What If?

Einstein developed the special theory of relativity by taking a single "what-if" possibility and following it to its logical conclusion: What if the speed of light were constant in all frames of reference? The consequences were that time, mass, and size would change for bodies moving at anywhere near the speed of light relative to an observer.

These consequences are so counterintuitive (impossible, people said) that no one had seriously followed up on the possibility before. Since Einstein, they have been verified as valid. I credit Einstein with great courage, courage to follow a what-if through to predictable but apparently absurd consequences.

Sometimes you have to have courage to follow through on an idea. Don't throw out too quickly ideas that have "absurd" consequences.

> From Chapter 6 of **Get Out of the Way!** How to Manage Development of Timely, Innovative, and Relevant Products by John V. Levy, Ph.D.