Ruling Causes Furor
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Halfway between nausea and apathy lies what is generally conceded to be the Rice sense of fashion, or more accurately, the lack of anything resembling taste in the vestments of most undergraduates and some graduates.

With an idea toward improving the situation, a fortnight ago the Hanszen College Cabinet, in what began as a move of seeming political astuteness, quietly inserted into the record that shirt and tie were to be worn at all future seated meals.

This was Monday night. By Tuesday morning the black clouds of aroused and indignant protest among the college's conservative—by Rice standards—membership threatened to blot out even the sunny-sides-up of the fried eggs.

Enter Crisis
What had begun as an attempt to remove the ever-present Ho Chi Minh sandals from under the table linen each night, had developed into a full blown crisis, and with the morning's first light came the beginnings of a petition destined, if its proponents are to believed, to take its place in time, alongside the Magna Carta.

The effect of the petition, which gained upward of 130 signatures, was to force the scheduling of a referendum election for this Friday, and although cabinet officials assert that the petition is the expression of a dispute over method rather than substance, several members voting for the proposal nonetheless made it a point to sign the petition.

Pleas Ignored
Pleas of innocence, except those of cabinet members who voted against, have largely fallen on deaf ears, the argument running that by resorting to what might be softened to read astuteness, the members voting for expressed, in effect, their approval of both method and substance.

The cabinet explanation of dissidence over method rather than substance is generally accepted as gospel; as is the theory that had the tie-shirt measure been proposed to the college at large beforehand, chances for success would have been problematical, or indeed nil, to hear some members talk.

Whatever the opposition may say, the measure seems almost certain to pass, despite its astute handling by the cabinet. "After all," quipped one dissident, "it's not like wearing a morning coat and striped pants to breakfast."

After all, how astute can you get?