

## Axe & Palm to freshen menu Salads, tofu among new choices at eatery

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By [Theo Milonopoulos](#)

The Axe & Palm is going green.

Responding to student suggestions, the ASSU worked with Stanford Dining to implement enhancements to the campus'



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newest eatery by providing more healthy options, expanding vegetarian food selections and offering discounts to students who help contribute to a more sustainable Stanford.

BECCA DEL MONTE

Students now have the option of substituting a side salad in place of fries or picking from a variety of vegetarian options including tofu, vegetarian rice bowls and vegetarian chili. Environmentally-minded students who bring their own cups or mugs will receive a 10-cent discount on their beverages.

The Axe & Palm has also expanded late night programming, offering an assortment of mochas on Mondays, trivia nights on Tuesdays and hip hop sushi events. ASSU President Hershey Avula '08 said the renewed emphasis on programming is part of a broader effort to shape Old Union into a more leisurely student venue.

"I look at students studying as a failure of Old Union," Avula said. "It's supposed to be a recreational place rather than just another study space."

The changes seem reminiscent of services previously offered at the CoHo, which closed last summer despite some students' protest to preserve the venue often regarded as a cozy meeting place and performing arts space on campus. In an attempt to emulate students' favorite aspects of the CoHo, crepes will now be offered at the Axe & Palm and live music will be performed on Thursday nights.

The absence of some of these CoHo offerings in part motivated the recent additions to the Axe & Palm, Avula said. Students demanded the return of crepes, which Avula said had originally been taken off the menu because a smaller kitchen space prevented the Old Union eatery from preparing them for students.

More than 830 students, alumni and staff members signed a petition delivered to administrators last week calling for the reopening of the CoHo in its original location in Tresidder Union. But Avula said the CoHo's return could come at the expense of some of the CoHo's traditional offerings and character if an outside

vendor were to replace Stanford Dining in managing the facility.

“It could be very different from the institution it used to be,” he said.

Many of the changes that have been put into place at the Axe & Palm would likely remain unaffected by the CoHo’s reopening, Avula said.

The most recent changes to the Axe & Palm were made in response to student concerns raised at a dining workgroup convened by the ASSU last quarter. Avula said students “expressed serious concern” about a lack of healthy food alternatives for students, especially vegetarians. A vegetarian himself, Avula said he often found himself with little to eat at the Axe & Palm.

Avula said he hopes the changes will improve students’ dining experiences and help mold Old Union into the recreational center of campus.

“We are trying to create a more sophisticated venue catering to the needs of students,” Avula said.

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