



## The News

**April 20<sup>th</sup>, 8am** ©

*by Emma Phillips*

Emmanuel Macron was heckled yesterday during a visit to Alsace on his first official trip since the promulgation of the pension reform. The President was welcomed by a chorus of boos and the crowd banging on saucepans. Macron admitted that he was “not deaf” to the anger and that hearing it was necessary. However, he stood by the reform. Today the President will be at a college in the Hérault. Unions are calling for demonstrations to take place on the sidelines of the visit.

Railway workers are on strike today causing mild disruption at the SNCF. Four TER and two Intercités services out of 5 are running. All TGV services are running as usual.

Drivers who are caught speeding at less than 5 kilometers per hour over the limit will no longer have points withdrawn from their licence. The announcement came yesterday evening from the Minister of the Interior, Gérald Darmanin. The measure will come into force on the roads on January 1, 2024. The minor speeding offenses will still be punishable by a fine.

There was a delay last night in Lille for the show starring Gérard Depardieu. Feminist groups had organised for a demonstration of around a hundred people to disrupt the actor's performance. According to Médiapart, thirteen women are accusing Depardieu of sexual violence while on set.

In the United States, the Supreme Court is giving itself two more days to rule. Last night the court postponed its decision on the abortion pill, which is used by nearly 500,000 American women a year. For the moment the pill is still authorized.

And finally, 3:45 p.m. French time today will see the second attempt for Starship to take off. The largest rocket in the world will make another attempt to launch from Texas for its maiden flight. The rocket, which belongs to billionaire Elon Musk's SpaceX company, will eventually be used for trips to the Moon and Mars.