



The inventors: (Left) Raunak Hede and Mithila Prabhudesai with Pranav Pai Vernekar (Founder Inventrom) and (right) Avnish Mukhrjee, Jai Kamat and Sushrut Hawaldar with their Garbage Bot

The robot makers!

Easy to grasp and build, Robotics is turning out to be the new hobby and career choice for Gen X

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Are making robots the stuff of geniuses? Apparently not. With just a basic knowledge of computers/cell phones, building up computers is easy, avers Pranav Pai Vernekar, Founder, Inventrom, who has been conducting a series of workshops for school and college students as well as professionals over the past two years since their inception. "Technology is all around and children today have been born and brought up in this environment, so learning technology is easier. In fact, their grasp is so good that we are able to teach students of Std V to X high-end technology meant for engineering students," he adds.

Starting with an introduction to logic gates followed by light-following robots and Herbert programming to building a microcontroller-based robot, the entire practical experience has been an invigorating one. In fact, several students have proved their mettle at college level competitions, bagging top honours. "We are elated that robotics in an advance level is being done in Goa. The interest in robotics is growing and now the mediums are also available to build them. The market for robots is opening up in a big way," avers Pranav. Inventrom, which is one of the first

companies in India to start training to build robots with the Raspberry Pi, is also the only company in Goa to develop the industrial 'minion bot' - a 50 kg load carrying bot for warehouses. Their 'Topping Pi' (on the Internet of Things) is an Inventrom invention. For the young guns behind Inventrom - Pranav (software/promotions) Dattaprasad Naik (electronics/software) Ryan D'Costa (sales/marketing), Achintya Kambli (mechanical) and Llewellyn Fernandes (electronics/software), the robotic future is a promising one!

TWEETS @PATRICIAANNEALV

Ahead of the race - Gen X

'Garbage Bot' team

Three class X students of Mushtifund High School, Panjim - Avnish Mukhrjee, Jai Kamat and Sushrut Hawaldar - pitted skills and intelligence to create their robots, the 'Mobo' and the 'Garbage Bot'. The latter won the first place at a project presentation competition at BITS Pilani Goa Campus, edging out senior engineering students in the contest. "I was struck with the idea of the garbage bot when I noticed people littering the park close to where I stay. So when people want to dispose off something, the robot comes to them with a dustbin, instead of them walking to the dustbin," explains Sushrut. This bot with a garbage bin atop a trolley, which is controlled via SMS or email to open and close the lid, took about a month to complete. Driven by a more selfless cause, these youngsters maintain that their primary aim of building robots is to help society. "The 'mobo' was designed to help paralysed/ailing people who cannot move about. We made three models of the 'garbage bot' and we are still in the process of improvising based on the feedback from people as to what they expect a garbage bin cannot do," explains Avnish. Terming the experience as an awesome one, Jai Kamat shares his teammates' enthusiasm and goals.

'Fire sensor and extinguisher - line following robot' Team

Twelve year-old Raunak Hede (Sharada Mandir) and fourteen year-old Mithila Prabhudesai (Mushtifund High School) took first place at the Goa Engineering College 'Abhiyakti' competition early this year. The competition was incidentally for engineering students to which these participants were invited. At the SRIET, Shiroda 'Tech Twister' competition these young robot wizards competed against 19 teams of engineering students to claim a fourth (special) prize. "We developed a line following robot which can sense an obstacle and is fitted with a fire sensor, extinguisher and a mop to clean the path," avers Mithila, (incidentally the only girl in the robot workshop). "This robot could work in hospitals and factories where lots of goods have to be continually transported," explains Raunak, who enjoyed the challenge of building the six-part bot in two weeks time entirely on their own. Individually, Raunak has also developed the 'Challenger robot' (water tank alarm).

CHOWGULE COLLEGE STUDENTS AND SPORTS COUNCIL INAUGURATED



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Chowgule College Student's Council and Sports Council was recently inaugurated at the hands of Atul Naik, CEO, Presitech Components. Speaking at the occasion, Dr Nandkumar N Sawant, Officiating Principal, Chowgule College, stressed on the importance of being a student leader and urged the young leaders to think big and different. He emphasised that for things to change, we must change and that's the most difficult challenge. Dr Devashish Bagchi, Faculty advisor to the council administered the oath; General Secretary of Student's Council Sankalp Mahale and General Secretary of Sport's Council, Abigail Fernandes addressed the gathering and shared their annual plan. Atul Naik, a meritorious alumnus of the college shared experiences of his college days. In his speech, he advised students to be unique and headstrong.

shear madness NO SUCH THING AS A BAD HAIR DAY



Justine Rae Mellocaastro

is a dedicated hair care professional, photographer and entrepreneur, who believes that brutal honesty and hardcore experimentation are paramount to the development of new concepts and ideas

If there was one day worldwide given to hair on the basis of frequency, it would be the 'Bad Hair Day'. Your hair is the one thing that can really change the way you look and feel about yourself. I won't deny that there are days when you'd rather go bald, but then again who doesn't love a challenge? Unfortunately for us tropical folk we have to battle the scorching heat and inescapable humidity. Follow these tips and tricks to ensure you never have to endure the ordeal of a bad hair day again. Besides, no one's got the time for bad hair days when you can be fabulous instead!

1. Prevention is better than cure. Minimise your bad hair days with this. Get a shampoo for your scalp and a conditioner for your hair. Shampoo cleanses your scalp and conditioner seals the cuticles of your hair protecting it from external damage.
2. If you have no time, carry around a dry shampoo. It's available everywhere these days and is an instant volumiser for days when you just don't have the time for a wash. Don't be lazy, it's very important that you wash it off the same day. Itchy scalps are just not sexy folks.
3. Combing hair is for Disney princesses only. That's right; you read it correctly. Never comb your hair unless it is to remove knots while you are in the shower. Combing your hair dry creates a lot of friction on the hair strand that causes breakage.
4. Dry hair is like dry skin, it needs moisturising. This is essential when you're living in a sauna that we live in. The heat sucks out all the moisture from your hair leaving it frizzy and damaged. Protect your hair using a leave in conditioner with spf (spray or cream depending on the thickness of your hair.)
5. Be creative on days that your hair seems unmanageable. Twist, wrap, tie, bun and accessorise your hair. Loosen up the braid, twist or bun to create more texture and style. Unwashed, dirty hair is the best for a high ponytail or topknot. It's simple, but looks super sleek for the office or a night out.
6. Bobby pins and hair accessories are your saviour, invest in them. Hairbands, hairclips, feathers, etc are the easiest way to camouflage a bad hair day. You will more often than not have five minutes or less to fix your bad hair day (sod's law). In this case, twist the front of your hair and use an interesting hair clip to fix it.
7. One word: braids. Braids are a great way to add texture and style to your hair. Spend some time learning how to do interesting braids such as the fishtail or French plait. Youtube is a great portal to start with. Another quick and easy way to do this is to take random sections of your hair, twist towards the back or side of your head creating a messy bun and fix it with bobby pins.
8. For the bolder few. Get an undercut. This is where you buzz your hair on the sides or the back and let the longer hair on the top fall over it... Tie your hair up and it still has so much edge. "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication," said Leonardo da Vinci, and I would be inclined to agree. No need to panic when you're late for a meeting or for a date, a couple of bobby pins can take you from flaccid to fabulous in seconds!

TWEETS@JMELOCASTRO

Musician Nikhil D'Souza enthralled the audience at Samridhhi 2014 at Goa Institute of Management (GIM) with his inspirational speech. The young musician who was the winner of South Asia Soloist at SUTASI'09 spoke about his roots in Goa and his journey to stardom in a candid interview

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Does this entire experience of being asked to speak to students close to your point of origin serve as a sort of homecoming for you?

Absolutely. I was born and brought up in Mumbai but have my roots in Goa. My dad is from Thivim while my mother is from Mangalore, so we would usually come to Goa during holidays. You're being referred to as the 'Game Changer' at GIM Samridhhi 2014. How can management students contribute to the music industry?

Considering the importance of social media these days, and seeing how it can easily make or break an artist, I think management students can crack that. Artists are always looking for someone who can show them how to promote themselves on Facebook, Twitter etc. We don't know how to do it ourselves; perhaps a few do, but I do not take pictures of myself. In fact, I am not even on Instagram but I need someone to show me what I can do on that side of things and how to manage it in a more professional manner.

People usually advise young musicians and artists to get a day job, just as back-up in case their choice of career doesn't work out. Do you agree with that opinion?

No, I do not agree with that. I would say quit your job. Try to work your way through, make and save up some money before you get into the industry. As a musician, you have a 24-hour job. You have to be available all the time. If you start with the advertising business, making

jingles and singing, you'll get calls at anytime during the day. Rehearsals happen at random times during the day or even at night. So if you are working, it will be impossible to build your music career and you may end up missing out on good opportunities.

Do you have any advice for the youngsters who are just starting out in the music industry?

When I first got into the music scene, I had made a bit of money, so I had some backup and means to support myself. Working for three years in the Middle East gave me that advantage since I had managed to save up some money. It is important to be able to support yourself. The way you make your money, specifically in Mumbai, is by getting into the advertising business. One should try to sing a few jingles and get a demo recorded as soon as possible. Once you try to get into the music scene, there are various levels that you will have to go through. It will take approximately two years to get your name out there, so you need to build your contacts and work towards getting recognised from the beginning. **During the time you were starting out and in the early stages of your career, how important was faith?**

If you don't have faith in your own ability then it's a losing battle. You need to have faith in yourself. You need to be able to play something back to yourself and enjoy listening to your voice. Encouragement from your audience is helpful but faith in your abilities is everything really.



Crowd pleaser: Nikhil D'Souza performs for the students at GIM

NIKHIL COMES HOME TO GOA

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