

**Wheels:** An e-mail from Jim of Dayton says, “I have a 1995 Pontiac Grand Prix with a 3.1 liter engine and 76,000 miles that is in well-maintained condition overall. Twice in the past 5 or 6 weeks, I have been stranded in a parking lot downtown when the car wouldn’t start. It was as though there was no battery in it - no clicking sound, no nothing. The first time, I called AAA and they jump started it and then stopped and started it a couple of times without incident. I told them to tow it because I was convinced there was something wrong. Five weeks later, the same thing happened in the same parking lot. Again, the technicians could find nothing wrong. The only common denominator I can determine is that it seems to happen only on colder days. Do you have any ideas?”

**Halderman:** The most likely cause is a loose connection at the starter or engine block where the battery cables attach. This would be consistent with the problems you have had. Another common cause would be corrosion in the battery cables themselves reducing the amount of current they can carry and creating an excessive voltage drop. Replacement of the battery cables may be necessary.

