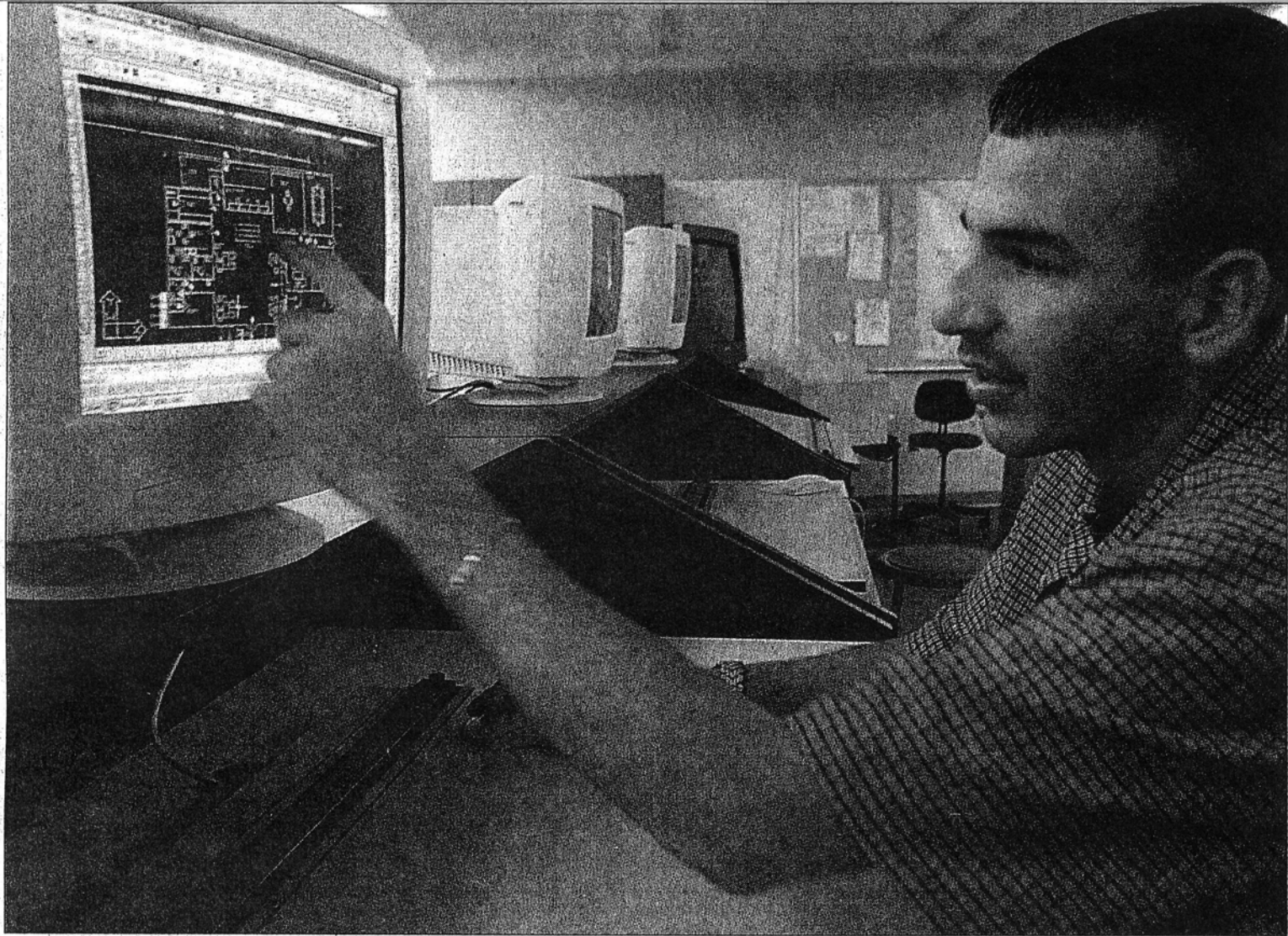


FLORIDA'S *best* NEWSPAPER

# St. Petersburg Times



Times photo — MIKE PEASE

Sickles High School senior Robert De Loach describes the layout of his award-winning design of a residential bank building. The design took first place in a state drafting contest.

## Sickles draftsman wins state honors

■ In fact, all three top students in the state contest attend Sickles. Robert De Loach's entry will be entered in the national contest in Washington.

By EMILY K. CROMWELL  
Times Staff Writer

CITRUS PARK — A Sickles High School senior has received top honors in a state drafting contest.

De Loach, his classmates and other drafting students from around the nation were asked to design a residential bank building that met the architectural specifications of the historic district of Little Rock, Ark.

He is among three Sickles students who were finalists from the Tampa Bay area: Jay Chartlos, a senior, placed second, and Cynthia Ruiz, a sophomore, placed third.

"This is the first time I have ever seen it happen," said drafting and illustrative design teacher Denis Binder.

Binder, who first became involved with the

"The true meaning of drafting is put to the test instead of following the book," Binder said. The students were even able to use the Internet.

"Along with our regular class work, this project took us from the beginning of the school year to April 1," De Loach said.

Having three local winners from the same school was unexpected: The entries were identified by code, so the judges did not know who the contestants were or where they attended school.

De Loach's drawing will now go to Washington to compete for the national title. "I don't get to go, but my drawing does," he said.