

Marching Band has bright moments

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Music Critic

By the time that the Pride of WildcatLand took the stage it was already oppressively hot in McCain Auditorium, which must have had an adverse effect upon players and instruments alike.

Change of leadership is rarely easy, especially when that change brings with it changes of attitude or of direction. This is as true of the arts as it is of politics or administration. A change of leadership in the marching band is doubly difficult because that process takes place in full public view before thirty or forty thousand football fans each Saturday afternoon.

So it was, the other Saturday evening, that K-State may have won the football game, but the Jayhawks equally clearly won the contests of the bands; the Pride of Wildcatland was clearly undergoing a still uncompleted process of change in style and repertoire.

There was another opportunity for a calmer appraisal of the 1982 version of the K-State Marching Band when it

— along with a full complement of Pridettes, K-Steppers and Flag Bearers — performed in concert in McCain Auditorium on Thursday evening. Despite the generally low voltage performance, there were a number of notable moments.

It is clear, for example, that when the director, Craig Biegler, himself takes the podium, the band responds. Thus *Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines* was a high energy performance of great precision and bright sound; a striking contrast to the earlier undercharged *Centerfold* or the lackluster *Alma Mater*. Mr. Biegler also showed that this year's version of the band can play an effective ballad when he led them in a performance of *Making Love*, in which Mark Baker was the trumpet soloist. One could not help but be impressed with his ability to direct the Marching Band and to extract from it performances of cohesion and excitement.

One feature of the new order in the band direction is the degree to which the graduate assistants and drum majors are given an opportunity to conduct and *Spain*, *El Incendio de Espana* and *Aztek Fire* all showed that the quality of the band holds no little promise for the future.

Although there is quite a way to go yet, it does not seem as though KU will be able to enjoy their current band supremacy for too long. But it does seem as though patrons of McCain Auditorium should consider attending in summer dresses and short

sleeves whatever the weather conditions outside. Who knows, if the temperature in the auditorium con-

tinues to climb, it might soon be possible to listen to the band and get a tan at the same time.