

Haaren High senior combines Redd Foxx and Mr. Clean

By ALI STANTON

If Joslyn Morgan's fellow students in Haaren High School's senior class go home with their jaws hurting or their sides splitting, it's not that they have caught the flu. They have just been cracking up over Morgan's witty jokes.

In fact, he zings those snappy one-liners out so fast, his nickname is "Josh" — which the dictionary explains is a goodnatured joke.

The 18-year-old student, who works weekends for Western Union, evenings for a dry cleaner, and yet keeps up with his homework, is billed as the youngest comedian from Latin America — he was born in Panama City, Panama.

Gigging with his gags regularly at such spots as The Other End, Folk City, The Golden Lion Pub, The Magic Townhouse, The Stepping Stone, Al & Dick's Steakhouse, Catch A Rising Star and Improvisation Nightclub — all proving grounds for fellow comics like Jimmy Walker, Freddie Prinze and Gabe Kaplan — Josh was recently complimented by Laugh Maker News, the trade paper for comedians, on his professional performance.

"He silenced the crowd at the Triple Inn — a rendezvous for many fellow entertainers — for two minutes," the critic said, "which is quite a feat."

In a noisy night club full of other headliners, it indicates respect when



JOSH MORGAN

they stop yakking and clinking glasses long enough to salute a performer's act.

To Redd Foxx, Rudy Ray Moore and even Jimmy Walker, who — outside of TV — have gotten some of their heartiest belly laughs from night club audiences who seem to think "if it's dirty, it's funny," young Josh Morgan may be considered a new breed of jokester. Josh claims, "To get respect, you must earn it."

He added, "Get a clean act together. I think that many people expect X-rated stuff when they see a Black comic."

Josh is headed for college after he graduates from Haaren and expects to major in psychology.

Until then, his laughs, which deal with Black insecurity, and his philosophy of humor will be fashioned and influenced by his afterschool work — carrying messages like in Western Union and clean-like in dry cleaners.