



## The News

**January 16<sup>th</sup>, 6pm ©**

by *Emma Phillips*

Sébastien Lecornu is appealing to the Parti Socialiste on the matter of the budget in order to avoid a vote of no confidence. The Prime Minister has pledged to make 1 euro meals available to all university students. The government could still resort to passing the budget via decree or via the use of article 49-3 of the constitution for the bill to not have to gain majority support in a vote in the lower house. Sébastien Lecornu is expected to speak on the issue later in the day.

The future of New Caledonia was the subject of a meeting at the Elysée Palace today, some six months after the document negotiated in Bougival was rejected by the FLNKS independence movement. The bill sets out a new political organisation, the creation of a State of New Caledonia within the Republic, and a Caledonian nationality. The FLNKS has branded the deal unacceptable.

The murder of Marie-Thérèse Bonfanti back in 1986 is now time-barred. The decision came from the Court of Cassation today, effectively closing the case against Yves Chatain, who in 2022 confessed to strangling the young woman and hiding her body. He had been the victim's neighbour in Isère. Today's decision will set a precedent in similar cases.

In Switzerland, the courts have set the amount of 200,000 Swiss francs to release Jacques Moretti on bail. Moretti is the owner of the Constellation bar in Crans-Montana, the scene of the New Year's Eve fire. The public prosecutor also wants to seize Moretti's identity documents, an electronic tag to be fitted and an obligation to report to the police station every three days. The bar owner was placed in pre-trial detention last week due to the risk of him absconding.

And finally, to football and match day 18 of the Ligue 1 gets underway this evening. Two matches are coming up, at 7pm, Monaco take on Lorient, and then at 9pm there's PSG vs Lille.