

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Margie went into the schoolroom. It was right next to her bedroom. The mechanical teacher was on and waiting for her. It was always on at the same time every day except Saturday and Sunday. Her mother said that little girls learned better if they learned at regular hours.

The screen was lit up. It said, "Today's arithmetic lesson is on the addition of proper fractions. Please insert yesterday's homework in the proper slot."

Margie did so with a sigh. She was thinking about the old schools they had when her grandfather's grandfather was a boy. All the kids from the whole neighborhood came. They laughed and shouted in the schoolroom, and went home together at the end of the day. They learned the same things, so they could help one another with the homework. And they could talk about it.

And the teachers were people. . . .

The mechanical teacher was flashing on the screen: "When we add the fractions $1/2$ and $3/4$. . ."

Margie was thinking about how the kids must have loved it in the old days. She was thinking about the fun they had.

3rd episode of season 2
Simpsons
S2E3

Ms Ange

The strange visitors from another planet say that they want to help the people of Earth. But no one knows why. Can the visitors be trusted? Be suspicious of alien motives

TO SERVE MAN - does title suggest something?

DAMON KNIGHT

The Kanamit were not very pretty, it's true. They looked something like pigs and something like people, and that is not an attractive combination. Seeing them for the first time shocked you.

I don't know what we expected visitors from other planets to look like. Angels, perhaps, or something too strange to be really awful. Maybe that's why we were all so horrified when they landed in their great ships and we saw what they were really like.

The Kanamit were short and very hairy. They had thick, coarse, brown-gray hair all over their plump bodies. Their noses were like pigs' snouts, their eyes were small, and they had thick hands of three fingers each. They wore green leather shorts.

There were three of them at this session of the U.N. I can't tell you how strange it looked to see them there in the middle of a formal session — three fat, piglike creatures in green shorts, surrounded by the delegates from every nation. They politely watched each speaker. Their flat ears hung over the earphones. Later on, I believe, they learned every human language, but at this time they knew only French and English.

They seemed perfectly at ease. That, along with their humor, made me like them. They said quite simply that they wanted to help us. I believed it. As a U.N. translator, of course, my opinion didn't matter. But I thought they were the best thing that ever happened to Earth.

pigs

short hairy, 3 fingers green leather snouts

THE NARRATOR IS A U.N. TRANSLATOR