**Wheels:** Ned writes that his 1995 2-liter, 4-cylinder Mazda runs rough and the exhaust blows blue smoke when cold only. He states that it has 360,000 miles on the odometer and knows that the engine is likely worn. Besides a complete overhaul, do you have any ideas?

**Halderman:** Congratulations on having achieved getting over 300,000 miles on the vehicle. This means that Ned must be doing a good job of maintenance with regular oil changes. Because the blue smoke and the engine miss both stop when the engine has been run for a while, a fault with the fuel pressure regulator or partially stuck open fuel injector is indicated. Both of these faults can cause gasoline to drip into the cylinder after the engine is turned off. The gasoline can wash down the cylinder walls removing the thin film of oil that helps seal the piston rings in the cylinder. When the engine is started, the engine misses because the spark plugs are partially fouled and the exhaust blows blue smoke because the oil from the crankcase can reach the combustion chamber past the rings. After the engine has operated for a few minutes, the oil film is restored to the cylinder walls and the spark plugs have been cleaned of the fouling liquid gasoline so the engine runs properly. I think Ned should have the fuel system checked before doing any extensive engine work.

