

2126

Herald Express, Torquay, Devon

19 NOV 1988

'Alien' supporters plot**S. Devon landing!**

A BIZARRE group — which promotes sexual freedom and believes aliens from outer space will save this planet — is set to spread its whacky word in unsuspecting South Devon.

The Raelian Movement, which is thought to have 20,000 followers worldwide, is gearing itself up for a public meeting in Dawlish in the New Year.

Visitors will be told how extra-terrestrials will land on earth to save us all from global

by Paul James

destruction. The movement is planning to build a world embassy to accommodate the rescuing inter-galactic travellers.

Dartington theatre studnet Fiona Rankine, 30, will be organising the Dawlish meeting.

She told the Herald Express: "Some people think it's all rubbish. Some think it's interesting. I'm fairly open about it: I still have a lot of doubts."

Fiona, a former French teacher and ex-Quaker who lives in Dawlish Water, near Dawlish, has already attended one of the movement's summer camps in the South of France.

She said: "It was very relaxed. People did not have to wear clothes. I found the idea of self-awareness and fulfilment very appealing."

The group wanted to break down sexual taboos and "demystify" the human body, she revealed.

"There is a very relaxed attitude to sexual relations. Everyone does their own thing. Several people have several partners — but we are very responsible as regards sex — with the AIDS problem and all that," said Fiona.

She summed up the cult as "a different way of looking at life."

"It is very bizarre at first. I don't mind if it is not all true because it does people a lot of good," Fiona commented.

The movement did attract



■ Fiona Rankine — organising a teach-in regarding the work of the International Raelian Movement.

weirdoes and drug takers, but they were soon weeded out.

She had paid £25 for a year's membership of the British section of the Raelian Movement — founded by French journalist Claude Vorihon.

He allegedly met the aliens when they visited Earth in 1973 and 1975.

His close encounter of the absurd kind happened as a silver spaceship hovered above a volcano.

A small human form, wearing a green space suit, emerged from the ULO (unidentified landing object) and invited him in.

These characters were the Elohim — Hebrew for "those who came from the sky."

They created life on earth through genetic experiments he claims.

Fiona said membership of the international movement costs devotees ten per cent of their annual earnings.

Her New Year meeting would include a slide show and a talk about the workings of the Raelian Movement.