

## **Book Review**

**Title:** *On a Roll: Reflections from America's Wheelchair Dude With the Winning Attitude*

**Author:** Greg Smith

**Publisher:** On a Roll Communications, 2005

Paper, ISBN 0-9767111-0-9, 279 pages

**Cost:** \$19.95 USD

**Reviewer:** Steven E. Brown

“I had always believed there was a major purpose for my life. There had to be some reason that God made me a skinny, crippled guy with a deep voice, who also happens to be black, stubborn, and aggressive” (pp. 147-48).

I recall the first time I met Greg. We were outside, in Washington, D.C., at a memorial for Ed Roberts. Greg had a microphone in his hands and he was interviewing Justin Dart. Neither Ed nor Justin are with us any longer, but Greg's interviews with them are. Greg has been the radio voice of disability rights for over a decade. During that time his vision has changed, but his ambition has not. He has done a great deal during his years on the planet and he envisions much more to come, despite being born with Muscular Dystrophy and, as he is quick to point out, being a 65-pound dude.

This is an excellent memoir, well written, full of ideas and memories and with valiant attempts to be fair to both positive recollections and ones less so. This is not always achieved, but Greg is willing to put his foibles as well as his outstanding characteristics into the book for the public to decide how he has done. There is a lot of name-dropping (you have to read far into the book to find mine) and he has more “best friends” than I can imagine, but that is Greg—an extremely personable kind of guy.

Greg has been a drummer (from his wheelchair); a sports fan; a salesperson; a radio personality, both in front of and behind the microphone; a husband; father; and speaker, among many other achievements.

His book is an excellent autobiography of an activist/publicist. It belongs in every library and in lots of disability and diversity courses.