

**Wheels:** An e-mail from Cindy says, "I have a 1988 Oldsmobile. Within the last 18 months, I have replaced the oil pressure switch on the car twice and am getting ready to do so again. I have been lucky not to run the car empty of oil on each occasion at the time they have gone out but what could be causing this to happen. I have been told that this is unheard of. Would you have any idea of why this might be happening and what I need to look for to correct this. I am afraid that a \$5 part is going to eventually destroy my engine. I am a single mother and can't afford to be buy another car. I have sunk my money into this one with rebuilding the engine, putting in a transmission. There is not much of anything that I haven't already replaced on the car. I just can't get past this problem. Repair shops keep putting in new switches, but they keep failing. I was told that they may be cracking them by tightening them down too tight or that maybe one had been cross-threaded and eventually starts leaking around the threads. Anything you could offer in the way of help or suggestions on this would be gratefully accepted."

**Halderman:** The oil pressure switch is a high failure part (pattern failure) on this engine and it could be damaged by over tightening. You are wise to keep an eye on signs of leakage. The only other thing you could do is to replace it with a plug but this would prevent the operation of the oil pressure warning light and I would not recommend you do this. I recommend that you purchase a spare and have it replaced whenever you see it leaking.

