The character Franklin first appeared
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dean of social sciences and professor of sociology and African American studies at UCLA, tells Yahoo Life: ﹾHaving on this long side by himself, you could interpret it that no one wanted to sit next to him. ﹿ

Hunt, who remembers ﹾfeeling included in ways I hadnﹿt beforeﹿ when he first saw Franklin in a Peanuts comic strip, says that Schulz ﹾprobably thought he was doing a good thing by including the character at all. ﹿ But Hunt says itﹿs a ﹾclassic exampleﹿ of what can be missed ﹾeven when youﹿre trying to be inclusive. ﹿ

ﹾToday this would not be acceptable, ﹿ says Hunt. ﹾIt really does speak to the need for more inclusive creators and storytellers behind the scenes who produce these images. ﹿ He adds: ﹾThatﹿs why itﹿs so important to have people in the writersﹿ room and in production who might be more sensitive to these issues. ﹿ

But not everyone views the scene as problematic. On Nov. 20, the Charles M. Schulz Museum hosted an online event with Black cartoonists Robb Armstrong, Darrin Bell, Elizabeth Montague and Bianca Xunise during which they discussed the controversy over A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving.

Bell, who won a Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning, said that a lot of cartoons are like Rorschach tests, in which people have their own interpretations of certain scenes. ﹾWhen I saw that image , my first thought was Charles Schulz really wanted Franklin to be seen and Franklin was really important, ﹿ Bell said. He added that Peanuts was a ﹾkindﹿ and ﹾinclusiveﹿ comic strip.

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