

**Wheels:** An e-mail from Howard says, “I have a 1986 Toyota Tercel hatchback. It has 145,000 miles on it and runs great except that it was running up in speed and then dropping back like it was off to the races. I took it to my dealer and he said that it needed to have the carburetor rebuilt. Many dollars later, it was rebuilt. It still does the same thing – not so often but it will speed up and drop back somewhat. What can it be? I give up. I have another problem that really is a stinker. I have a smell coming from the exhaust that smells like metal. It is like antifreeze that has been burned though I haven’t lost any and can find no idea what is going on. I lose oil but through several gasket leaks surrounding the engine. Is there any other item that I am overlooking?”

**Halderman:** The engine speed and smell may be related. It is possible that some antifreeze has leaked past the head gasket and yet it may be such a small amount that the radiator level does not go down. It could be what is causing the engine to slow down (when antifreeze is being drawn into the engine), then speeding back up when it seals again. With as many miles as you have on the engine, there are many possible causes including worn valve guides. How long do you wish to keep the car? If you want to keep it another 100,000 miles, it may need an overhaul to restore the engine to like new condition. I would just drive the car and keep an eye on the fluid levels if this were my vehicle.

