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This section of the I-Life Bulletin is intended to give you a kick start in American popular culture. You will probably not find out anything of great gravity if you follow the links listed below. However, since popular culture is frequently the topic of conversation among American and international students, you may have an easier time joining a conversation if you explore some of these links.

Note: I-Life and the University at Albany does NOT endorse any material, products or services featured by the any of the web sites to which this page is linked.

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Language

To gain access to a culture, you obviously need to be familiar with its language. Having realized this, you may already be enrolled in a helpful course in the [Intensive English Language Program](#) at UAlbany. However, you might come across words which you find suspicious: they may be slang! Instead of panicking, check out Charles I. Kelly and Lawrence E. Kelly's [slang glossary](#). The site has a large selection of slang words from "ace" to "zip".

Food

Ah, junk food... most university students are familiar with the world of unhealthy diet. [The Junk Food Mecca](#) offers you a comprehensive list of what America has to offer in this department. If you find yourself to be overwhelmed by the amazing variety, you can focus on a few favorites such as [pizza](#), [hamburgers](#), [coke](#), or [chocolate chip cookies](#). To do justice to high American cuisine, [Merry's Kitchen](#) offers recipes of American food that will satisfy any hungry gourmet. Or visit [cooking.com](#) and search for recipes of food related to specific American holidays, such as Thanksgiving or the Fourth of July.

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Sports

Sports popular in the U.S. such as basketball or ice hockey are known around the world. You may be interested in "sports" that are specific to or originated from this country. Read the [story](#) of how the [World Wrestling Federation](#) (WWF) emerged from the traditional wrestling scene. Visit a custom car buff, George McDowell's site to get a feel for what it is like to be mad about [custom and "muscle" cars](#). And, of course, don't skip the [National Football League](#) and [Major League](#)

[Baseball](#) either.

Fashion

To find out who is setting the latest U.S. fashion scene, or what it looks like, visit about.com's independent [fashion guide](#).

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Media

Have you ever been confused when somebody greeted you with a hearty "Wassuuup?!" Well, you've just witnessed the great influence commercials have on everyday American life. The impact and originality of the Budweiser "Whassup?!" commercials was recognized by the judges of the illustrious [Cannes International Advertising Festival](#) among other commercials. You can still see [the original "Whassup?!" commercials](#) on Budweiser's web site.

NBC has helpful comprehensive sites featuring all Capital District [TV](#) and [radio](#) stations.

You can find out what movies are currently being shown from Albany movie guides (e.g. the [Metroland](#)). A tip for lovers of non-mainstream movies: visit the [Spectrum Cinema](#)'s site for movie plots and reviews.

Humor

You can explore mainstream American humor on [Comedy Central](#)'s web site. A web publication that is also popular among college students is the [Onion](#), which puts a funny spin on current national newsitems.

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Music

Because it is the media that make stars these days, information about most currently popular artists (videos, interviews etc.) is available for [VH1](#)'s site.

If you feel lost in the crowd, here is a (very roughly classified) list of the artists whose names come up most frequently in UAlbany students' writings or conversations:

- Rock
 - The Grateful Dead
 - The Dave Matthews Band
 - Phish
 - Metallica
 - The Mighty Mighty Bosstones
 - Tool
 - Guns and Roses
 - Limp Bizkit
 - Red Hot Chili Peppers
- Pop
 - Jennifer Lopez
 - Britney Spears
 - Christina Aguilera
 - Backstreet Boys
 - 'N Sync
 - Madonna
- Alternative
 - Radiohead
 - Korn

- Rap / Hip-Hop
 - A Tribe Called Quest
 - Tupac Shakur
 - DMX
 - Eminem
 - Puff Daddy
 - Method Man
- Electronica
 - Portishead
 - Moby

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