiety — the green chairman.

So, I called up my old pal Dr. Heimlich Penalbunker down at Orlando's Center for the Protection of Par. Penalbunker is still basking in the 2004 U.S. Open glory, where many of his par-protection theories were confirmed.

For years, the doctor has been quietly working to identify the various neurotic tendencies of green chairmen in hopes of furthering his cause to preserve and protect par's almighty sanctity.

Exclusive to *Golfdom*, he shared a few of the phobias that his team of scientists has identified. If your green chairman suffers from more than three of these phobias, Penalbunker recommends you book him on the first plane to Orlando. The list begins here:

NoAnswerCellphobia — Fear that if the superintendent does not answer his mobile phone on the first two rings, he is out defying committee recommendations.

Framingphobia — If every hole is not separated by a dense forest of non-native trees to make golfers on neighboring holes invisible, the subject fears that the greatness of one's home course will be undermined severely.

Hootiephobia — Intense fear that committee-driven course changes will not bring great attention and acclaim to the green chairman.

LockerAirVentphobia — Fear of fellow members slipping anonymous, threatening notes into the green chairman's locker.

Communicadophobia — Fear of communicat-

Fearsome Phobias & Green Chairmen

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



FOR YEARS,
DR. PENALBUNKER
HAS BEEN WORKING
TO IDENTIFY
THE NEUROTIC
TENDENCIES OF
GREEN CHAIRMEN

ing design alterations, maintenance days and other course-related news to fellow members via memos, bulletin board letters or on the club Web site.

UpwardSlopephobia — Fear that design changes to the course will raise the slope rating, offending better players (i.e. sandbaggers) whose handicaps will travel too well.

ReverseSlopephobia — Fear that design changes will lower the course slope rating, offending better players (i.e. sandbaggers) whose handicaps will not travel well.

FluorescentEnoughphobia — Fear that new white bunker sand will fail to join the Great Wall of China as the only man-made objects visible from outer space.

Contaminationphobia — Fear that new pearly-white sand will be contaminated by rocks, leaves or other dark substances, causing extreme fear that golfers will think said chairman is not doing his job.

Auburnphobia — Tendency to fear that any portion of a golf course that's not a deep shade of green (bunkers exempted . . . sometimes) displays signs of eminent and widespread turf disease.

19thHolephobia — Debilitating fear of having to buy lunch for fellow committee members or course staff. Often leads to inability to digest food properly.

Da'Hoodphobia — Fear of not mimicking what the competing course down the street is doing, no matter how ridiculous or expensive.

Parphobia — Fear that par will be broken under committee's watch during minitour events, club championship or senior mixed four-ball.

Zenphobia — Fear that the course requires absolutely no change whatsoever. Considered to be the most widespread, debilitating and acted upon phobia of all.

Shackelford can be reached at geoffshac@aol.com.