

Birthday Two-Fer!

Contributed by
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Today, July 15, we celebrate the birthdays of two Blue Sky Rangers: Julie Hoshizaki and David Warhol.

Julie programmed the Intellivision game Thin Ice, featuring a fun-loving penguin who dunks other penguins in a frozen lake. In the excerpt below from a mockumentary made by the programmers in 1983, Julie pokes fun at a true situation in the Intellivision offices: programmers commonly became identified with the subject of the games they were working on. Other well-meaning programmers would bring in pictures, toys, whatever they would come across that was related to the game's theme. A programmer's cubicle could quickly become stuffed with these gifts.

(Also appearing in the video are Blue Sky Rangers Mike Sanders, Josh Jeffe, Keith Robinson, Mike Minkoff and, as the interviewer, Mark Urbaniec.)

At Mattel Electronics, Dave created the games Thunder Castle (with Connie Goldman) and Mind Strike. After Mattel sold the Intellivision rights to INTV Corp. in 1984, Dave went on to produce close to two dozen new games for the Intellivision console, including Commando, Diner and the Super Pro sports series.

But Dave's first love is music; his college degree is in Music Composition. For Intellivision, he wrote a number of fun and complex themes, squeezing the most out of the console's three-note sound processor. We particularly love his crazy theme for Mind Strike, so for his birthday we have made it available as a ring tone. You can preview it (click on the speaker icon) and download it below.