

Film festival winner is unusual idea

By James Parker
of the Leader-Post

Some might consider those American radio talk shows that deal with affairs of the heart unusual inspiration for an award-winning movie script.

But unusual or not, that inspiration paid off for Will Dixon Friday night.

Dixon picked up the best script

award and \$1,000 at the Saskatchewan Film and Video Showcase Friday for penning *Heartline*, a film he describes as an "over the telephone love story."

A recent graduate of the University of Regina's film program, Dixon co-produced the 30-minute flick with Angelo Hatzitolios.

While *Heartline* also got the nod as best student film, it was the

script award that took Dixon by surprise.

"I was really excited and really surprised about winning the script," he said Sunday about a film that tells the story of a talk show host who falls in love with one of his regular callers.

"I wasn't sure about the competition and I didn't count on it."

Dixon has been working in Toronto for the last few months doing freelance production work on television commercials.

But lately he's been yearning to return to Saskatchewan, not just for a reunion with family and friends, but also to embark on another project.

"If there's a chance to get work in Regina, I'd like to stick around for six months or so and shoot something during the summer."

"The money isn't there, but the contacts are. It would be the easiest place to do it."

While Dixon ponders his future, Gerald Saul and Brian Stockton have to decide how to split the \$600 they won for producing, writing and directing *Wheat Soup*.

That film won the best overall production award. It also took home two craft honors. One was given to Spyro Egarhos for best cinematography, the other to Marc LaFoy and Angelo Hatz for best sound.

Saul also won the best first production and best animation awards for his film, *I can't go home*.

Stockton produced the best experimental film, *All form, No substance*.

Other winners were:

- best dramatic film: *Jimmy's Game*, directed by Jerry Horne.

- best cable television community production: *Saskatchewan Roughrider Magazine*, episode six-directed by Rob Dewhirst.

- best commercial production: *SADAC commercials* produced by *Sunspirt productions*.

Hope's jokes

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Comedian Bob Hope took aim at the White House, Wall Street and politicians as he toasted the 35th anniversary of Sands Hotel.

Hope, performing Saturday night at a private dinner dance, said that only four weeks ago his stockbroker was telling him "buy." Now, the comedian said, his broker his telling him "jump."

Hope, 84, said he was in Washington recently, but didn't stop by the White House because "I didn't want to be on the Supreme Court."

He said former Democratic presidential candidate Gary Hart "wanted to throw his hat in the ring again, but he forget where he left it."

The dinner dance was attended by high rollers, officials and past performers, including Patti Page, Foster Brooks and members of the *Copa Girls* chorus line that played the *Copa Room*.

"The Sands was the hotel that started Las Vegas on the big time," said Senator Chic Hecht (R-Nev.). "It was the first hotel that brought big entertainers and it's the hotel that really skyrocketed this town."