Why time is out of sync

The debate over time highlights classic conflicts: state vs. church, urban vs. rural, federal vs. provincial.

The debate over time highlights classic conflicts: state vs. church, urban vs. rural, federal vs. provincial.

One of the consequences of Daylight Saving Time is that newspapers have to find photographs to illustrate it every April.

The squirrel, at your service.

A PhD student fights the ruggedness of cellphones.

**FAUNA TECH**

CHRISTOPHER HITTI
TORONTO STAR

If your cellphone were a person, it would be terribly ill-mannered. It would hoover during dates, squawk during conversations, and interrupt at the movies.

Frustrated by such tactless behaviour, MIT student Stefan Marti has created a device that makes our Pocketphones more refined.

Marti's Cellular Squirrel is a cellphone accessory that is designed to gauge how "interruptible" a user is at the time of an incoming call — acting, in a way, as a personal administrative assistant.

Placed on a desk or table, the animalionic squirrel "watches" the user to determine if he or she is engaged in an important conversation.

When a call comes in, the squirrel then interprets it and asks the caller to rate the urgency of the call. If the squirrel deems its owner to be unresponsive for a conversation, it alerts the cell phone recipient by using human-like cues, such as motion and eye contact.

The Cellular Squirrel isn’t actually a cellphone (imagine the plastic animal clamped on your ear) and it can only communicate with a phone remotely through Bluetooth technology.

When a phone is within range, an animalionic squirrel will alert the user explicitly commands do it by — squeeing its paw. It’s an interface that is very personal, animals say. It’s like a natural way to communicate.

The dean of Marti, who received his PhD in June, says: "The idea is instead of ring tones that when a phone rings it starts a conversation with someone, and the caller can be interrupted.

The idea is instead of ring tones that when a phone rings it starts a conversation with someone, and the caller can be interrupted.

Marti is interested in designing electronics that are more sensitive to the nuances of human behaviour. The cellphones of today are at risk of collecting "false positives" because it alerts the user regardless of the situation, and by using very high-quality signals, as well.

"Cellphones are very limited in terms of how they can express emotions and the idea of the pocket squirrel is that it is up to the cell phone to decide whether to call someone or not."

"If you look at how humans interact, there is a much more complex language of non-verbal cues going on about when to interrupt or not. Cellphones are just not aware of that. In this sense, they’re lacking social intelligence."

Marti decided to place the device’s workings in a mammal-like housing — he has also designed bunny and parrot versions — to advance the reactivity of the device and the user.

The cellphone is a nice piece of technology. It’s a piece of technology that is not just a square brick and has a design that is often thought of as human-like, but the device is very sensitive.

"The squirrel is embodied in a anthropomorphic form that allows the user to interact with it as a human does." says Marti.

So, Marti’s Cellular Squirrel starts appearing on desks any time soon?

Marti's invention is a one-of-a-kind creation used for the purposes of his dissertation. Also, the technology was developed in the MIT Media Lab and therefore belongs to the school. However, Marti does see more socially sensitive electronics on the market eventually.

"Electronics have become more human," he says. "They need to become aware of social context.

To see a video of the cellular squirrel in action, visit web meds.utoronto.ca/information.php/cellularsquirrel.

ENDNOTE

Marti's science of relief... D12

A good head needs coaxing, critics argue

Beer From D1

"It gives them the opportunity to see what’s really their art — all the conversations people need to keep going on behind the bar," says Vrakas, who after a decade of R&D (Research & Development) still loves a perfectly poured fresh draft on a hot summer’s night.

A carbonation and lamination brandi is equally skeptical. "We know that so many people will reduce the amount of beer they drink down the drain and increase the amount of beer that is thrown away is a good thing," he says. "But this is pee-pee in the bucket."

Down on John Street, inside the dimly lit Frer & Pirkit, George Lang rushes between orders for the less-than-savvy customers. "The beer should be in the bottle," says Lang.

Think so? The planet be better defined.

A Fourier

Why is something so fundra- line to be so low-cut, clumsy mess? The Light Saving Time in 2002 after it was used, the world still in this. Even reach a consen- sur federal pat- gions — including kitchen as well as police and health officials — to hold fast to stan- sur round. Canadi- else make their clocks in April? It’s an effort to chase save energy. By a cross-Canada ad trip can give your. More con- ception of Canadian considers Daylight Saving Time week to correspond proposal. For the confusion is a matter of what is all, even which means there are many interested things to come in a global what is the public common curren- ly we have the best spend it, says Mi- o, author of Spying & Annual Madness Daylight Saving Time.

A “time was always fundamentalised,” adds an author of Britan’s Curious and Con- Daylight Saving Time and the founding of the in the late 1800s, ev- town in the world in time. Not until the when the sun was read. A travel was slow and to its house drawn on foot, it didn’t clocks in the town in day to day. That event from the ones that weren’t. It meant the most need for precision between cities.

An agreed-upon time, debate over time highlighted our and stirred up clas- sic conflicts: state versus church, urban versus rural and federal versus provincial governments.

Time does have a way of ex-posing everything,” Dowling said.

When Standard Time was first intro- duced in North America by Canadian engineer Sandford Fleming, trains were too logical to business and personal rela- tionships that people were willing to make the change from their sun-oriented schedules.

"It seemed more normal, Dowling says. People began to speak to Daylight Saving, calling it God’s Time.”

When Daylight Saving Time was later proposed by William Willett in Kent, England, it seemed downright blasph- emous. Standard Time was by then equated with “sun time,” and anything else seemed absurd.

Willett argued with politicians for years that the new time scheme would save money spent on lighting, but British parliament wasn’t eager to change what they saw as the natural order.

The need to save energy wouldn’t win out until the end of World War I.

"Farmers were the first to say they weren’t happy. They argued that they needed to run their businesses in sync with the sun."

Willet argued with politicians for years that the new time scheme would save money spent on lighting, but British parliament wasn’t eager to change what they saw as the natural order.

Farmers couldn’t harvest certain crops until the sun dried the dew off.”

Presto! Out goes Daylight Saving Time.

When time has become more standardized in the last century, the variations that remain today are a factor of old-fashioned farming that will likely never be resolved.

The debate over time highlights classic conflicts: state vs. church, urban vs. rural, federal vs. provincial.

The Nature of the Two-second war.

The TurboTap works because it detects what its creator calls the “two enemies of pouring beer”: gravity and turbulence.

**Problem**

Gravity is enemy #1. It takes over as the dominant force as soon as beer exits a tap, speeding it up and narrowing the stream. This increases the force of the impact with the glass, resulting in turbulence that produces excessive foam.

**Fighting Gravity**

"It gives them the opportunity to see what’s really their art — all the conversations people need to keep going on behind the bar," says Vrakas, who after a decade of R&D (Research & Development) still loves a perfectly poured fresh draft on a hot summer’s night.

A carbonation and lamination brandi is equally skeptical. "We know that so many people will reduce the amount of beer they drink down the drain and increase the amount of beer that is thrown away is a good thing," he says. "But this is pee-pee in the bucket."

Down on John Street, inside the dimly lit Frer & Pirkit, George Lang rushes between orders for the less-than-savvy customers. "The beer should be in the bottle," says Lang.

Think so? The planet be better defined.

A Fourier

Why is something so fundra- line to be so low-cut, clumsy mess? The Light Saving Time in 2002 after it was used, the world still in this. Even reach a consen- sur federal pat- gions — including kitchen as well as police and health officials — to hold fast to stan- sur round. Canadi- else make their clocks in April? It’s an effort to chase save energy. By a cross-Canada ad trip can give your. More con- ception of Canadian considers Daylight Saving Time week to correspond proposal. For the confusion is a matter of what is all, even which means there are many interested things to come in a global what is the public common curren- ly we have the best spend it, says Mi- o, author of Spying & Annual Madness Daylight Saving Time.

A “time was always fundamentalised,” adds an author of Britan’s Curious and Con- Daylight Saving Time and the founding of the in the late 1800s, ev- town in the world in time. Not until the when the sun was read. A travel was slow and to its house drawn on foot, it didn’t clocks in the town in day to day. That event from the ones that weren’t. It meant the most need for precision between cities.

An agreed-upon time, debate over time highlighted our and stirred up clas- sic conflicts: state versus church, urban versus rural and federal versus provincial governments.

Time does have a way of ex-posing everything,” Dowling said.

When Standard Time was first intro- duced in North America by Canadian engineer Sandford Fleming, trains were too logical to business and personal rela- tionships that people were willing to make the change from their sun-oriented schedules.

"It seemed more normal, Dowling says. People began to speak to Daylight Saving, calling it God’s Time.”

When Daylight Saving Time was later proposed by William Willett in Kent, England, it seemed downright blasph- emous. Standard Time was by then equated with “sun time,” and anything else seemed absurd.

Willett argued with politicians for years that the new time scheme would save money spent on lighting, but British parliament wasn’t eager to change what they saw as the natural order.

The need to save energy wouldn’t win out until the end of World War I.

"Farmers were the first to say they weren’t happy. They argued that they needed to run their businesses in sync with the sun.

Willet argued with politicians for years that the new time scheme would save money spent on lighting, but British parliament wasn’t eager to change what they saw as the natural order.

Farmers couldn’t harvest certain crops until the sun dried the dew off.”

Presto! Out goes Daylight Saving Time.

When time has become more standardized in the last century, the variations that remain today are a factor of old-fashioned farming that will likely never be resolved.