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■ NINA SIMONE SCULPTURE:

Legendary singer-songwriter-pianist Nina Simone is being depicted in a 6-foot-tall bronze sculpture by noted sculptor Zenos Frudakis. The statue will be erected in the fall as an outdoor, public art installation on the main downtown thoroughway in Simone's birthplace of Tryon, N.C. The entertainer's daughter, singer Simone, posed for the sculptor's full-scale figure. The sculpture is presented by the Eunice Waymon-Nina Simone Memorial Project (www.ninasimoneproject.org),

which sponsors the Nina Simone Scholarship program. Simone, whose voice helped define the '60s Civil Rights Movement with tunes such as *To Be Young, Gifted and Black*, *Mississippi Goddam* and *Why (The King Of Love Is Dead)*, a tribute to Martin Luther King Jr., died of cancer at age 70 (JET, May 5, 2003).



Zenos Frudakis



Courtesy of The Russells

■ **R&B GROUP CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY:** The Legendary Orioles, (from left) Royal Height, Albert "Diz" Russell, Charles Ellis and Ray Apollo, perform recently at the Lyric Theater in Baltimore in celebration of the group's 60th year in music. They are hailed as the oldest R&B recording group, according to music experts. Russell recalls the group's trailblazing career in his new book, *The Orioles: Albert "Diz" Russell: The Second Generation*, written with Dr. Rachel Louise Clay. The group, formerly Sonny Til & the Orioles, is known for the holiday favorite *What Are You Doing New Year's Eve*, *Crying In The Chapel*, *Tell Me So* and *It's Too Soon To Know*. Russell's wife, Millie Russell, manages the group.