

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA ALUMNI  
ORLANDO

It is always pleasant to gather with other alumni

Why is that?

Why not a Georgia Tech reunion?

Because we have something in common.

Something precious -- something sweet to remember

We walked the same campus

We studied in the same library

We had the same professors

We fought the same political battles

We shared the same heritage

That means something

Certain standards are a part of us

Our ideals of achievement

Our ideas of failure

These are real values

My daughter hated for her high school to move

The old buildings and campus symbolized the spirit of the  
fighting Wildcats--she wanted to stay

But the trophies, and the team, and the teachers, went along  
And the spirit went with them

The New Air University is trying to build a heritage, songs, ritual

The Marines build an esprit de corps

There is a value there

It's more than loyalty to the team

I don't mean to minimize that

The difference in the crowds after a game

It provides an inner compulsion -- an inner guide, common to us all

Like the puritan background of New England

The people were not different--their background was

The people New Orleans--Key West, bear the mark of their heritage

Streets and buildings same -- background different

And you and I have a background which includes the University of Florida  
and ATO

We tend to think that the university days will be behind us

They will never be

Our business lives are shaped by what we learned

Our family lives are influenced by ideas we formed

Our standards of decency are the product of that environment

We may never attend another class--or study another book--or cheer at  
another game

But the dreams we dreamed -- the fellowship we shared

The professors who inspired us

The battles we fought

Will always be a part of us

David Reesman, philosopher, wrote of the "inner controlled man"

A man in whom ideals were instilled by his parents

He could never forget

We are inner controlled

Orange & Blue a part of that control

It's good to know as state moves into ever more perilous times

In tens of thousands of young men and women

A compass is being built

Something good to guide by

A great heritage--good to live by

It makes me glad to wear the Orange and Blue.