# Transparency in a Can: A Canned Article? Some Assembly Required

Executive summary • All five satirical illustrations retained

Political parody • Executive summary

By Nicholas Bozza | Thorold Election Commentary

Political parody: The scenes, dialogue, products, fictional votes and warning label are invented. “UN-FAB FOUR” expresses my opinion of a perceived voting alignment involving Tim O’Hare, Mike De Divitiis, Ken Sentance and Nella Dekker, not proof of coordination. The lawn-sign observation is mine; the suggested re-election package is my interpretation, not an established fact. No actual dialogue is attributed to the councillors. No endorsement by Wendy’s, its performers or other referenced brands or characters is implied.

Article word count: 600 | Ordinary words: 0 | Satirical words: 600
Satirical illustrations included: 5

All funny—according to the author, who also counted the words.
Estimated reading time: 3–4 minutes, excluding illustration viewing.
Estimated laughing time: 3–4 minutes, excluding recovery time.

Welcome to my imaginary Thorold diner, where the special is TRANSPARENCY IN A CAN. The label is magnificent. The contents are sealed away from the people paying for lunch.

“Who voted for it? Why? What will it cost?”

“Would you like fries with that?”

Charlie the Tuna reads: SPECIAL OPENER REQUIRED.

“Where’s the opener?”

“That information is inside the can.”

**Finally—a product whose explanation is just as inaccessible as its contents.**




Fictional satire expressing the author's opinion of a perceived voting alignment.
Shared votes do not prove coordination. No brand endorsement implied.

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# The combo is optional

At Wendy’s, I can check menu prices and nutrition information before choosing. Prices vary by location. [1] I can order a combo—or just the fries. The burger cannot demand that I elect the drink.

**That is the beauty of a menu: the customer chooses the combination. The combination does not choose the customer.**

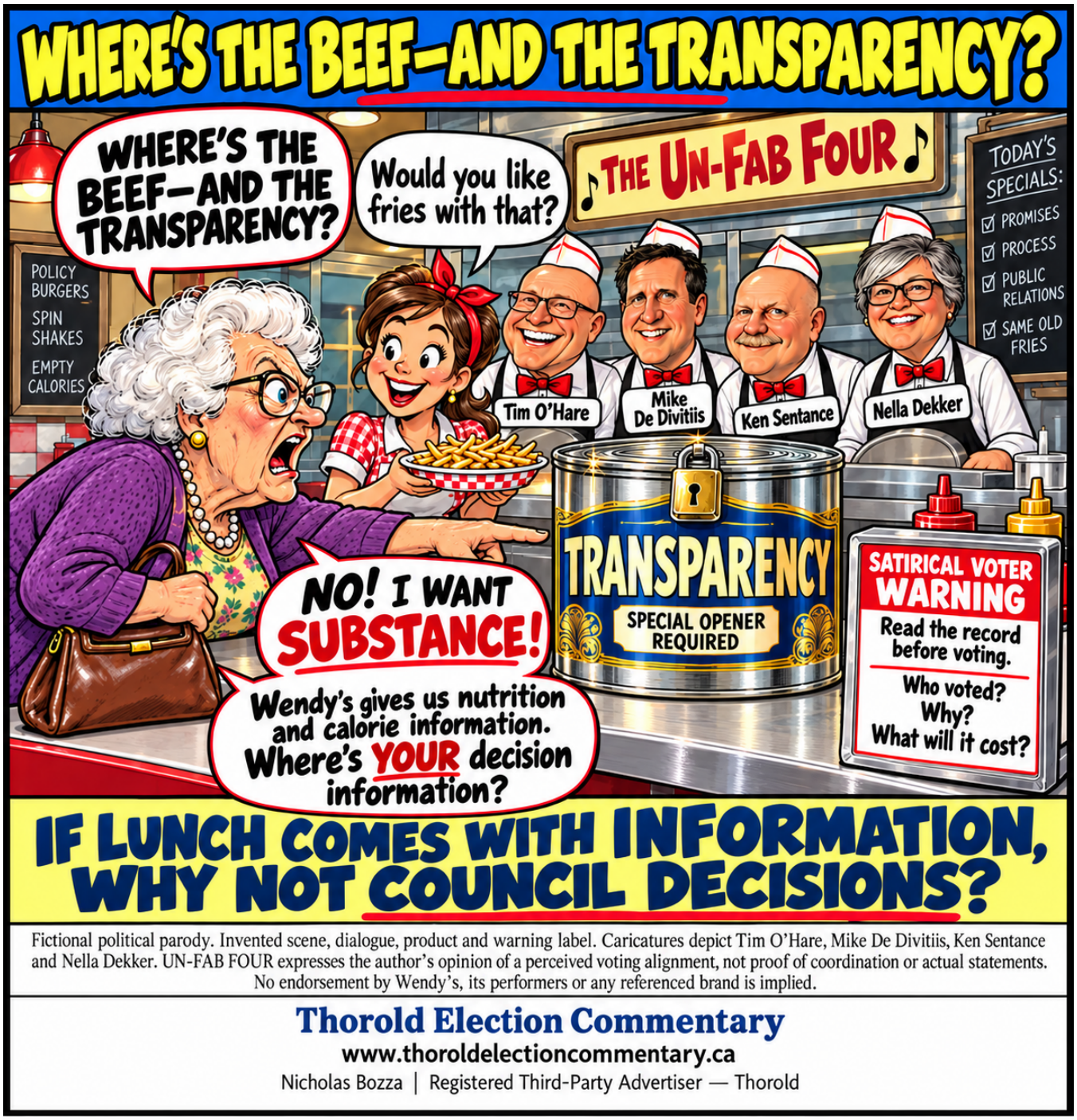
I have noticed the four candidates’ signs clustered together on lawns, including candidates’ own lawns. The suggestion of a re-election package is an interpretation, not proof of coordinated campaigning or future votes.

If candidates market themselves together, each should still explain their record separately. A lawn is not a policy document. Fertilizer is not a disclosure statement.

Here is my imaginary label for the UN-FAB FOUR—or ANY candidate:

**SATIRICAL VOTER INFORMATION LABEL**
**Candidate: Name.**
**Record: Motions, votes and sources.**
**Ingredients: Priorities, reasons and relevant interests.**
**Price: Costs, funding and ongoing obligations.**
**Serving suggestion: Assess independently.**
**WARNING: Attractive packaging is not a substitute for answers.**

The combo is optional. Accountability should already be full-sized.




Fictional political parody. Invented scene, dialogue, product and warning label. Caricatures depict Tim O'Hare, Mike De Divitiis, Ken Sentance and Nella Dekker. UN-FAB FOUR expresses the author's opinion of a perceived voting alignment, not proof of coordination or actual statements. No endorsement by Wendy's, its performers or any referenced brand is implied.

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# Your explanation comes flat-packed

In my imaginary furniture department, the UN-FAB FOUR assemble a council table. One reads. Three nod. The table wobbles.

They take a fictional vote. Four agree it must be the floor.

Voters receive a box marked PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING—SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED. Inside: three screws, an Allen key and a diagram of a confused resident.

“Where are the instructions?”

“Online.”

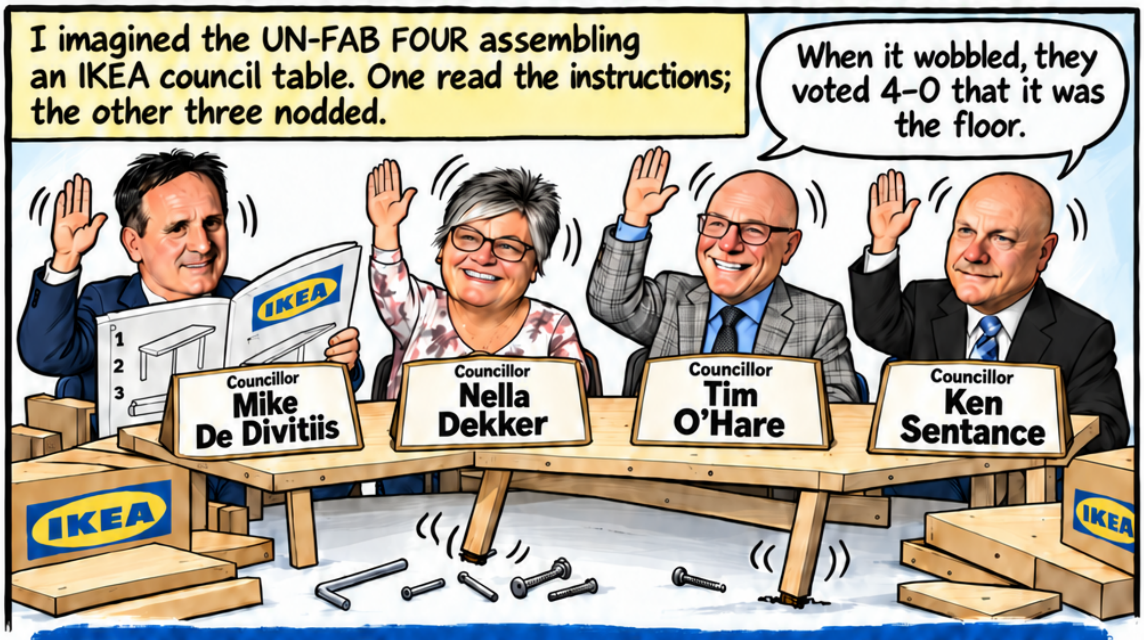
“Where online?”

“Have you tried looking?”

**An explanation shouldn’t arrive with the most important piece missing.**

# THE UN-FAB FOUR: SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

I imagined the UN-FAB FOUR assembling an IKEA council table. One read the instructions; the other three nodded.




**MATCHING POSITIONS. STILL NO SUPPORT.**

I imagined a meeting with the UN-FAB FOUR. I had to assemble the entire conversation myself. Every question came with four matching answers—but no instructions explaining how they'd reached them.




**An IKEA council—sold as individual seats, apparently assembled as one unit.**

**Enjoy the satire. Read the articles behind it.**

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**Feel free to share this cartoon.**

AI-created fictional satire expressing the author's opinion of a perceived voting alignment.
No actual meeting is depicted; this is not evidence of coordination.

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# Houston, we have a question

A rocket scientist arrives with satellite equipment to investigate my unanswered question.

“What exactly do you need?”

“A clear record of the motion, who voted for what, and an understandable explanation.”

He removes his helmet.

“You called me for THIS?”

Before launching another municipal technology project, perhaps somebody could try writing it down.


DOES THIS REALLY TAKE ROCKET SCIENCE?
You called me for THIS?
THOROLD CITY HALL
We just need a clear voting chart.
LAUNCH PLAN
TRAJECTORY
DATA ANALYSIS
ROCKET SCIENCE
WHO VOTED FOR WHAT?
Motion
Councillor
Vote
A CLEAR RECORD SHOULDN'T REQUIRE A LAUNCH TEAM.
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Fictional editorial satire inspired by Article 4. The characters, scene and dialogue are invented; no actual visit or quotation is depicted.

# The breakthrough comes with an eraser

A resident produces a pencil and paper.

**MOTION. COUNCILLOR. VOTE.**

There is room for reasons and a link to the report.

“Does it need charging?”

“No.”

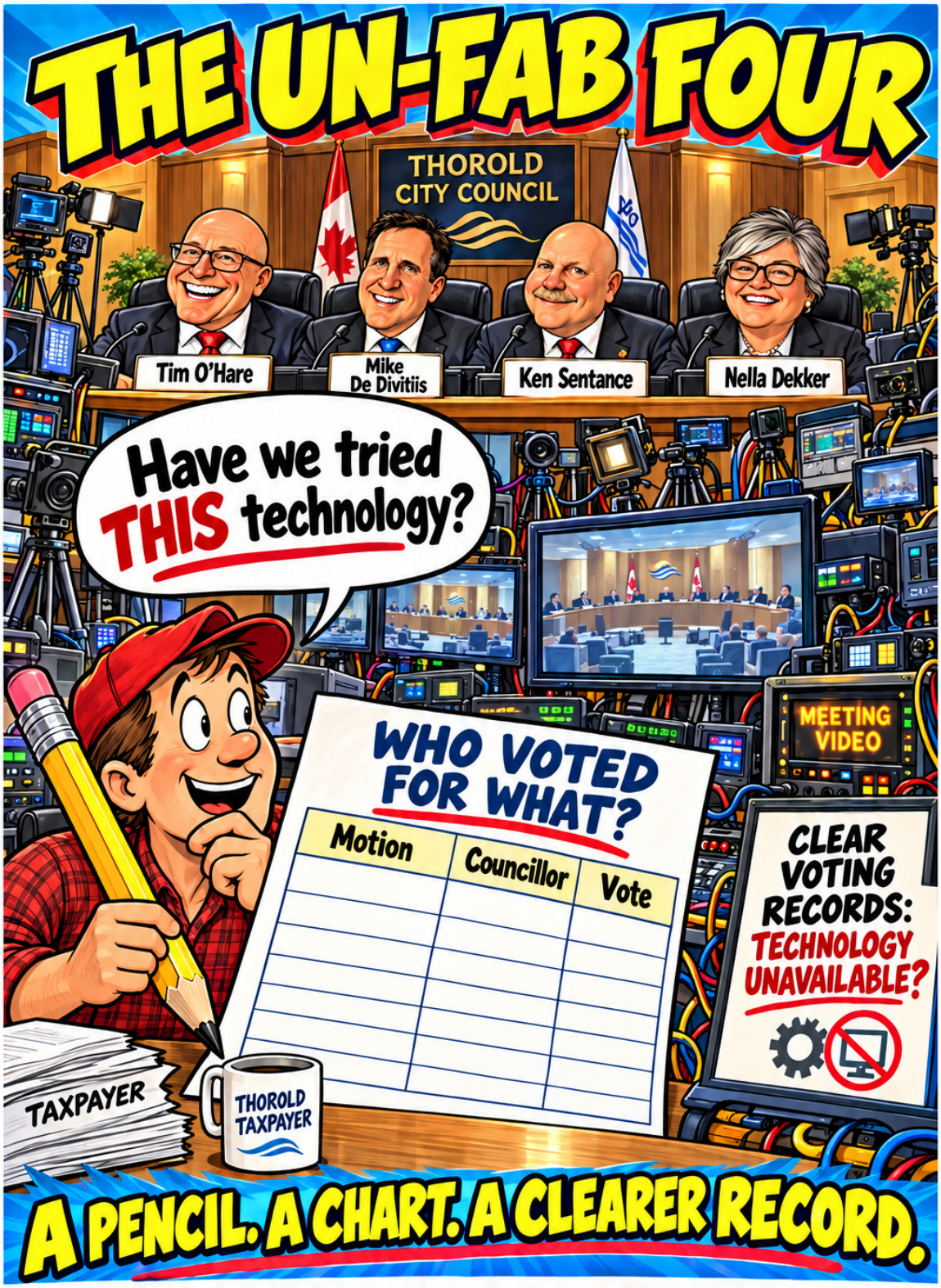
“A subscription?”

“No.”

“What if we make a mistake?”

He turns the pencil around. An eraser.

The rocket scientist cancels the launch. Somebody checks the table legs.




Fictional editorial satire inspired by the author's account of a past discussion about voting-record technology.
Dialogue is invented; it is not a quotation from the councillors shown. Shared votes do not establish coordination.

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Residents should be able to connect a decision, the individual votes and the reasons behind them. Videos and documents should make that task easier.

**Taxpayers shouldn’t need a special can opener, an Allen key and a rocket scientist to get a straight answer.**

## Share the satire and stay informed

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Sign up for email invitations when new articles are uploaded, and invite your family and friends to join too. If you submit a family member’s or friend’s email address for an invitation, they must accept the invitation themselves before receiving article alerts. Signing someone up sends an invitation; it does not enrol them automatically. Participation is permission-based, and recipients can opt out at any time.

Share the laughter. Pass along the questions. Let everyone choose their own serving of transparency.

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Word count covers article headings and body, including the mock label; title, metadata, satire notice, signature, references, this note and illustration lettering are excluded. The 100% satirical classification and laughing-time estimate are comic presentation, not a promise of continuous laughter.

## Reference

[1] Wendy’s Canada, online menu (combos, fries and sides, calorie information; prices and participation may vary): https://order.wendys.com/ca/en/national/menu. Wendy’s location information directs customers to its ordering site or app for location-specific menu prices: https://locations.wendys.com/canada/on/lindsay/329-kent-street-west. Accessed October 19, 2026.