

## ISLAND HOPPING

### EAR TO THE GROUND

// I love you, Trinidad! //

—WHITNEY HOUSTON, addressing the crowd at this year's Plymouth Jazz Fest. Audience members repeatedly (and correctly) replied, "This is Tobago!"



### LOCAL FLAVOR Breakfast of Champions

About half an hour from Jamaica's capital, Kingston, the beach at Hellshire is popular among city slickers — not because of sea and sand, but for the string of colorful, rustic fish shacks strewn along its caramel shore, each with a devoted following. Established 35 years ago there, Aunt May's is a fixture that serves up to 200 pounds of snapper, parrot and yellowtail daily. Pick your fish from the cooler as you enter, order up some festival (slightly sweet fried dumplings) and bammy (steamed or fried cassava bread), then settle in for a sometimes lengthy wait. Vendors amble through the sand-floor huts hawkings scorching-hot peppershrimp, fresh oranges and homemade compilation CDs, while families splash in the surf and children roll in the sand.

Aunt May serves fish steamed, roasted in foil or in a brown stew sauce, but first-timers should surrender to the specialty: flash-fried in a bubbling cauldron of vegetable oil until crisp on the outside and moist and flaky within. Drizzled with a tangy escoveitch pickle of white vinegar, Scotch bonnet peppers and onions, which is cheerfully passed from table to table in a communal 5-gallon bucket, it's the down-home breakfast for which Jamaicans living abroad rightfully pine. Open 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekends (from 8:30 a.m. weekdays). Cash only; 876-880-0499. — S.G.-G.



### LOCAL TALENT Art and Sole

AS A SCHOOLBOY IN Guyana, Godfrey Dodson never imagined he'd grow up to make sandals for a living. But about a decade ago he took an art class and discovered an interest in leather craft. Now he and a trio of partners own Creative Talent Craft, a busy design studio in East Bank, where they hand-make sandals, belts and purses from the hides of cattle raised on ranches in the western Rupununi region.

Dodson begins by tracing sandal shapes onto sheets of leather and then cuts them out, using a steel rod to stamp decorative designs onto the skins, which are stained before being assembled. The result is a variety of comfortable styles for men, women

and children (some with woven straps, others with trendy wedge heels). Dodson's favorite? The pair with a leaf design in red, green



and yellow, which reminds him of his homeland's lush rainforest. Sandals cost \$40 to \$50 and are sold at Aragorn's Studio in Tortola; 284-495-1849. — Joan Tapper