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

Political parody • Review copy

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: 1110 | Ordinary words: 0 | Satirical words: 1110
Satirical illustrations included: 5

All funny—according to the author, who also counted the words.
Estimated reading time: 6–7 minutes, excluding illustration viewing.
Estimated laughing time: 6–7 minutes, excluding recovery time.

Welcome to my imaginary Thorold diner, where the special is TRANSPARENCY IN A CAN.

The UN-FAB FOUR are behind the counter. The can is polished, the label is magnificent, and the contents are securely protected from the people paying for lunch.

“Who voted for it?” I ask.

“It passed.”

“Why?”

“It passed.”

“What will it cost?”

“Would you like fries with that?”

A little lady from an imaginary Wendy’s-style commercial leans over the counter.

“WHERE’S THE TRANSPARENCY?”

“Would you like fries with that?”

“No. I’d like some substance. You’ve given me a menu, a slogan and a sealed can. I’m still hungry for an answer!”

Charlie the Tuna studies the label.

“Special opener required,” he reads. “Where’s the opener?”

“That information is inside the can.”

Finally—a product whose explanation is just as inaccessible as its contents. We shouldn’t require a can opener that doesn’t exist to see what we got, voters are suggesting.



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 the menu price before ordering and consult nutrition and calorie information. Prices vary by location, but I can see what my chosen order costs before I buy. [1] A combo is an offer. It is not a commandment delivered on a sesame-seed bun.

I can order the fries on their own. I can choose a different meal size where offered. I can walk out. Nobody follows me into the car park shouting, “But the burger and the drink endorsed each other!”

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

In my imaginary diner, I ask whether the UN-FAB FOUR special can be ordered separately.

“Certainly,” says the server. “Four independent portions. They just happen to arrive on the same tray.”

“Can I have the reasons on the side?”

“We’re waiting for the kitchen.”

“What about the bill?”

“Oh, that always finds the table.”

Outside the sketch, I have noticed their campaign signs clustered together on lawns, including candidates’ own lawns. To voters, that presentation raises a question about whether they are promoting a re-election package. That is their interpretation of the display, not proof of coordinated campaigning or how they would vote.

A cluster of signs is not a confession. But voters can still ask what, if anything, comes with the combo: mutual support, shared priorities, or simply four people who enjoy the same patch of grass?

If candidates want to market themselves together, I want each one to explain their record separately. A lawn is not a policy document. Fertilizer is not a disclosure statement.

So here is the imaginary label for the UN-FAB FOUR—or ANY candidate seeking a vote. Same standard, every seat. No special sauce exemption.

SATIRICAL VOTER INFORMATION LABEL
Candidate: Name clearly stated.
Record: Motions, votes and links to the source.
Ingredients: Priorities, reasons and relevant interests.
Price: Proposed costs, funding and ongoing obligations.
Serving suggestion: Assess each candidate independently.
WARNING: Attractive packaging is not a substitute for answers.

“Does it come in large?” asks the little lady.

“Yes. But the accountability and the explanation should already be full-sized.”

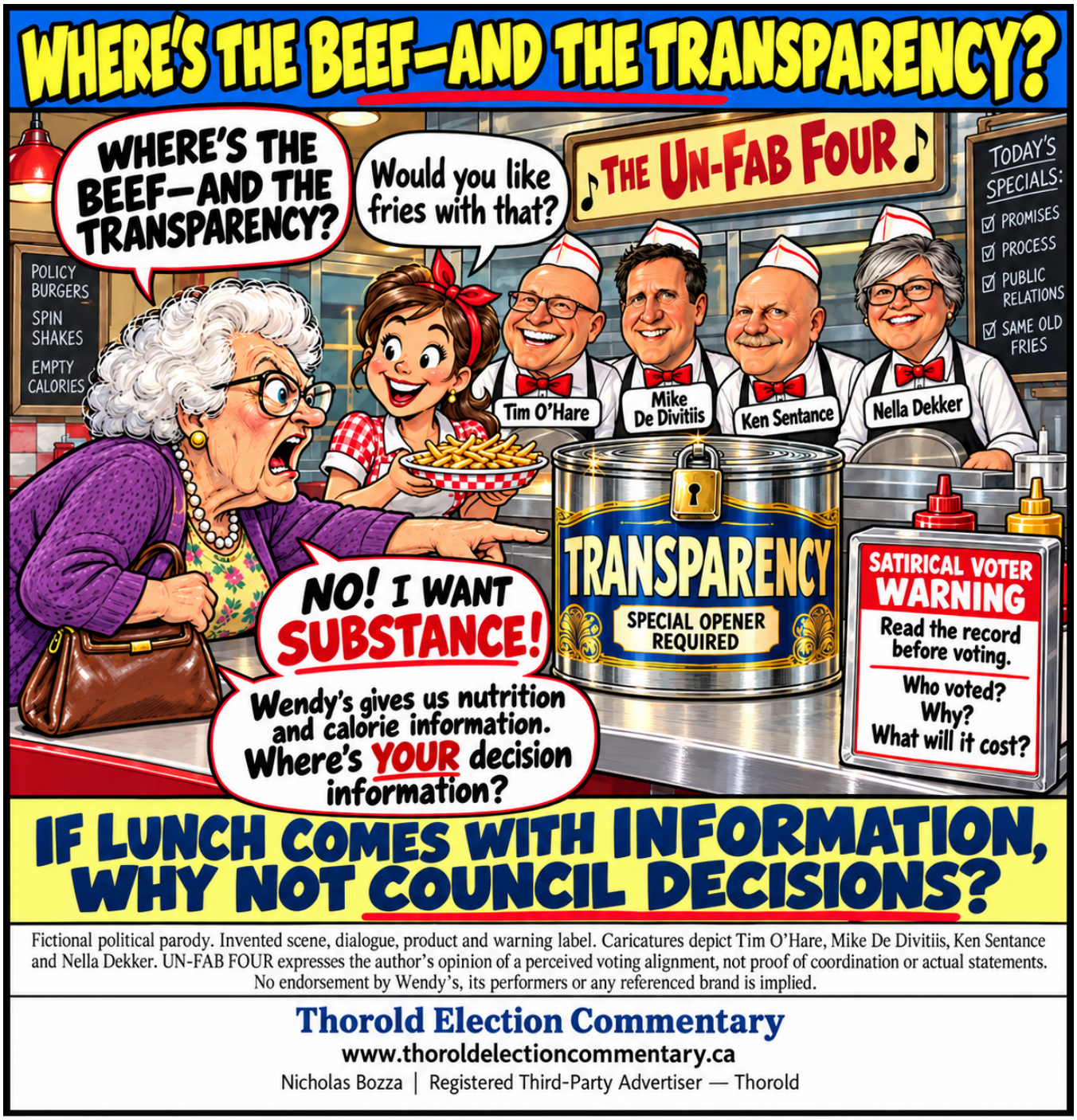
“And the combo?”

“Optional. You’re the voter.”

She puts down the fries.

“FINALLY. SOMETHING WITH SUBSTANCE.”

I am not asking candidates to print their cholesterol level. I am asking for enough information to make a choice before the purchase becomes a four-year order.



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

Unable to open lunch, I visit my imaginary furniture department.

There, the UN-FAB FOUR are assembling a council table. One reads the instructions. Three nod. The finished table wobbles.

They take a fictional vote.

Four agree it must be the floor.

Voters ask for an explanation. They hand voters a flat box marked PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING—SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED.

Inside are three screws, an Allen key and a diagram of a resident looking confused.

“Where are the instructions?”

“Online.”

“Where online?” Are the explanations even comprehensible without a full team of lawyers and accountants. Are they even in English?

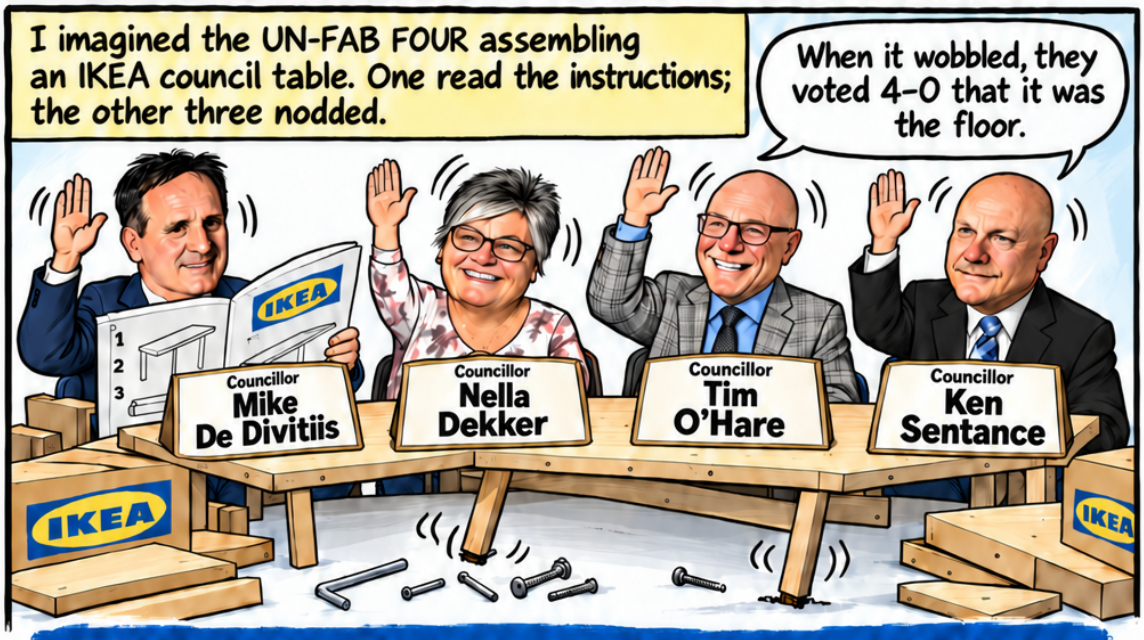
“Have you tried looking?”

Voters have assembled bookcases with clearer explanations—and at least the leftover screws gave me something concrete to worry about.

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

By now, opening the can and understanding the table have become one municipal improvement project.

In my imaginary version, somebody calls a rocket scientist.

He arrives with a launch vehicle, satellite equipment and a team calculating the trajectory of my unanswered question.

“What exactly do you need?” he asks.

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

He removes his helmet.

“You called me for THIS?”

“We thought it might require advanced technology.”

He looks at the can. He looks at the table. He looks at the taxpayer.

“I can put a satellite into orbit,” he says. “But first, has anyone tried writing it down with a pen in legible handwriting?”


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

Back at the imaginary diner, a resident produces a pencil and a sheet of paper.

Across the top, he writes:

MOTION. COUNCILLOR. VOTE.

Beside it, he leaves room for the reasons and a reference to the relevant report.

The room falls silent.

“Does it need charging?” someone asks.

“No.”

“A software subscription?”

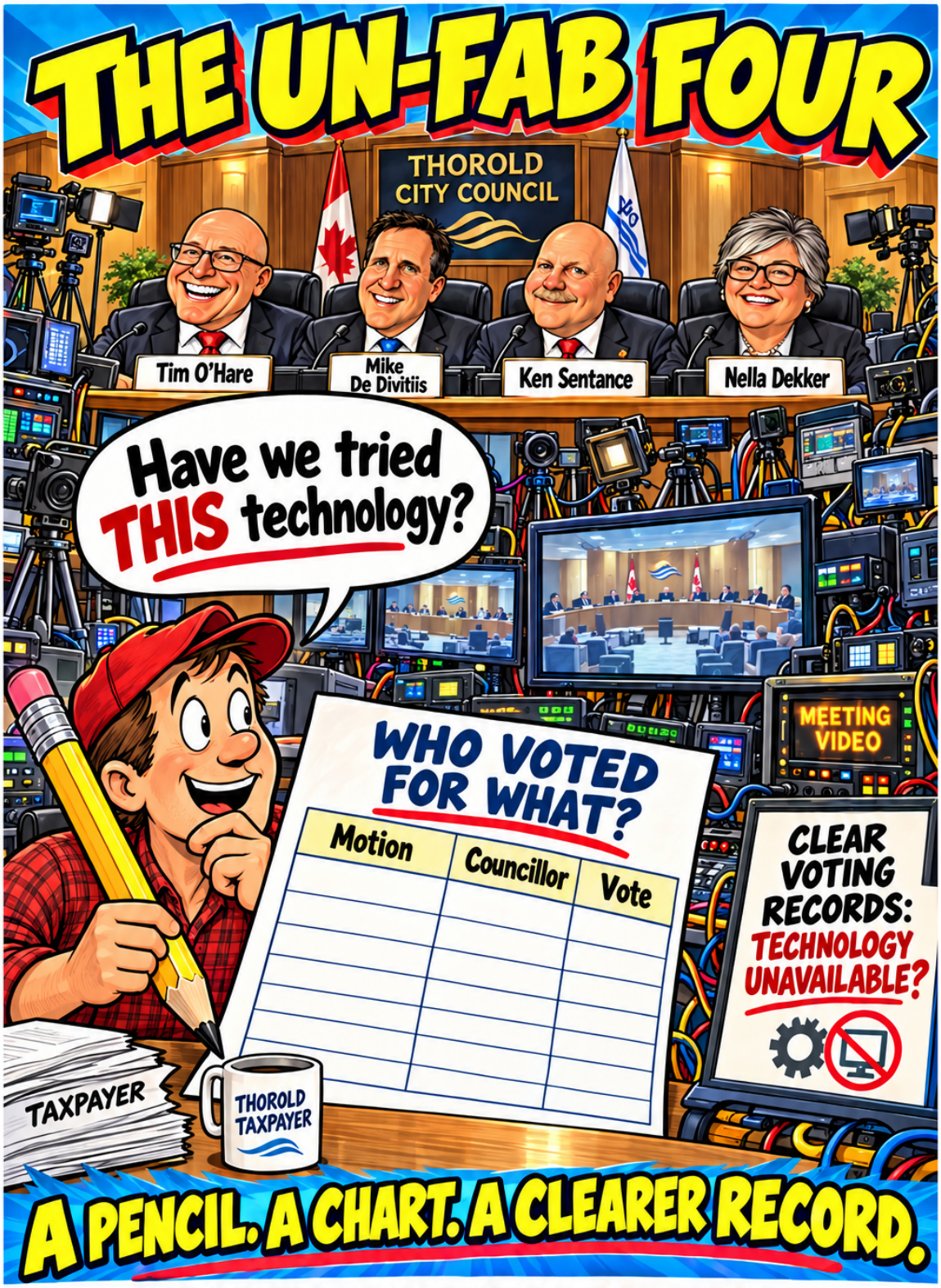
“No.”

“What happens if we make a mistake?”

He turns the pencil around.

An eraser.

The rocket scientist cancels the launch. Charlie cancels the fries. Somebody finally checks whether the table has four properly attached 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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Here is the serious point beneath the imaginary shopping trip: residents should be able to find the relevant information, understand what a decision means and identify who supported it—and why.

A video, a document and a passed motion can each help. The public still needs to be able to connect them with proper camera angles revealing who voted for what.

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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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.