

**Wheels:** An e-mail from Bill says, "I have a 1995 Olds, 98 sedan. A week and a half ago the volt light came on and stayed on for a couple of days. I took it to a shop where I get my auto work done. They checked it out and said the alternator was bad. They put a new one on, but when I pulled out of the driveway, the volt light was on. When I hit the brake, the hot water and oil light came on and then it would start to stall. When I let up on the brake, it ran okay. Then the volt light came on and I hit the brake. It did the same thing. Do you have any idea what could be causing the light to come on?"

**Halderman:** I checked the data base of the International Automotive Technicians Network ([www.iatn.net](http://www.iatn.net)) and they showed only one case that was similar to your situation. It was caused by a bad computer, which controls the alternator in your vehicle. A more likely cause is a weak or defective battery or a poor electrical ground connection. The fuel gauge, fuel pump, and brake lights could be sharing the same ground connection in the rear of the vehicle and this may be related to the charging system warning light. Check the battery and replace it if is original (nine years old!) and then have the ground connections checked.

