

## National News Briefs

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President Bush made an appearance at Martin Luther King's gravesite in Atlanta this past Thursday to pay his respects to the late civil rights activist.

The President was not, however, greeted with open arms. Hundreds of people protested the President's appearance and even tried to blockade him from the gravesite. The protestors were quite vocal because they believed President Bush was displaying hypocrisy by waging war on Iraq and then attending the grave sight of a man who dedicated nearly his entire life to promoting nonviolent methods.

President Bush's opinions and policies on issues

such as affirmative action and social welfare also differ from what the late Dr. King preached. Many of the protestors believed the President's only real motivation for making the trip to Dr. King's gravesite was to gain publicity. In an effort to express their anger over the President's arrival, hundreds of protestors circled around Dr. King's grave, beat on drums, and chanted, "In 2004, Bush no more."

With presidential elections coming up in November, Bush is beginning to dedicate more and

more time to building up his voter support network. After his appearance at Dr. King's gravesite, President Bush made a trip to New



Orleans where he delivered a speech from the pulpit of the Union Bethel A.M.E.

Church.

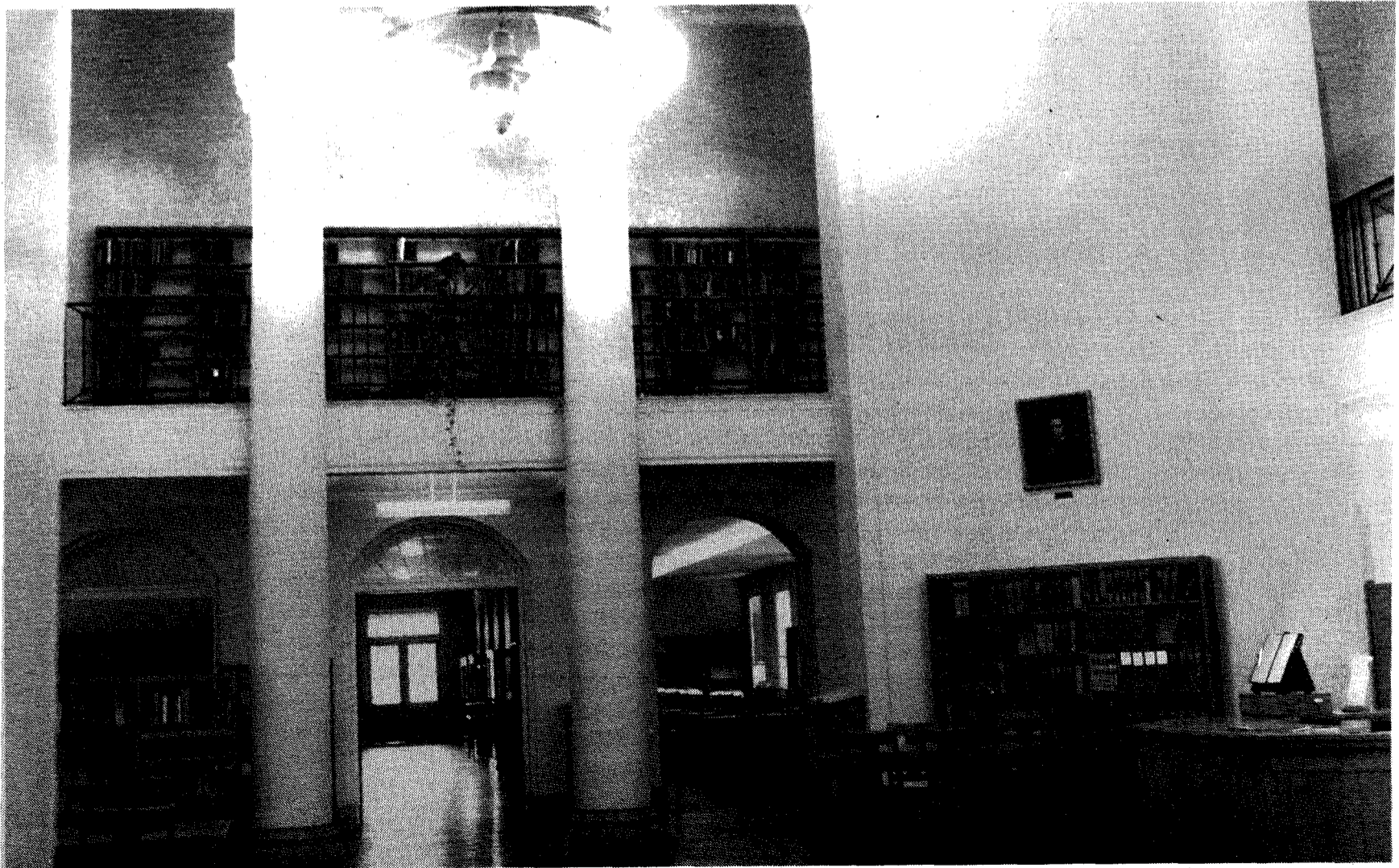
The President's speech was focused primarily on his effort to encourage federal funding for faith-based organizations. Bush was adamant about his belief that the federal government needs to shed its apprehension about financially supporting religious organizations that provide social services to neighborhoods.

He went on to emphasize that numerous religious charities provide people with a sense of security and comfort. President Bush has also

proposed legislation that will permit religious groups, as long as they do not ban anyone from being involved, to apply for federal funds. If this legislation is successful, religious groups that apply for federal grants will be unable to deny anyone access to their services; however, the groups will not be required to alter the structure of their organizations. Congress remains apprehensive about this idea.

The major controversy surrounding such an issue is whether or not it will begin to slide into the murky area of separation of church and state.

## Meredith Memories: From the College Archives



**The library at Meredith College was in Johnson Hall from 1926 until Carlyle Campbell Library opened in 1969.**

*Photo courtesy of Meredith Archives, Carlyle Campbell Library*