Shai Plays Coliseum This Sunday

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of us met through (pledging) and we met Garfield through Darnell. It just kinda clicked. It never came down to something like since we're in the frat, kick out Gar-

Gay threw the name around when they were considering names for a group.

We said it sounds good, it has a good meaning. Why

Shai has quickly built a reputation as balladeers. Gay said that's due in part to time constraints in making the album, which was recorded in three weeks.

"Definitely, even though we do that best, we really didn't have time to formulate a style on uptempo stuff. That's one reason ballads are so formidable for us right now. Plus, we had such great material for ballads. Once people do get into the fast cuts and stuff, they'll realize we not just into ballads," he

"We're pretty much selfcontained but we would be stupid to say not if someone offered like Babyface or Jam and Lewis or any of the young producers. We've even met with Teddy (Riley) but these producers are really busy and stick to their schedules. That's why it's good we can do things on our own."

The group is currently on tour as part of the Coca-Cola Summerfest -- a rap and r&b tour that also features Heavy D & The Boyz, SWV, Jade, L.L. Cool J. and Silk. The tour started July 2 in Sacramento, and stops in Charlotte Sunday. Gay said the group isn't intimidated by the size of the Charlotte Coliseum.

"We did a thing in Chattanooga last week in front of 80,000 people. It was one of those river festival type atmospheres. The crowd really

enjoyed it, really got into it." Gay said the group will work on its second CD once the tour is finished. That will also give the group members a chance to finish their education at Howard.

Mark is the only one that graduated. "The other guys are seniors and only have a semester left. So that definitely is in sight. But right now we're so busy with the tour and the new record out."

> The Award Winning!!! Charlotte Post

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'The Firm' Crusies Into No. 1 Spot; 'Jurassic Park' Beats 'Batman' To The \$200 Million Mark By 10 Days

By John Horn ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - Although lawyers said "The Firm" didn't win its case, hordes of moviegoers made the legal thriller the No. 1 movie over the holiday weekend with \$32.5 million in ticket sales.

Thanks to "The Firm," "Jurassic Park" and the romantic comedy "Sleepless in Seattle." the summer movie season is off to a record start, according to figures released Tuesday.

In June alone, \$571.5 million worth of tickets were sold, easily surpassing last June's gate of \$477.5 million. The June record was set

in 1989 with \$562.6 million. "The Firm" knocked "Jurassic Park" out of the top spot following its three-week reign. "The Firm," based on the John Grisham novel about corrupt lawyers, not surprisingly has been labeled unrealistic by attor-

In second place with \$25.3 million was "Jurassic Park," now the 12th highestgrossing film of all time with a total take of \$212.6 million.

"Sleepless in Seattle" earned \$16.1 million for third place over the weekend and "Dennis the Menace" made \$10.1 million for fourth.

The re-release of the animated classic "Snow White" finished fifth on a gate of \$9 million and the new Pauly Shore comedy "Son-in-Law' collected a modest \$7 million for sixth.

"Last Action Hero" brought in \$6.4 million for seventh, but its gross was boosted by sold-out sneak previews of "In the Line of Fire." The turnstile receipts from that film, which opens Friday, are added to "Last Action Hero" in a quirk of Holly-

wood bookkeeping.
Eighth place went to "What's Love Got to Do With It" on \$5.7 million and "Cliffhanger" was ninth with \$3.8 million. "Menace II Society" netted \$1.6 million for

Here are the weekend's top 20 films, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

Estimated ticket sales are from Friday through Monday, with distributor, weekend gross, number of theater locations, average per location, total gross and number of weeks in release.

Figures are based on actual receipts and projections where actual figures were not available.

1. "The Firm," Paramount, \$32.5 million, 2,393 locations, \$13,572 per location, \$45.6 million, 1 1/2 weeks.

2. "Jurassic Park," Universal, \$25.3 million, 2,496 locations, \$10,135 per location, \$212.1 million, four weeks.

3. "Sleepless in Seattle," TriStar, \$16.1 million, 1,601 locations, \$10,058 per location, \$43.3 million, two weeks.

4. "Dennis the Menace," Warner Bros., \$10.1 million, 2,085 locations, \$4,836 per location, \$26.2 million, two

5. "Snow White," Disney, \$9 million, 1,814 locations, \$4,971 per location, \$9 million, one week.

6. "Son-in-Law," Disney, \$7 million, 1,389 locations,

\$5,064 per location, \$7 million, one week.

7. "Last Action Hero," Columbia, \$6.4 million, 2,306 locations, \$2,778 per location, \$40.1 million, three

8. "What's Love Got to Do With It," Disney, \$5.7 million, 1,100 locations, \$5,225 per location, \$21.7 million,

9. "Cliffhanger," TriStar, \$3.8 million, 1,786 locations, \$2,139 per location, \$71.4 million, six weeks.

10. "Menace II Society," New Line, \$1.6 million, 552 locations, \$2,982 per location, \$20.9 million, six weeks.

11. "Much Ado About Nothing," Goldwyn, \$1.31 million, 201 locations, \$6,534 per location, \$9.7 million, nine weeks.

12. "Made in America," Warner Bros., \$1.27 million, 1,271 locations, \$1,003 per location, \$40.1 million, six weeks.

13. "Dave," Warner Bros., \$1.1 million, 912 locations, \$1,260 per location, \$60.2 million, nine weeks.

14. "Guilty as Sin," Disney, \$952,000, 1,081 locations, \$881 per location, \$20.9 million, five weeks.

15. "Hot Shots! Part Deux," 20th Century Fox, \$692,000, 746 locations, \$928 per location, \$35.4 million, seven weeks.

16. "Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story," Universal, \$687,000,

735 locations, \$935 per location, \$32.9 million, nine weeks.

17. "Like Water For Chocolate," Miramax, \$641,000, 166 locations, \$3,863 per location, \$11.3 million, 20

18. "The Sandlot," 20th Century Fox, \$439,000, 491 locations, \$896 per location, \$30.3 million, 13 weeks.

19. "Once Upon a Forest," 20th Century Fox, \$377,000, 744 locations, \$508 per location, \$5.7 million, three

20. "Orlando," Sony Classics, \$366,000, 25 locations, \$14,668 per location, \$1.1 million, four weeks.



