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THE BEAUTY EXPERT

FEBRUARY 2006

SOFT SKIN ALL OVER

12 Ways to Soothe Dryness

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No Problem

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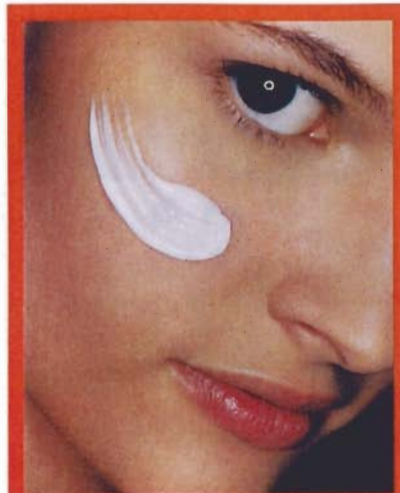
Sheryl Crow

On Love, Loss, and Lance

TEST RUN

GO THE DISTANCE

If you show no signs of fading, your makeup shouldn't either. We asked cosmetics chemist Gary Galante which of the latest long-wearing cosmetics could truly keep up with us. Then we put eight of them to the test ourselves. —MARGARET LEE



SKIN UPDATE

Sugar Buzz

Consuming too much sugar may affect more than your dress size. It could cause glycation, the damage of skin's proteins by unmetabolized sugars, resulting in a loss of firmness. "Sugars travel through capillaries to the skin, where they react with collagen, elastin, and protective enzymes," says Virginia dermatologist David McDaniel. Now, two new products—Estée Lauder Resilience Lift Extreme and Prescriptives Anti-Age Advanced Protection Lotion (on counters in April)—aim to prevent glycation with alistin, tiny protein chains that attract sugar so it doesn't bind to skin. "The creams do seem capable of preventing glycation in the dermis while stimulating collagen production," McDaniel says.

Bottom Line: Both lotions made our skin brighter and far less flaky. —MARGARET LEE

Free Stuff III High Shine

Salon glosses make hair shine like a new coin—but can cost a pretty penny. **Clairel Natural Instincts Shine Happy** produces monthlong luster. It's not available until March, but the first 1,000 *Affure* readers to sign up at noon EST on February 1 will get one free. Log on to allure.com for details. —ROOPIKA NAYAR

THE PRODUCT	THE CLAIM	WHAT THE EXPERT SAYS	WHAT WE SAY
 Revlon ColorStay Blemish Concealer	"Complete coverage that lasts all day; salicylic acid helps clear acne."	"Silicone polymers are saturated in silk and botanical extracts to form a light, transfer-resistant layer."	The stuff hid our pimple from coworkers for nine hours, but sweated off 20 minutes into Spinning class.
 Elizabeth Arden Ceramide Plump Perfect Makeup SPF 15	"Evens out skin tone [with] color that lasts all day."	"Small spheres of pigment—coated with long-wearing silicones—stick to skin better than larger particles."	Not at all heavy or masklike, the foundation kept us covered—and our lines hidden—for ten hours.
 American Beauty Super Plush 10-hour Lipcolor	"For ten full hours, it delivers noncaking color."	"Polyisoprene, a natural polymer, affixes color to lips; a dimethicone-based gloss adds moisture."	The shade lasted through lunch and dinner—for a total of 13 hours—but eventually made our lips feel dry.
 Mary Kay MK Signature Waterproof Mascara	"Triathlon tested: Stays on after swimming, bicycling, running...."	"This combines waxes and a polymer-resin seal to protect against humidity."	We usually end up with black streaks under our eyes after dance class, but this mascara didn't budge.
 Bobbi Brown Shimmer Ink Long-Wear Gel Eyeliner	"Water-resistant, [it] stays in place without smearing or creasing."	"Plasticizers keep the formula flexible; a minimal amount of emollients prevents smudging."	Worn as a strong line or blended over lids, the color looked fresh all day and through a cocktail party.
 Styli-Style Line & Seal Brow Liner 24	"Waterproof and smudgeproof, it offers 24-hour brow power."	"A mix of both hard and soft hydrophobic waxes makes the product go on smoothly and last longer."	The soft brow pencil stayed in place for 16 hours, and washed off easily with regular cleanser.
 Model in a Bottle makeup setting spray	"Maintains the freshly applied look of makeup all day long."	"The polymers in the spray dry quickly on top of makeup, but the alcohol in it can irritate the skin."	The mist was sticky and had a chemical smell, but kept our cream blush and shadow vibrant for seven hours.
 Revlon ColorStay Nail Enamel	"Shiny, chip-resistant nails...that last up to ten days."	"Acrylate copolymers in the lacquer adhere well to nails; the topcoat forms a flexible shield."	The new, thinner formula quickly dried to a glossy cherry red. And we didn't see a nick until day seven.

SHOPPING GUIDE: American Beauty, americanbeautycosmetics.com or kohls.com. Bobbi Brown, bobbibrown.com. Elizabeth Arden, elizabetharden.com or beauty.com. Estée Lauder, esteelauder.com. Mary Kay, marykay.com or 800-MARY-KAY. Model in a Bottle, modelinabottle.com. Prescriptives, prescriptives.com. Revlon, revlon.com. Styli-Style, styli-style.com.