

crowd in preparation for a command performance. At the same time, the music moves through the soft melody of *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* and breaks out into *The Wiz*."

The first time the band members see their scripts is when they report for early week, a week of intensive work before classes begin. From 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., in rain or 90 degree heat and high humidity, every member is absorbed in learning his music and learning his movements on the field.

"Nobody gets bored," Henderson promises. "We're organized; we have to be. The whole band can't fit into the band room at the same time so we rotate from learning the music to teaching the fundamentals to learning the specific drills."

Physical stamina has not been a problem. Most of the students have been to

The Wildcat Marching Band receives a standing ovation during the half-time performance at the University of Maryland in 1978.

band camps before and expect it to be demanding. "Our only advice," says Henderson, "is to keep those lips in shape." If you haven't touched an instrument all summer, you're gonna hurt when you get here and start playing eight hours a day.

"There is a lot of music to work up and our arrangers don't write easy mu-

The best crowd reaction usually comes away from home.

sic. We have good musicians in this band. The juniors and seniors are basically professionals and they prove it every Saturday," Henderson said with obvious pride and confidence in his boast.

"The music for *West Side Story* that we'll be doing at the Ole Miss game is incredibly hard. Still, we'll do only one number, *Cool*, concert style (standing still)" he added.

At early week, the members concentrate on pre-game and the first two or three half-time routines. The rest of the year, they take it week by week for the most part, practicing from 5 to 6 p.m. each weekday on the upcoming drill.

"It's impossible to take each member of the band by the hand and show him where he's supposed to go so we pass out drill charts. Developing the shorthand used is quite a challenge," says Henderson.

"Our terminology keeps evolving. Sometimes I have to attach a diagram to illustrate what we want done. We don't use the squad technique so I don't worry about keeping four people together."

Instead the band is divided up into playing units. Sometimes the individuals in a unit have to count off with every other person or every third person moving in the same manner.

It really doesn't take too long to learn the drills, according to Henderson, "once the kids understand what's suppose to happen." The rookies, identifi-

