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Contact: Meg Meo, 512-494-2867 or
mmeo@echristianpr.com
David Wyatt, 512-494-2887 or
dwyatt@echristianpr.com

Statement from Texas Monthly, Chairman and CEO, Paul W. Hobby

Throughout our 45-year history, *Texas Monthly* has been known for our quality journalism and an ironclad commitment to editorial integrity. Our credibility is our most precious resource.

The magazine did not and will not sell our covers. Bumble's Whitney Wolfe Herd was the best option for the cover of the newsstand copies of our February issue, and that's why she's featured. No money changed hands to promote any story. No editorial or cover considerations were influenced by outside interests.

Editor-in-Chief Tim Taliaferro's communications with Bumble publicists may have incorrectly appeared to be a blurred line between the editorial and business sides of the magazine. When it comes to *Texas Monthly's* journalism, even the appearance of impropriety can be damaging and is not acceptable. Taliaferro has acknowledged his misstep and regret to our staff, who care deeply about upholding the highest standards of journalism.

As part of our commitment to protecting our editorial integrity, and for the assurance of our staff and readers alike, we have engaged Rich Oppel (former editor of the *Austin American-Statesman*, multiple Pulitzer Prize and National Press Foundation award-winning editor) to serve as a third-party ombudsman. He will review our processes and organizational structure and make recommendations for implementing every appropriate safeguard to protect our work.

We take seriously our responsibility to maintain the hard-earned reputation of this magazine. We stand by the tenets of journalism and are committed to making our processes — and this team — stronger than ever.