

One student said Ms. G told her she was "too fat" to act following an October 2018 production. PHOTOS BY BELLA-MIA BATES



**"WHAT WORRIES ME-AND THIS YOU CAN PRINT-IS SHE'S GOING TO BE PUT IN ANOTHER CLASSROOM WITH ANOTHER GROUP OF KIDS."**

**AMY POGUE**  
MOTHER OF MADELINE POGUE



hasn't been back to class since April 8. But the students, especially the seniors who are graduating next month and students with younger siblings about to start high school, want a clear finale. They don't want Ms. G back.

Students protested outside the school for three mornings the following week, holding signs with some of the things they say their teacher said to them. Dozens of students, not all of them involved in the theater program, joined in. Madeline says a teacher stood with them on the last day.

On April 23, Madeline addressed the Elk Grove Unified school board with 10 of her classmates standing behind her.

"I'd like this to get handled before I'm gone," she told school board trustees. "If you recall *in loca parentis*, you know, we are supposed to trust the people there as if they're our own parents. And we ask that we can trust

you again. We're scared. We are asking for help, and we are asking that she no longer has the power to abuse that many children ever again."

Madeline and the other students say they haven't received a response from the board. They say they're pessimistic the district will listen to them. They're starting to sound like the adults.

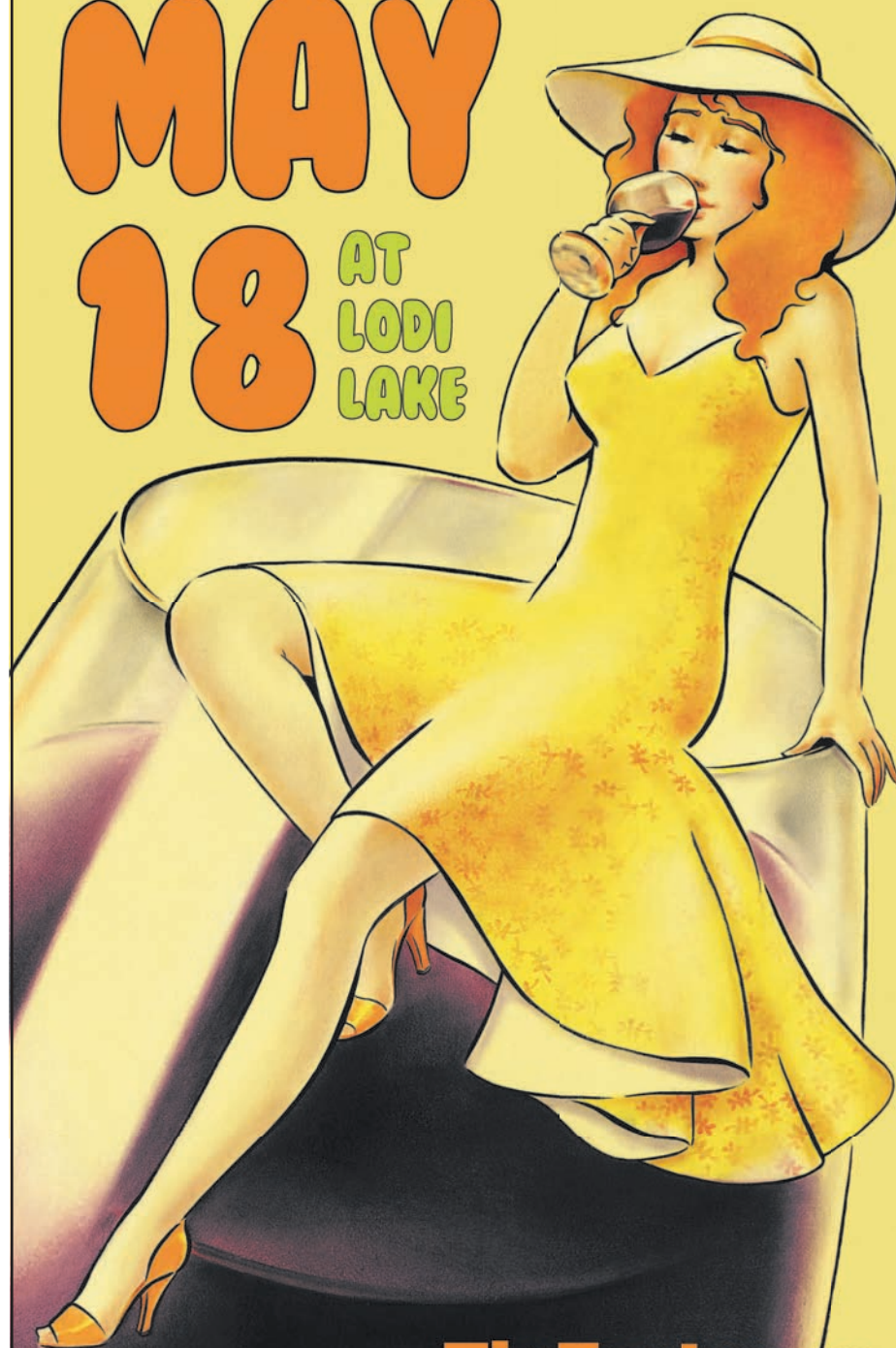
As for Maya, she'll be back for senior year in the fall. Like all the other students SN&R interviewed, she had a mostly positive view of Laguna Creek High. She likes most of her teachers. She and the other theater kids raved about "Mr. Z," the substitute who took over drama club from Ms. G. Maya said she'd only take drama again if he was the club's advisor.

"The majority of it is good," she said of her high school experience. "It's just that the parts of it that are bad are really bad." □

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