



FRANK MICKADEIT

# Hutchens win comes down to Nguyen

**N**o more than one minute after the Board of Supervisors voted to make Sandra Hutchens sheriff, the congratulations started echoing through the board chambers. I thought Moorlach was going to have to bang the gavel. The praise ran from effusive to sucking up to a little begrudging, but regardless of motivation it all had one thing in common: It was hugely deserved.

And, yes, some percentage of it was for Hutchens. And I really tried to stay out of the limelight and give her her moment, but how could I rebuff those who came to pay me homage?

"Very prescient," Paul Walters' political consultant, John Lewis, said as he filed past me. "I guess I owe you a cigar," Steve Greenhut said. "You were right!" whispered my former assistant, Erika Torres, who now works for consultant Meg Walters.

No kidding, kiddo. Did your time at the master's knee teach you nothing about my political acumen? When two weeks ago, I devoted an entire column to Hutchens - and Hutchens alone among the nine candidates - didn't

# Retired bishop to speak about clergy sex abuse

Australian plans to discuss book despite calls from local clergy.

BY VIK JOLLY  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

A retired Australian bishop promoting his new book about the clergy sex abuse scandal will speak in Costa Mesa tonight, despite calls by several American bishops, including Tod Brown of the Diocese of Orange, asking him to cancel his monthlong tour of the United States.

"The scandal obviously has been tragic," said Steven J. Dzida, chairman of the Orange County affiliate of the Voice of the Faithful, a group of mainstream Catholics working for change in the church structure and policy, which is co-sponsoring the gatherings at which the Most Rev. Geoffrey Robinson is speaking.

"We think Bishop Brown has taken steps to address the problems of the sexual abuse scandal, but we think that Bishop Robinson's ideas on the broader impact of the scandal are very worthy of discussion by the wider church," Dzida said.

When the Costa Mesa Neighborhood Center, which seats about 100, was booked for the event earlier this year, organizers did not anticipate they would need more room.

Dzida said he was surprised by



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSEPH P. RILEY  
The Most Rev. Geoffrey Robinson

the American bishops' extraordinary step of asking Robinson not to appear, but doesn't know if news about that has fueled more of an interest in people turning out.

Robinson had written a courtesy note to American bishops whose diocesan area he was planning to speak at about his book, "Confronting Power and Sex in the Catholic Church: Reclaiming the Spirit of Jesus."

And, while Bishop Brown has not read the book, his letter urging Robinson not to speak in Orange County was more an action of unity with other bishops who also did the

same, including Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony, a spokesman said.

"I don't think that Bishop Brown's letter is necessarily a comment per se on (Robinson's) message, it's mostly about being in unity with other bishops," said Ryan Lilyengren of the Diocese of Orange. "We do have a copy here and we're planning on looking at it."

In his letter dated May 16, Brown says, "I am usually quite pleased to welcome a brother bishop to speak in our diocese but there are serious reasons why I am unable to do so at this time."

Brown cites four reasons, including the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference notice of concern about the book and canon 763, which he said requires the "Diocesan Bishop to safeguard the preaching of God's Word and the teachings of the Church in his own Diocese."

"Let your visit be a source of disunity and a cause for confusion among the faithful of our local Church of Orange, I want you to know that you do not have my permission to speak in the Diocese of Orange and I ask you to cancel your speaking engagement here," Brown wrote.

Lilyengren said Robinson has not responded to Brown's note.

To learn more about Robinson's tour, visit [www.voiceofthefaithful.org](http://www.voiceofthefaithful.org)