

Iron Maiden receive rock honour

Veteran rockers Iron Maiden picked the best UK act at the Metal Hammer Awards, following the success of their hit album *Dance of Death*.

Metallica were named best international act at the ceremony in east London.

The Darkness added to their Brits haul by taking the best video prize for *Love is Only a Feeling*.

Motley Crue guitarist Nikki Sixx was given the lifetime achievement honour, dubbed the Spirit of Hammer Award, for his contribution to rock.

Punk guitarist Quine found dead

Punk guitarist Robert Quine has been found dead in his New York apartment from an apparent heroin overdose.

His close friend Rick Kelly, who discovered the body, told *Billboard* magazine Quine had been despondent over the recent death of his wife.

Quine, who was 61, worked with Lou Reed, Tom Waits and Marianne Faithfull.

In 2001, Universal released a three-CD box of Quine's live 1969 recordings of the Velvet Underground *The Bootleg Series Volume 1: The Quine Tapes*.

Metallica hold drummer auditions

Rock band Metallica held last-minute auditions at the Download festival after their drummer was taken ill.

Lars Ulrich was in hospital in Germany with a mystery illness while the band performed at Donnington Park on Sunday.

The band carried out trials in a portable cabin backstage and ended up using Dave Lombardo from Slayer.

Lombardo was replaced by Slipknot's Joey and Sal from *Life of Agony* while he listened to Metallica CDs backstage to learn more tracks.

Streisand items sold for charity

Singer and actress Barbra Streisand made thousands of dollars for charity on Saturday by selling personal items at auction.

The collection included some of the gowns the star designed and wore in her films, as well as eyeglasses and her customised 1986 Ford mobile home.

Organiser Darren Julien said the items were worth \$600,000 (£333,000).

The money will go to the Streisand Foundation, which raises funds for a variety of causes.

Ill Affleck treated in hospital

Ben Affleck missed the London premiere of his film *Jersey Girl* because he was in hospital, his publicist revealed.

The actor was taken to a Boston hospital where he was treated for severe bronchitis.

Affleck, 31, had been expected to attend the premiere of the much-panned film on Wednesday but pulled

out at the last minute, as did co-star Liv Tyler.

Affleck is now recovering from the illness at his Boston home, said publicist Ken Sunshine.

Dennis Quaid proposes to girlfriend

Dennis Quaid, star of disaster movie *The Day After Tomorrow*, has proposed to his girlfriend Kimberley Buffington.

Quaid, 50, and Buffington, a 33-year-old real estate agent from Texas, have not yet set a date for their wedding.

The actor was previously married to actress PJ Soles from 1978 to 1983 and to actress Meg Ryan from 1991 to 2001.

Quaid - who has a 12-year-old son with Ryan - met his wife-to-be in March 2003 while performing in Austin, Texas, with his band *The Sharks*.

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