

athletes. How many students who are academic have to go to the classroom if they are hobbling around on crutches, or if they have to get an injection in the knee because it is damaged, or maybe be crippled for the rest of their life because of what happened in pursuit of something that is carried on by the University, none of them. None of them. How many of them are required, Senator Johnson, to spend more time outside the classroom than in it as a condition of going to school? None of them. They talk about pampered athletes, they don't know what they are talking about. They get a cold in the head or a sore finger and they miss class. He can't miss practice. You hear them talking about Travis Turner's knee locked up and he may not be able to play. Suddenly the trainers have got to working on him and he may start Saturday. No athletes are pampered. They are there being exploited by the University so maybe what I am doing is trying to give myself a rationale to vote for the cuts that you all have shown me should be made at that University. It is indeed a football factory and it can remain a football factory if you make these cuts. My mind is open, Senator Higgins. You said don't be so hurt that my mind won't be open. I am listening and I am learning. That is not to be an educational institution. It is an appendage to the football program. The University is an adjunct to the Athletic Department, and what the Athletic Department does for the state is of far greater value and significance than what the academic side does. So maybe I am dealing with this in the wrong way, and maybe it is the old Sancho Panza, Don Quixote thing of jousting with windmills. The windmills are still going to be there, and even if they are successfully knocked down, there are other windmills. Nothing has changed. So I think if a teacher over there has the opportunity to go to another school and get a decent salary and be in a decent educational environment, that is what they should do. They should leave this place in the same way the swallows leave and go back to Capistrano. Senator Johnson, we should see them moving in the same way we saw Sherman marching to the sea, and the effects will be as devastating on this state as they were on the South, but who cares. If you are not in school yourself and if you don't have children in school yourself, maybe what happens there is totally irrelevant. I am just kind of halfheartedly pushing these amendments now because the conviction is not really there anymore. My children, none of them are going to attend college in this state. Two of them have graduated already, not from this state, and my