

# Notes on Bonnie Stoll's letter to Brent Rutenmiller

**Bonnie Stoll did not write this letter.** Whoever wrote Diana Nyad's letter to Rutenmiller — Nyad presumably — also wrote this one.

The packet includes another letter from Stoll that does not sound or look at all like this one. Stoll/Nyad begins this letter with a half-hearted attempt to differentiate it from her other letter to Rutenmiller, i.e., by writing "Dear Mr. Rutenmiller" rather than "Dear Brent." Nyad abandons the effort immediately afterwards.

Below is some of the evidence that Nyad forged/ghost-wrote this document:

1. First lines/last lines.

**Nyad:** "Allow me to start by"/"Respectfully submitted"

**Stoll:** "Allow me to introduce myself"/"Respectfully submitted"

2. Use of the word "truth" in the same idiosyncratic way.

**Nyad:** "I would appreciate an opportunity to speak my truth."

**Stoll:** "[W]e, Diana's team, now want to speak our own truth."

3. Unnecessary use of scare quotes under similar circumstances.

**Nyad:** "I sincerely appreciate your having 'listened'."

**Stoll:** "Thank you for 'listening', Mr. Rutenmiller."

**Nyad:** "the syndrome of 'haters are going to hate'."

**Stoll:** "My understanding is that a couple of these 'haters' are fixated . . ."

**Note:** In both letters, Nyad puts the comma and periods outside of the quotes. In American written English, the comma and periods go inside the quotation marks. Nyad also makes this error in "TRIUMPH": "the point where 'no sea water remained'."

4. Similar references to other team members:

**Nyad:** "These are reputable professionals, Brent. People with esteemed careers . . ."

**Stoll:** "Each one of these esteemed people is willing to appear in person."

5. Both letters look the same (probably same printer and computer). The other Stoll letter looks entirely different.

6. In both letters, Nyad uses similar language to express logical fallacies:

**Nyad:** It has come to my attention that there primarily exist three people, their motives a mystery to me, who speak ill of me in the marathon swimming community, who illogically express doubts as to the veracity of the Cuba swim, and who malign my honorable character.

**Stoll:** It has, shockingly, come to our team's attention that there are some entirely illogical charges against the legitimacy of Diana's swim.

**Nyad:** "The other three I've mentioned come under the syndrome of 'haters are going to hate'."

**Stoll:** "It is not only a grave insult to Diana, to hear these few haters express their vitriol, but it is an unsportsmanlike and unworthy affair, to have Diana's dedicated team experience aspersions cast upon their character as well."

Stoll doesn't write like that. In the letter that she wrote herself, you will find no haters and no vitriol. You *will* find a kind, thoughtful woman who seems to have a lot of respect for Diana Nyad (God only knows why) and who likes to write in ALL CAPS.

LATE ADDITION! (thanks to EM):

In her [other letter](#), Stoll sometimes uses ALL CAPS:

"She wanted and succeeded in swimming NONSTOP,"

"[C]all with any questions about ANYTHING to do with this most EPIC swim," etc.

**Nyad** never does.