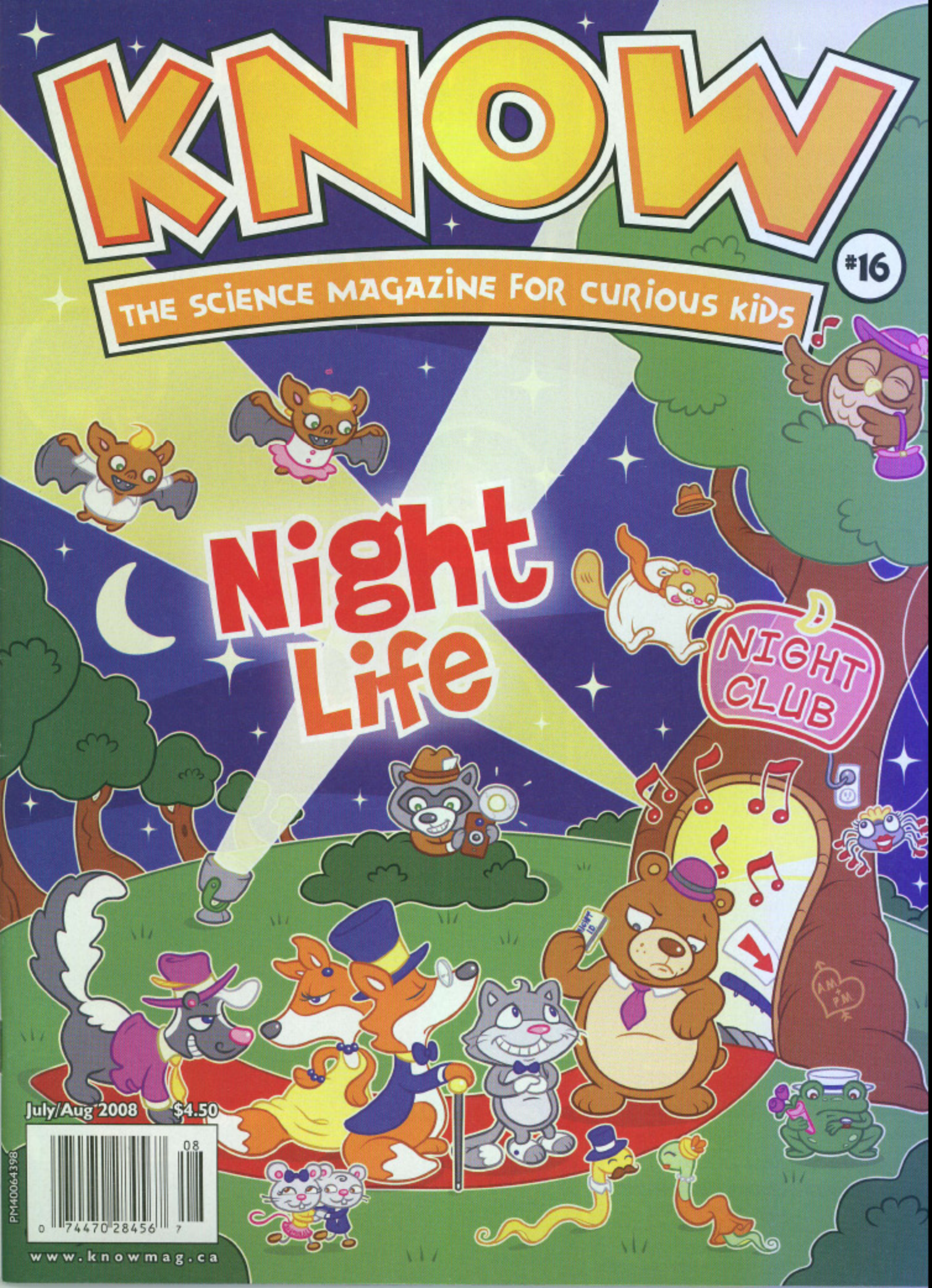


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#16

Night Life

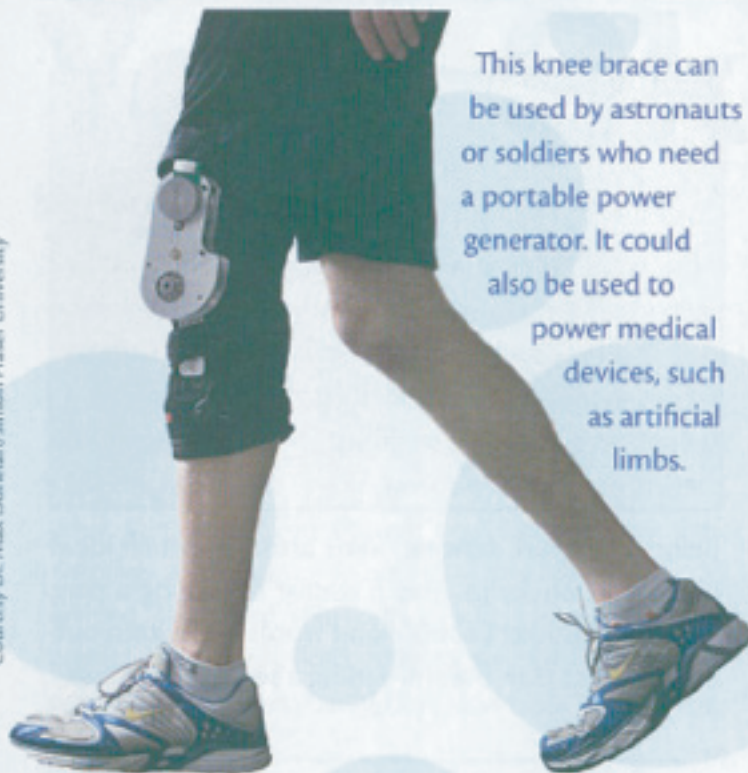


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This knee brace can be used by astronauts or soldiers who need a portable power generator. It could also be used to power medical devices, such as artificial limbs.

Courtesy Dr. Max Donelan/Simon Fraser University

People Power

by Jill Bryant

Sam Logan (10)

Windmills capture power from the wind, but how would you capture power from people? Dr. Max Donelan of Simon Fraser University in British Columbia is heading up a team of Canadian and American scientists that has found a way to make electricity by going for a walk.

Donelan is a kinesiologist. This means he's an expert on how the body moves. He is interested in energy harvesting, a science that focuses on ways to capture energy from the human body. Donelan's team has created a high-tech knee brace that gathers energy as you walk.



As the wearer's leg moves, a small generator collects the energy and changes it into electrical energy. A person wearing the 1.6-kilogram brace can generate enough electricity in a brisk one minute walk to give a cell phone 30 minutes of talk time. Now *that's* power walking!

Courtesy Dr. Max Donelan/Simon Fraser University