

Piri Fernandez' Loves: Theater and Country

By ELLEN GONZALEZ
of the STAR staff
Piri Fernandez de Lewis says her husband claims that when she's on her death bed, all he'll have to do is mention the theater or Puerto Rico and she'll get up and argue for at least

enjoys doing because "it has so much of a bearing on life today. It's a criticism of the ways and manners of people. We all live as if we're not going to die.
Before these guests are told that they may have been poison-

In Florence, there was a period when the rulers burned books and paintings — Leonardo DaVinci even reacted this way with much of his own work."
Technology and science are also in trouble, according to Mrs. Lewis. "This is both good



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NOTA

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chillingly imitative of Alfred aesthetic concept of beauty is

LIVING *today*

Hitchcock and Rod Serling. "Oh, these monsters of egotism and wealth become so good — so very very good."

"La Muerte" is a farce that

dying. Today it's so distorted, so penalized. What we have now is almost a cult of the ugly. People are reacting against what is called beautiful. This has happened in past ages

on the ground covering and whimpering; everyone who passed this dog kicked it. People are very much like that too. If you never defend your rights, you'll get kicked."

Piri Fernandez de Lewis is well known for defending not only her own rights but the rights of others. As president of the Sixto Alvelo Committee she fought for the rights of Puerto Ricans to refuse to be drafted into the army.

"We won," she said. "Although there's no written law, Puerto Ricans can now

refuse to go to Viet Nam." According to her name of the Puerto Ricans who have refused the draft has been prosecuted. "Actually, they've been ignored."

"I fought for that as both a Puerto Rican and as a woman and a mother. No, I'm not for women's lib — I'm for human liberation. Everyone must be equal. I've faced discrimination because of my sex many times,

but many times I have used it as a tool. As president of the Sixto Alvelo committee I used it in my speeches. Many people wouldn't have listened to me if I hadn't been making my plea as a mother.

Joking, Mrs. Lewis claimed that women are actually superior to men. Every man was once a little boy who was ordered around by a mother, right?"

Mrs. Piri Fernandez de Lewis