

What guided Herman in his career?

The following is one viewpoint.

First some background: On March 29, 1966, a new musical, *It's A Bird, It's A Plane, It's Superman*, opened on Broadway, staged and produced by Harold Prince, music by Charles Strouse and lyrics by Lee Adams, and book by David Newman and Robert Benton.

It is based on the comic book character Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster and published by DC Comics. One (and the more wicked) of the two villains is Dr. Abner Sedgwick, a ten-time Nobel Prize loser mad scientist bent on taking his revenge on the world by destroying Superman.

He sings the following song.

REVENGE Dr. Abner Sedgwick

Look at me: a ten times Nobel Prize loser!

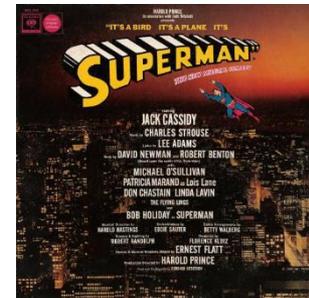
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I was getting set to publish
When much to my surprise
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And for what? For work on the heterogeneous nature of colloid
solutions! My field! My colloids!

In 1949 I thought I had it made:
My work in light diffusion
Put my colleagues in the shade.
But then my hopes were shattered
By some Hindu in Ceylon.
They gave the prize in physics
To Sir Chandra V. Raman.
For work in light diffusion -- the Raman effect! Damn it, it should have
been the Sedgwick effect!

Revenge, revenge,
I'll have it on them all.
No single slight will I forget.
I'll show no mercy you can bet.
They'll all get theirs the day I get
Revenge.

That dopey Wolfgang Pauli
For his work in fission.
I used to help that punk
With long division.
And Fermi for his brilliant
Neutron system.
That bum, he wouldn't know a neutron
If it kissed him.

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Ah, but the thing that really
Drove me to a fury:
They gave the prize to Harold Urey.
The shocking thing about the matter is
My heavy hydrogen was heavier than his.

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Oh, it will taste so sweet.
A misanthrope, yes, I might be,
An outcast of society.
Think what you like, but just give me
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You see, my birth surprised them.
Mom was sixty-three.

Nanny smelled of Clorox
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I'll show you Dad, and Mom and Nanny
And Alfred B. Nobel.

Revenge, revenge,
That's all I live for now.
I'll make them wince and cringe and cry.
I spit in their collective eye.
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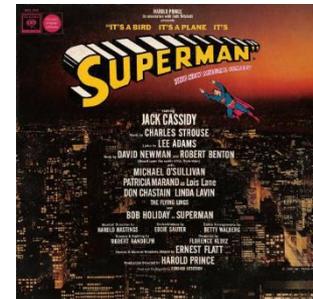
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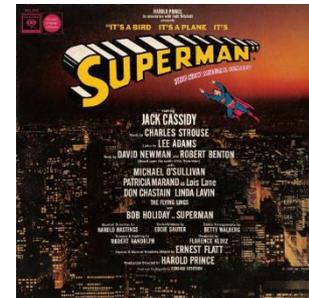
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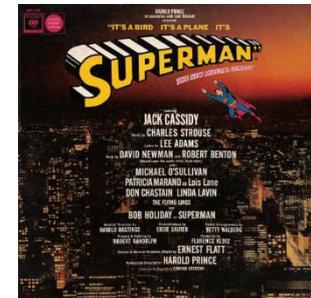
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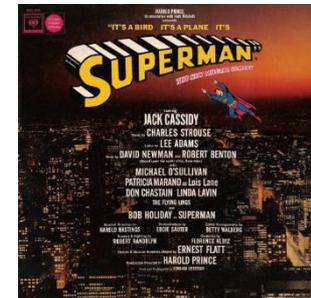
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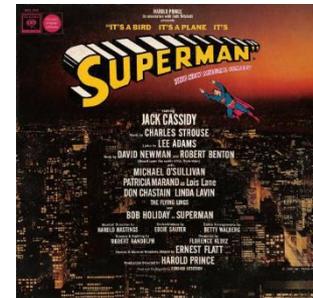
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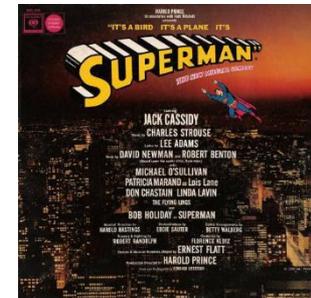
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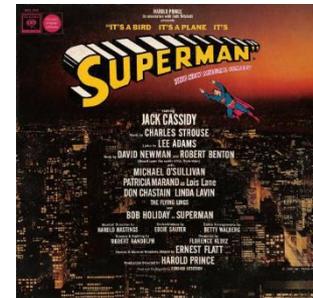
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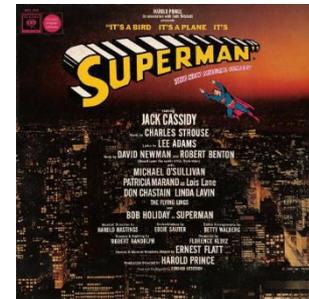
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laser separation of
heavy hydrogen
(deuterium, tritium),
for heavy water
fission reactors,
starting in 1977**

By the way, Dr. Sedgwick was a professor at M.I.T. (Metropolis Institute of Technology)

Herman received his degrees, as noted earlier: B.S. in 1972 and PhD. 1977, at M.I.T. (albeit the other one)