

DAZED, FAMOUS

There are many areas in which those with attention deficit disorder are able to focus intensely and bring to bear the creativity and occasional genius associated with their racing brains. These figures show traits of attention disorder.



TERRY BRADSHAW

The former Steelers quarterback has ADHD and has overcome depression, too.



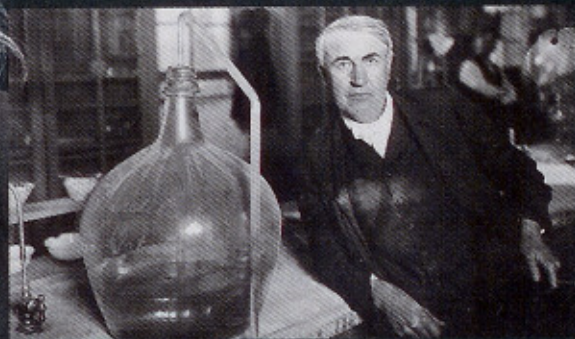
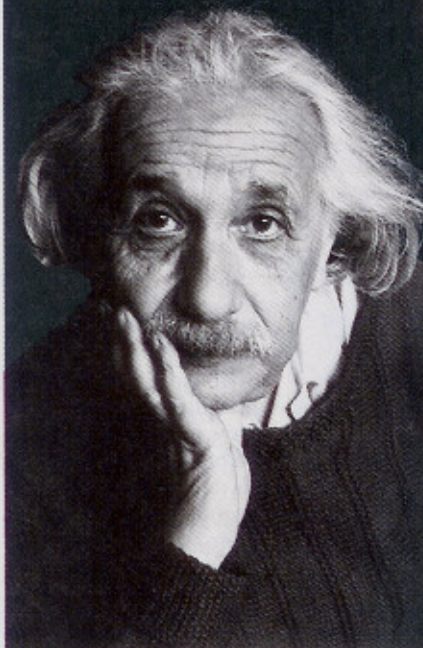
SALVADOR DALI

The painter's exhibitionism could also be explained as ADD impulsiveness.



JAMES CARVILLE

When the political guru was a child, his mother said, he could never sit still.



ALBERT EINSTEIN

Inattentiveness could explain why he was 4 years old before he could speak.

THOMAS EDISON

The future inventor's teachers described him as being "addled."



MARIETTE HARTLEY

It runs in families. The actress has spoken about her and her daughter's ADHD.

subjective feelings of restlessness)." With this peculiar age bias, many adults with the disorder can find themselves falling through diagnostic cracks.

No one knows for sure what causes ADD, but it is generally thought to be a complex alchemy of genetics, environment, and biochemistry. "Some people can have a stronger genetic load to their condition, some a stronger environ-

Pam Rossi never smoked, but she will always wonder if the high forceps delivery 31 years ago of Eric Johnson, the oldest of her three sons, could have been responsible for his subsequent ADD. The birth was difficult, and he was starved for oxygen and bruised around the neck. Rossi, a slender and chic interior designer, pulls out a worn baby book from 1972 when Eric was born. He was 9

because understanding of the disorder was just beginning, the specialists who saw Eric did not diagnose him properly. All the difficulties began to take their toll, and when Eric was in ninth grade, his jaunty intellectual self-confidence began to be replaced by creeping self-doubt. He knew he was intelligent, but he still couldn't perform. His ninth-grade teacher suggested to Rossi that he

ATTENTION DISORDER, WITH ITS WIDELY VARYING SYMPTOMS, IS A CHALLENGE FOR EVEN THE MOST SKILLED CLINICIAN.

mental load, and for others, obstetric complications at birth could contribute to the disorder," says Stephen Faraone, a clinical professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Those obstetric complications include the consequences of mothers' smoking: Studies of pregnant rats and mice, for example, have shown a direct association between chronic exposure to nicotine and hyperactive baby mice and rats.

pounds, 8 ounces at birth. At the 6-month milestone, Pam Rossi wrote: "Eric never sleeps." In retrospect, that observation was diagnostic of early ADD. While Eric was clearly a brilliant child, reading early and voraciously, with enormous artistic talent, he floundered in school. Rossi took him to various specialists, all of whom had different notions of the problem. Because Eric was inattentive, rather than hyperactive, and

switch to vocational education classes. "You can't do this to him," Rossi said to the teacher. "This is a child who reads, who loves academics." She took Eric for another evaluation and finally received the diagnosis and a prescription for 10 milligrams of the stimulant medication Dexedrine. His performance at school was transformed, and his art became somehow more disciplined.

Russell Barkley, a professor at the