

# Techno-babies

by Jenny Kendrick

Our society's awareness and understanding of new reproductive technologies is alarmingly inadequate. Technology often imposes a mentality that having a baby is arduous, expensive, and often dangerous; today's births

On Friday, March 9th, at 4:00 p.m., in the Multi-purpose Room of the Public Archive of Nova Scotia, the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW) will launch two new publications about the impact of new reproductive tech-

*Kit on Reproductive Technologies* and *Reproductive Technologies and Women: A Research Tool*.

The "community kit" is written by Catano, a health consultant and honorary special lecturer at Dalhousie University. Catano's invaluable publication is a first of its kind in Canada because of its community-based appeal. It simply explains new reproductive technologies such as infertility, prenatal screening, surrogacy, in vitro fertilization, and genetic manipulation.

The purpose of the two publications is to inform women and encourage them to ask questions about new reproductive technologies in preparation for the upcoming Royal Commission scheduled to go across Canada. The most threatening question raised is about women's autonomy. Mothers are increasingly isolated and referred to as "carriers"; in some cases, they have lost the rights to their own bodies. This is a crucial period in Canada

for new reproductive technologies and for deciding just whose concern the birth of a baby is. Now is the time to think and act!

As Catano says, reproductive technology has the possibility of being "a very messy issue". So little has been studied about the impacts of new reproductive technologies, and little is being spent on preventive research of such things as infertility. Many legal guidelines and just now in the process of being set, and the funding for CRIAOW has been reduced by 20 per cent by the new federal budget. This is not a good sign for the future, and for future babies who may be born into cold laboratories, endless court battles, and "families" of as many as five legal parents.

It is everybody's responsibility, and of utmost importance to today's women, to be well informed for future decisions.

*These publications are available from CRIAOW, 151 Slater Street, Suite 408, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5H3.*



are no longer simple and natural. In today's technological age we are losing the celebration and love of a miraculous period of a family's life.

ologies on women. Linda Christiansen-Ruffman and Jan Catano from CRIAOW will be there to discuss the publications, entitled *Community Resource*

## Volleyball Tigers go to CIAU

by Gord Sutherland

The Men's volleyball team recently won the Atlantic Universities Volleyball Conference championship and in the process proved themselves Dalhousie's most successful sports team of the year.

The Tigers accumulated a perfect regular season record of 17-0 to capture first place in the four team circuit.

In the playoffs, Dalhousie defeated the University of New Brunswick Rebels in two straight matches to win the AUVU title. The victory gave the Tigers their tenth title in the past eleven seasons.

Dalhousie power-hitter Dwayne Provo felt that his team had to work hard for the championship.

"On Friday we beat them three straight (15-9, 16-14, 15-3). We came out on Saturday really enthusiastic, we figured we could possibly do the same thing," he said. "But they came out ready to play. They played a really good game, one of the best they played all year. It ended up going five and the last game was extremely close (14-16, 8-15, 15-8, 15-13). It made the win even better coming back and winning three straight after losing the first two games."

In winning the league title the volleyball Tigers qualified for the Canadian Inter-University Athletic Union championship. The team left for Winnipeg this past Wednesday and will return on Monday. The championship

will feature a total of eight teams from across the country. Included in that list will be the nation's two top-rated teams, the University of Manitoba at number one and Laval at number two.

The format of the championship tournament is that the team

ranked eighth will meet the first ranked squad and the seventh the second and so on. Provo expects Dalhousie will be ranked seventh and will therefore be up against Laval in their first-round match.

"Basically, we have it set, we will probably have to play Laval

in the first round," said the soft-spoken rookie. "It is a double knockout so we have to dig down and win. Hopefully we will come out strong in the first few games and surprise them a bit. We're trying to study their game plan and hopefully we will be the big spoiler, I guess you could say."

Through high quality tournaments, the Tigers have kept in touch with the nation's best teams. Dalhousie placed fourth in all three of the tournaments they entered this season. The Tigers have played Laval twice and lost in straight games on both occasions. Laval also won the Dalhousie-hosted Volleyball Classic.

Laval is a tough team but Provo is quick to point out that the Tigers are not accustomed to throwing in the towel.

"One of our major assets is that with our Dal team we never give up. No matter what the score is we are always trying and trying," said Provo. "That is actually the characteristic of our team this year. We are really scrappy and hopefully that is going to help us at CI's (CIAU's)."

The Al Scott coached Tigers cleaned up at the recently announced AUVU awards. Scott was recognized as the conference's Coach of the Year and third year setter Scott Bagnell was named as the league's Most Valuable Player. Deon Goulding was awarded Freshman of the Year honours. Goulding also joined teammate Steve Boyd in filling two spots on the conference's all-star team.



photo: Bill Jensen