

From: Take a Walk on the Wildside [mailto:info@wildside.org]
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To:
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Transsexual Painter Dies

Local artist in struggle against Internet defamation

TORONTO, Ontario, August 30, 2007 - Toronto transsexual woman Jennifer Claire Pallister died suddenly yesterday in her home. She was 48.

Pallister was a highly regarded local artist who had shown work at OHHO Gallery and elsewhere. Before retiring to pursue her artistic endeavours, she was involved in creating the award-winning Winfax computer software for the Canadian software company Delrina, later acquired by Symantec.

Pallister was a plaintiff in a civil lawsuit against the on-line Transgression Magazine and its publishers [G Eugene Pichler, et al].

Transgression's Pichler has admitted conducting a campaign aimed at denying transsexuals access to health care, partly based on their sexual orientation. Pichler, who pled guilty in 1996 to criminal offences stemming from violence against women, used Pallister's medical history to illustrate his campaign.

Pallister's civil suit claims that her medical information was obtained and published without authorization, along with the false and defamatory statement that she was not a transsexual, but instead was a sexual pervert who defrauded the Ontario Health Insurance Program.

Pallister was also suing for intentional infliction of mental distress as a result of Pichler's admission that some of his statements were false and were published for the express purpose of destroying the plaintiffs.

Pallister successfully obtained multiple court orders prohibiting Pichler and Open Systems Group from publishing information about her, but she had recently filed a motion alleging that Pichler was in contempt of these orders.

Pallister had been under severe stress and fighting depression in recent months as a result of the cost and complexities of the lawsuit, which she was pursuing along with the other self-represented plaintiffs without support from GLBT legal defense organizations or other members of the transsexual community.

Pallister is survived by two sisters who live in Tweed, Ontario.

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