

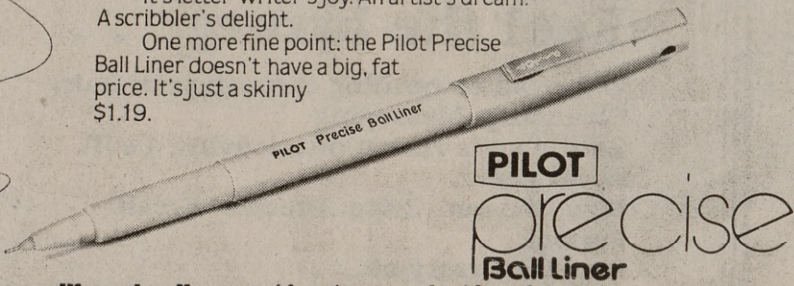
**Only one of these pens is thin enough to draw the line below.**

It's the extra-fine rolling ball of Pilot's remarkable new Precise Ball Liner Pen. (If you haven't guessed which one it is, look at the top photo again. It's the trim beauty on the bottom left.)

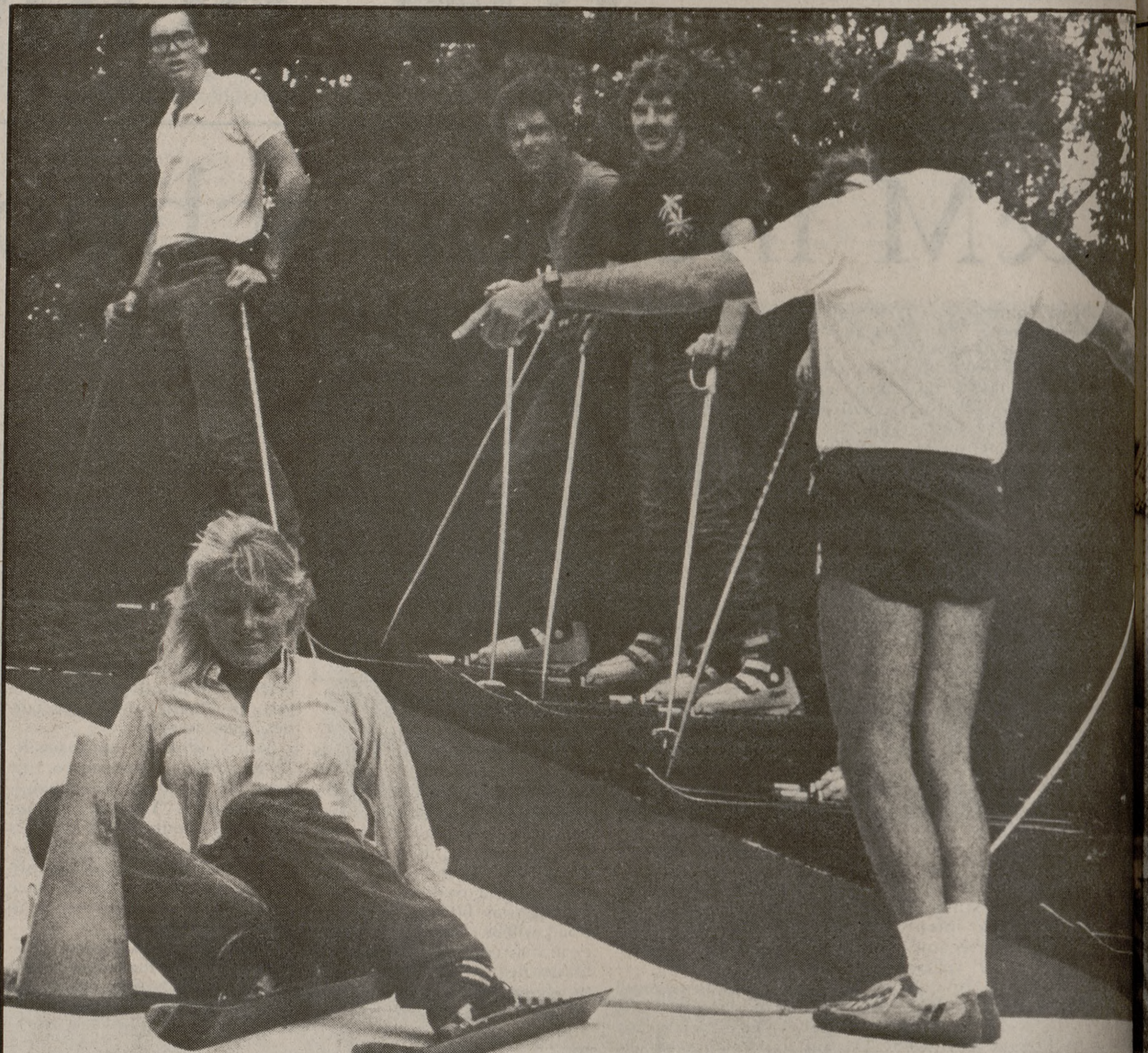
But unlike the others, the real beauty of Pilot's Precise Ball Liner is the extra-fine line it puts on paper. It glides smoothly across the page because its tiny tungsten carbide ball is held securely within a needle-like stainless steel collar. A collar that makes the Precise Ball Liner the most durable, trouble-free rolling ball pen you can buy.

It's letter-writer's joy. An artist's dream. A scribbler's delight.

One more fine point: the Pilot Precise Ball Liner doesn't have a big, fat price. It's just a skinny \$1.19.



**The rolling ball pen that revolutionizes thin writing.**



### A-slippin' and a-slidin'

Physical education lecturer Jim Woosley, during one of his skiing classes at Mt. Aggie, uses Jill Hendrickson to demonstrate what not to do while

slipping down the slopes. Hendrickson is a sophomore from Houston studying mechanical engineering.

staff photo by Jorge Cas

## More try to 'fix it' themselves

United Press International  
RALEIGH, N.C. — The disposable society has entered the

fix-it-yourself age.

With every swing of their hammers, more and more people are tolling the end of service calls by making repairs themselves.

Industry researchers estimate up to 85 percent of all American households undertook at least one home, garden or auto project in 1981.

Market analysts say Americans will spend \$32.9 million to \$34.4 million this year for home improvement materials. That's at least 20 percent above 1981 sales. They predict sales by 1990 will triple this year's level.

"You don't need skill so much as the guts to do it," says Patty Kaasa. She and husband Steve have shent three years renovating their Victorian home.

"If anybody gets the wobbles about this, consider your options: Are you willing to spend a couple of years doing this or do you want to spend your time living in a house trailer?" she said.

Others say it's a relief to work with their hands after spending the day at a desk job. Most get self-satisfaction out of a well-done project.

There is a growing willingness to tackle increasingly complicated projects.

While a 1982 Building Supply News study shows a third of the nation's 71.1 million do-it-yourself jobs still were simple chores like painting, it also found 27.1 percent were much more sophisticated — plumbing or electrical work.

General Electric research indicates four of every 10 major appliance repairs are handled by the owner or a friend of the owner.

A study by Home Center magazine describes the typical do-it-yourselfer as a 48-year-old male with a \$28,000 a year white-collar job. About half are college-educated.

Another study shows that offspring of the post-World War II Baby Boom make up 46.8 percent of the fix-it crowd. The industry's Do-It-Yourself Research Institute says they are most likely to seek new housing and to be hurt by the home construction slump.

Many people now look for older homes they can hammer and paint and turn into dream houses. Analysts say that trend alone is enough to keep hardware and supply stores busy in the next decade.

Denise Poythress, a Raleigh woman who runs her own picture framing business, joined the do-it-yourself crowd when her 1940s apartment complex was converted into a condominium last year.

She has changed switch plates, laid extra attic insulation, repainted a bathroom, replaced electric sockets and installed new plasterboard in closets.

"It wasn't dangerous," she said. "Most of it was time-consuming, but I saved a lot and I feel I've done a good job."

"I do it partly for the enjoyment, doing it myself and seeing

the job done. At the same time, it's an investment. This is my first home, and I want to make money on what I do."

The Kaasas practically renovated their house. They added electrical wiring, new plumbing, placed bricks and mortar, and even installed a new floor.

Kaasa said he picked up skills by helping a brother-in-law neighbor with their house renovations.

"My parents didn't do much of that kind of thing," said Loren Laslett, another condo owner doing home improvement work. "When my mother wanted something she hired an interior decorator."

She and her boyfriend built a small wall to replace open stair railing. She painted two bathrooms and helped install a new bathroom.

"Unless by some fluke women usually are never introduced to this," she said. "I think that's one of the difficulties they find themselves with: rudimentary knowledge of tools and materials is just simply there. I think you can find yourself more afraid of these undertakings than you really ought to be."

That fear helps explain why workers in stores such as Maryland-based Hechinger's chain are as much teachers as salesmen. The chain offers instructional booklets. Large stores hold demonstrations in the new such things as putting up walls and stripping furniture.

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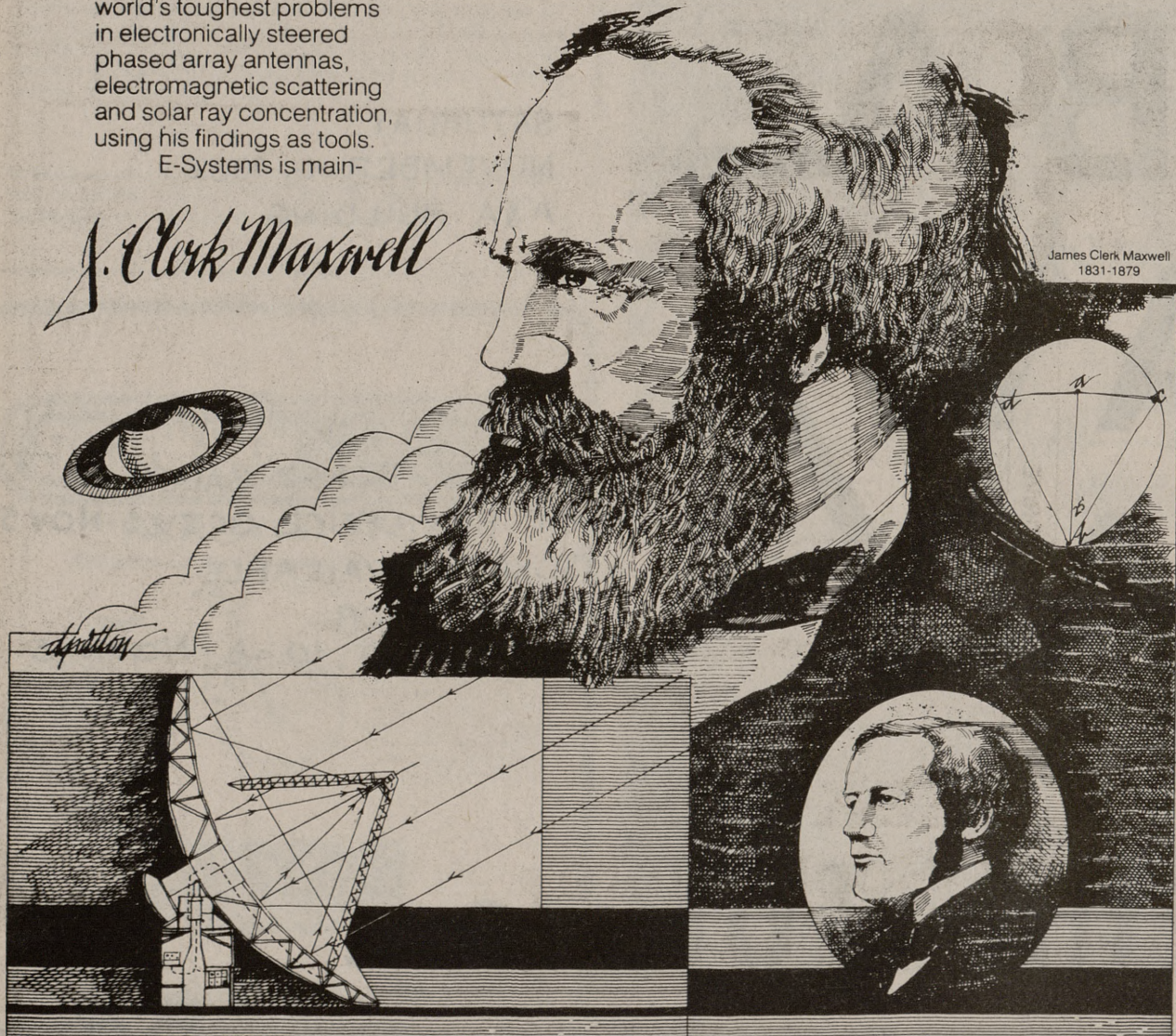
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