

All about academic freedom

Letter to the Editor
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Letter writer David Napier (“Cherry-picking comments,” *Chronicle Herald*, 10 March 2013) thinks Tom Flanagan “abruptly retired” from the University of Calgary “in the wake of comments” Flanagan made about sending viewers of child pornography to jail.

To correct the record, it was way back on 3 January that Flanagan officially notified the U of C that he was about to retire, weeks before his talk at the University of Lethbridge.

Napier is not to be faulted for thinking that Flanagan had been forced to retire. That is just the impression the U of C was seeking to create when it released news of Flanagan’s impending retirement.

Regarding Napier’s accusation that in my article (“Academic freedom is needed now more than ever,” *Chronicle Herald*, 6 March 2013) I should have discussed Flanagan’s “comment about child porn being victimless”: First, Flanagan’s comment was that viewing child pornography does not constitute a harm *in addition to* the original harms inflicted on the child; Second, my article picked no cherries, for it said nothing at all about child pornography (it was about academic freedom).