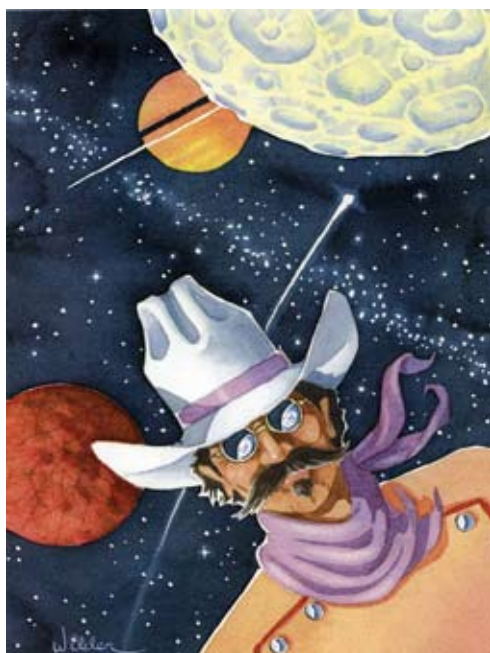


THE *WILDER* WEST...

the ART & WIT & WISDOM of DAVE WILDER

*Just Visiting**Space Cowboy*

Dave Wilder's art can be seen at:
<http://www.wilderarts.com>

and at the
 Laughing Raven Gallery
 417 Hull Ave.
 Jerome, Arizona

and on facebook:
 "David Wilder Arts"

Cosmic Soup

I know people in Sedona who believe that extra-terrestrials come to visit on a regular basis. These are the same folks that also speak matter-of-factly about their "angels" guiding them to do this or that. Now, people are free to believe all kinds of outlandish things, especially in Sedona, and I have no problem with those beliefs so long as they don't try to force them on me. New Age or Born Again it all seems like the same ailment to me. I always back away slowly from crazy people. They might be contagious. Please don't hit me with your Jesus stick.

Personally, I do not believe in fairies, Jesus or the Easter Bunny. I have an equally hard time with angels, aliens and astrology. It's not so much that I find their existence impossible, it is the alleged interest that these mystical forces show in human beings that I find hard to swallow. I am not a believer in human exceptionalism. Nothing in my experience has shown me that humans rate this type of supernatural attention. Quite the contrary, all the time I've spent in wild, lonesome and empty places assures me of one inescapable fact: the Universe does not give a shit about us.

Some folks might find this terrifying. I find it liberating. Knowing that there are no angels twirling about our heads also means that there are no monsters under the bed. Every atom is equal in the eyes of the Universe and you and I are no more special than any amoeba, rock or slime mold. We are all just swimmers in the cosmic soup, temporary patterns, sparking along through the night. And isn't that amazing enough?

DW

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All is safe."

Thomas Jefferson