



The News December 19th – 6pm By Noele Bouazouni-Prier

"I wrote my story and it is the end of ours". These are the words of Karim Benzema who announces on Twitter his international retirement. The striker, who is celebrating his 35th birthday today, will no longer wear the jersey of the French team after 97 selections and 37 goals scored for the team. Benzema had to give up participating in the World Cup just before the 1st game following a thigh injury.

As for the unfortunate finalists of the world cup, *Les Bleus* will be back in France this evening. Their arrival is scheduled for around 8 p.m. at the Roissy Charles de Gaulle airport. The players of the French team will then go to Place de la Concorde in Paris for a gathering with supporters. The idea had been ruled out at first by the head of the French soccer federation Noël Le Graet, before being revoked by the FFF.

Will there be trains for the end of year celebrations? The question is still pending. The *CGT-Cheminots* and *SUD-Rail* maintain their strike notice for the weekends of Christmas and New Year's Day. However, the 2 unions do not call on controllers to stop working; they let everyone choose whether or not they want to join the movement. As a reminder, the movement had started at the beginning of the month to demand wage increases and was very popular early December, with 60% of TGV and Intercités cancelled.

Finally, she gives up. The American actress Amber Heard will not appeal the lawsuit which opposed her to her ex-husband Johnny Depp. On June 1st, she was sentenced to pay 10 million dollars to the star of *Pirates of the Caribbean* for defamation after accusing him of domestic violence.

And to finish: There had to be at least one French World champion. A resident of Saumur in Maine-et-Loire won the world title for the ugliest sweater. For the record, the winner knitted his sweater himself with an assumed kitsch side, garish colors and as a pattern: a lady reading in her living room - A replica of the poster of the vintage Albi living room - the city where the competition took place.