Why Do You Call Me “Faggot”?  
An Editorial in Verse

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This is an editorial verse by author Warren Blumenfeld who is an Assistant Professor of Multicultural and International Curriculum in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Iowa State University. Among his publications are Investigating Christian Privilege and Religious Oppression in the United States, Readings for Diversity and Social Justice, Homophobia: How We All Pay the Price, and Looking at Gay and Lesbian Life.
Why Do You Call Me “Faggot”?

As you drive down the boulevard  
Why do you call me “faggot”?  

Alone or with your fellows  
You shriek menacing refrains  
Bellowing in mocking intonations  

You blast your horn  
Or slow your pace  
Or circle back to reprise your taunts  

What fuels this need inside?  
Who gives permission and cover?  

Where does this entitlement stem?  
Who offers tacit approval?  

When I express gender traditionally  
Why do you call me “faggot”?  

When I gender non-conform  
Why do you call me “faggot”?  

When I walk alone or in company  
Why do you call me “faggot”?  

For I am a person, like you, making my way in the world  

I am a professor at your university  
I am a neighbor in your town  
I shop where you shop  
And I breathe the air you breath  

Sunlight shines on me as on you  
Rain and snow wash over me as over you  

Like the Eastern Goldfinch, the Cardinal, and the Dove  
Heartland winds tug and lift me  
Do they lift you too?  

And I am comfortable in my skin  
Are you comfortable in yours?  

So why do you call me “faggot”?  