

## Concerned Parents Given Direct Line Service By OU Dads and Mothers

The OU Dads' Association and the OU Mothers' Association have joined forces to give parents of first-time Sooner students a direct line to the resources of the University in helping their sons and daughters over the rough spots in adjusting to college life.

The two parents groups will inaugurate their project, the OU Parents Representative Program, on a trial basis during the second semester in six Oklahoma communities — Bartlesville, Duncan, Enid, Lawton, Muskogee and Shawnee. An OU father and an OU mother have been appointed in each of these communities to channel questions, concerns, comments, complaints and, yes, even compliments to an on-campus OU official designated by the offices of University Affairs and Student Affairs to act as that community's liaison.

Of course the students themselves can obtain the information or assistance they need without going through a home town intermediary — and most do. But as any card-carrying parent can testify, their offspring don't always read instructions or heed advice.

On their own for the first time, enamored with their independence or fearful of appearing the greenhorn, some students hesitate to ask the right question at the right time — no matter how often they are urged to do so. Then when problems arise, especially during the first year, they tend to turn to mom and dad just as they always have. Now, however, mom and dad are miles away, usually without the proper information to advise.

In a large and complex institution such as the University of Oklahoma, concerned parents without proper guidance could find themselves making calls to a dozen offices when one call to the right person should suffice. The two OU parents associations feel that their community representatives and the on-campus liaisons can make such direct access available.

The six pilot communities were selected for the new service program on the basis of the significant numbers of students they send to OU, their loca-

## These Guys Will Bet the Shirts Off Their Racks

The OU Book Exchange Telex machine, part of a national trade network normally used to locate books not in stock, printed out an unusual request in December from Penn State, OU's opponent in the upcoming Orange Bowl:

*The fans, they hunger.  
The stage is set.  
Just one more task:  
To place the bet.*

*A pair of sweatshirts,  
The new year's prize;  
In red and white,  
Extra-large is the size.*

*This holiday booty  
Will be the best,  
To hang in the store  
With all the rest.*

*The Tide's been turned,  
The Owl's wings clipped;  
The Panther and Irish  
Have been eclipsed.*

*We've juiced the Orange,  
Made Terrapin soup;  
Even the Eagle  
Has flown the coop.*

*Don't be upset;  
Just match our token;  
And prepare to become  
Lion's Luncheon.*

Could a Sooner spurn a wager so defiantly stated? Never! The book merchants fired back this reply:

*Of course we accept  
The bet with pleasure.  
Your blue and white shirts,  
We'll greatly treasure.*

*We think of this game  
As a gift from the East.  
Another delectable  
New Year's feast.*

*There are many fans here,  
In and out the store,  
Who've dined on a Bowl  
Of Nittany Lion before.*

*It is for the Sooners,  
Fate's own creation,  
Designed to make us  
Number one in the nation.*

*So please enjoy now  
This little bet.  
Anticipation is  
All you will get.*

tions in various parts of the state and the willingness of resident volunteers to participate. If the project proves beneficial during the try-out period, the dads and mothers organizations hope to add other cities later.

Included in the initial group of parents representatives are Floyd Farha Jr. and Nancy Grigsby, Bartlesville; Roy Ford and Nancy Leonard, Duncan; Jerry Blankenship and Janet Cox, Enid; Jim Powers and Kitty Dutcher, Lawton; Greg Newell and Sharon Turley, Muskogee; and Clarke Bonham and Sue Race, Shawnee.

Each representative is being supplied with a packet of basic information to familiarize them with the operation of the institution and enable them to deal with routine questions about the University. Inquiries of a more individualized nature will be referred to each community's on-campus liaison, who will be able to track down the requested information or to obtain the assistance needed by the student.

The OU Dads' and Mothers' associations anticipate additional benefits in

having their representatives serve as local sounding boards, helping their fellow townspersons by sharing their own experiences as Sooner parents. They also will be helping the University by relaying parental concerns to the proper OU officials who can explain the reasons for certain policies or actions or perhaps facilitate policy changes to better serve OU families.

Ideally, the planners of this OU Dads and Mothers program would like to see their community representatives with time on their hands. In the manner of the Maytag repairman, the less the parents representatives have to do, the better life is going for home town students at the University. Practically, however, they know there are students each year whose college careers could be improved — or even saved completely — by heading off academic, social or emotional difficulties before they become major problems. And they also know that having someone to talk to can be equally important to the parents who wait anxiously at home.