



## Science Friction

Sliding into World Peace and a Cleaner Environment with Astroglide

+ Writing | Sarah Wray

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**I** imagine our amazement when this semester's star intern, Sarah Wray, revealed to us that her uncle, Dan X. Wray, was the inventor of everybody's favorite personal lubricant. Imagine then our incredulity as she went on to explain that his company is "green." In the spirit of furthering his mission of world peace (and with the hope of possibly receiving an Astroglide gift basket), we sent young Sarah off to ask her uncle the tough questions.

### 944: How did you start the Astroglide empire?

DAN WRAY: In 1977, while working for a subcontractor of Rockwell International on the Shuttle Enterprise at Edwards Air Force Base, I was working on a method of removing compressor oil from anhydrous ammonia in an attempt to improve the heat transfer in the secondary cooling system of the shuttle orbiter. One of the components was very slippery when hydrated. The resulting solution was water-

soluble, totally non-toxic, and virtually organic and natural. But what could a nerdy chemist do with such a product? The guys over at Rockwell were throwing a birthday party for someone [and] they wanted a gag gift. I obliged them and made a small bottle. I was nerdy enough not to get invited to the party, but when the birthday boy came and ask for a refill, I knew I had a product.

**From what we understand, Astroglide is a water-based lubricant, which is definitely great for the environment. Is there any other way Biofilm, Inc. is going green?**

Yes! Our packaging, our bottles and our shipping containers are all recyclable. Our employees are subjected to a four-day workweek, which decreases commuting by 20 percent and decreases power usage on Mondays.

**Tell us about the product lineup. Is there anything that will assist the tree huggers in**

### slippery relations?

Our current marketing campaign is encouraging people to use our product to take the friction out of their relationship. By taking the friction out of one's relationship, more intimacy is achieved. When people have this sense of wellness associated with intimacy, it relieves great personal stresses and as we relieve our personal stress, the stress in our community is decreased. With more customers and less stress in our communities, our cities and states contain less stress. As we market to foreign countries, the sense of well-being will follow around the globe and we can have world peace. So, won't you give world peace a chance?

### Lastly, what does the X stand for in Daniel X. Wray?

Xenophon, a historian in Greece and a contemporary of Herodotus. He led the Anabasis.

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