

# ELLE

THE  
BODY  
ISSUE

YOUR  
ALL-SEASON  
SHOPPING  
GUIDE:

240+

SHOES, BAGS  
& NEW LOOKS

10 KEY PIECES  
TO UPDATE  
YOUR WARDROBE

EXCLUSIVE  
SURVEY!

SEX & LOVE

70,000  
MEN & WOMEN  
ON WHY THEY  
COMMIT,  
WHY THEY  
CHEAT

MANDY  
MOORE

THE POP  
PRINCESS  
GROWS UP

THE BODY  
IMAGE  
DILEMMA

YOU'RE  
HOTTER THAN  
YOU THINK

KICK YOUR  
BUTT!  
THE SECRET

## VANISHING ACT

It's a fact of life: Slice the skin and a scar will result. However, those who've had a facelift or breast surgery don't want to display any marks. Now they have a new option for wiping out the evidence: prescription-only imiquimod cream; FDA-approved for treating certain warts and skin cancers, it may also promote wound healing. The drug stimulates the body's release of interferon, the protein that kicks the immune system into action. In one study just published in *Dermatologic Surgery*, patients who applied imiquimod to fresh incisions nightly for a month ended up with better-looking scars—flat, pink, and barely visible—than those who didn't. The catch is that during treatment the area appears incredibly red and inflamed. "Skin clears once you stop applying imiquimod," says author James Spencer, MD, a dermatologist in St. Petersburg, Florida. "But it's going to look worse before it gets better because the cream causes so much tissue activity."