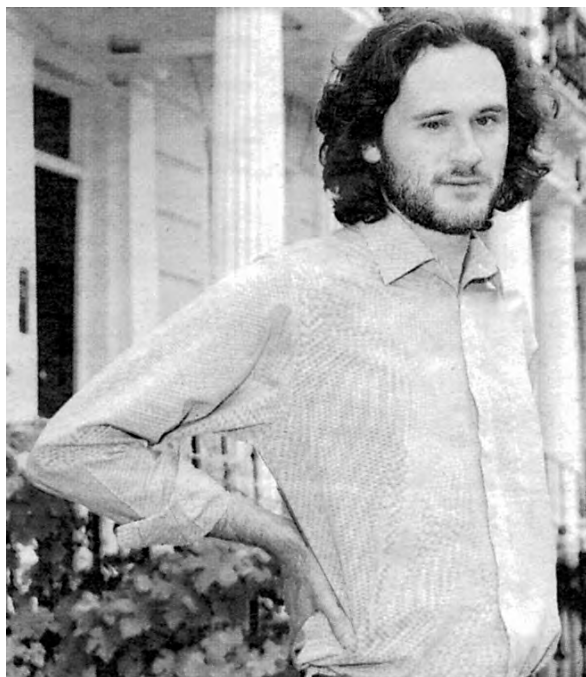


Tekst 3

1p 3 Welke boodschap heeft Kieron Connolly voor de lezer?

IT HAPPENED TO ME

The night I became a crime statistic



Crime has soared in the past year, it was reported last week. I must be part of those statistics because I was punched in the face on my doorstep by a man who was trying to wheedle some money out of me.

He started walking alongside me as I was on my way home late one night. He asked if he could change some money with me. I said I wanted to see the money but the man, who was about 25, had a London accent and looked North African, refused and accused me, oddly, of 'constitutional racism'.

By this time I was at my doorstep and refusing to get my money out. So he punched me, bloodying my nose and cutting my lip. I shouted for help, but he ran off.

There have been so many stories about the police not doing anything in such circumstances that my first thought was not to report it. I'm now glad I did. Because of the man's use of the term 'constitutional racism', the police had an idea who he was. But though they arranged two identity parades, I couldn't pick him out.

I understand, however, that the man they suspect is now in prison for another offence.

I feel the police did what they could. And they can only tackle crime if we report offences to them.

Kieron Connolly
London W11