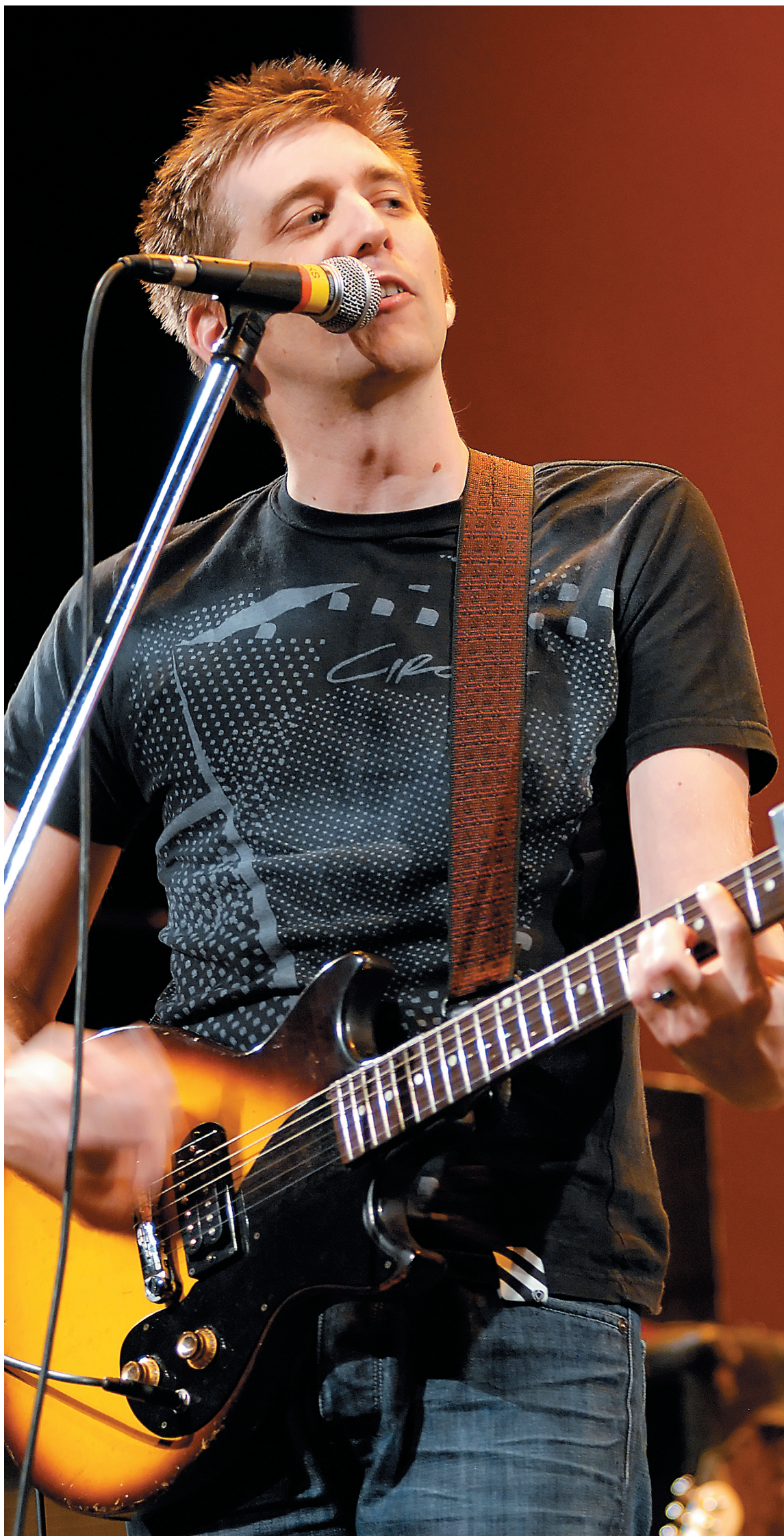


THE GATEWAY

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MIKE OTTO

MIGHTIER THAN MOST The Weakerthans' frontman John K Samson belts out a song about Winnipeg or curling or a cat named Virtute during their show last night at the Myer Horowitz. The band will be playing the venue again tonight.

Donation helps fuel further sci-fi studies

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

When Chester Cuthbert was a boy, science fiction and fantasy weren't considered true literary genres. But eight decades later, the contents of the Winnipeg man's private collection are no longer being.

The long-time science fiction fan, who turns 95 this week, has donated a collection estimated to contain 60 000 books, periodicals, and a very significant personal archive to the University of Alberta.

"One of the beauties of Chester's collection is we're anticipating it's going to strengthen our holdings in the earlier period," said Merrill Distad, associate director of libraries for the U of A. He explained that, to date, the University's science fiction collection had been much stronger for the period after 1955.

Also included in the collection are hundreds of pulp fiction magazines

from the 1920s, '30s, '40s, and '50s, as well as a lot of amateur publications known as "fanzines."

"[Fanzines] are very scarce because few were produced, and those are going to have very high value," Distad said.

The entire collection has been estimated to be worth between \$500 000 and \$1 million, and Distad said it will take months, if not years, to process and properly catalogue all of the material.

This was the largest collection the U of A has received from a private individual, and it will come to the University in small shipments.

"The books aren't here yet because, quite simply, there's no warehouse space available in Edmonton, and we don't have the floor space at the [Book and Record Depository] to take more than a dozen or a dozen and a half pallets at a time," Distad explained.

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Stein wins with WalkAide

Reasearcher walks away with Da Vinci award for electronic device that helps people with foot drop

JONATHAN TAVES
News Writer

Thanks to a technological breakthrough by University of Alberta researchers, hope has been given to thousands of people who have lost independence and mobility due to foot drop.

A condition caused by disruption of nerves along the outside of the lower leg, foot drop prevents a person from lifting their toes, instead dragging them along the ground with each step. For those afflicted, walking becomes painful and exhausting.

Dr Richard Stein has been with the University's Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry for almost 40 years, and was the driving force behind the invaluable new system.

"How we got into developing the product for foot drop was creating devices for people with more severe spinal chord injuries," he explained. "There were a large number of people—from stroke, from spinal chord injury, from multiple sclerosis—with this condition."

Over ten years in development, the eventual answer is only as big as a deck of cards: the WalkAide. Strapped just below the knee, it uses a small electric current to stimulate the disrupted nerves, allowing a person to walk normally. The device was such a breakthrough that it won a Da Vinci award, an international recognition of assistive and adaptive technology,

in late September.

Stein points out that previously attempted products were large, inefficient, and also required users to wear shoes with a heel sensor or have wires running down the leg.

"We had the initial idea that if we could build it into a completely self-contained unit and make it efficient, there would be a lot more people who would benefit from it," said Stein. "We felt this is something that would make a difference in people's lives."

Gerald Gordey and Edgar Jackson are two of those people. They've noticed dramatic change since first strapping on the gadget during its development stage.

"I've gained back my mobility and freedom," said Jackson, who, as the result of a spinal chord injury, suffered from foot drop until beginning to wear WalkAide six years ago as part of Stein's study.

"It has put pleasure back into walking," Gordey explained. "It's a wonderful device. Walking was too painful and difficult before."

Gordey said that since he began treatment with the machine four years ago, it has been a normal part of his routine.

"To me, it's like putting on my glasses in the morning," Gordey described. "I would compare the [electrical] sensation to the vibration of a cell phone."

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Guilt-free coffee

Is fair trade coffee all it's cracked up to be? Grab some grounds, flip through this feature, and decide for yourself.

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DRM-free *Rainbows*

Will Radiohead reshape the way the music industry does business with their latest release, *In Rainbows*?

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