

Diana Nyad
130 Christopher St.
Apt. 6
N.Y., N.Y. 10014

December 4, 1974

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bucha,

It is actually to Sandy that I would like to address the following but I haven't her exact location at Stanford so I am hoping that you will either forward her my letter or pass on my words.

I obviously needn't tell you that the world standings in pro swimming are frequently a very poor indication of the swimmers' varying abilities. And I am afraid that this is especially true with regard to the women's ratings. For the sake of history and perhaps something like poetic justice, in 1970 and 1971 I was by far the best female marathoner that the sport had then encountered (it is difficult to talk about such true greats as Greta Andersen because we never competed together and generations of speed times separated comparing us.) In any case, during those two summers I finished consistently high even in the top men's places and no other woman came close to me in any competition. However, both years found me quite low on the overall world standing list. I thought the point system was unfair and felt cheated.

At the close of the 1974 season there is absolutely no professional swimmer or anyone knowledgeable about the sport who can deny that Sandy Bucha is the best female to date. I am sure that both you and she must feel as outraged as I had in the past and I am only writing to express some vague sort of humbleness and to try to explain to you that there is an irony that you may not understand and that is that I feel I deserve the world championship at least once. Sandy has some record-breaking long-distance swims to come and I shall most likely be there to participate and wish her luck simultaneously.

My very best,

Diana Nyad
Diana Nyad

P.S. I was going to begin "Colonel" Bucha but I can't remember the precise rank so I thought I'd be safe with "Mr."

*Got this and the letter from
Diana*