

The character Franklin first appeared

Posted by
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dean of
social sciences and professor of sociology and African American studies at UCLA, tells Yahoo
Life: Having on this long side by himself, you could interpret it that no one wanted to sit next
to him.
 Hunt, who remembers feeling included in ways I hadn't before when
he first saw Franklin in a Peanuts comic strip, says that Schulz probably thought he was doing
a good thing by including the character at all. But Hunt says it's a classic example of
what can be missed even when you're trying to be inclusive.
 Today this
would not be acceptable, says Hunt. It really does speak to the need for more inclusive
creators and storytellers behind the scenes who produce these images. He adds: That's
why it's so important to have people in the writers' room and in production who might be
more sensitive to these issues.
 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. When I saw that image, my first thought was
Charles Schulz really wanted Franklin to be seen and Franklin was really important, Bell said.
He added that Peanuts was a kind and inclusive comic strip.

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