

# Ring Report Ring #170 “The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring” SAM #99

September 29, 2024 | Archived Famulus



## September 2024 Meeting

President David Freeman called the meeting to order and after some short business announcements we were thrilled to watch Kent Gunn's lecture. The highlight was his own unique presentation of "The Cups and Balls". Kent uses 3 different colored balls: red, white, and blue. They seemingly hop from cup to cup and end with 3 large colored balls. His explanation was fascinating. His method included using a "hold out" and "topit". He followed with a coin routine and "Choppy" which was chattering teeth finding a chosen card, which was like Don Alan's "Ranch Bird". He finished up with a walking tour of his hometown of San Francisco with cards. It was a story and method based on "Sam the Bellhop".

Mark Fitzgerald opened the monthly show with a bit of mindreading that predicted what famous rock 'n roll band a spectator was thinking of. He followed with a clever \$1 to \$20 bill change and explained it and then did it again and fooled us.

Dan Stapleton took us on an American road trip with a map and deck of cards that has 52 cities and towns written on it. Dan was able to circle the two cities and the combinations of the card values of three selected cars was the exact milage between the cities.

Mike Flannigan combined a Scotch and Soda routine with a card trick. The copper coin vanished only to return to a small leather purse, and it had the name of a chosen card on it.

Our club held a successful "Day of Magic at Christ the King Lutheran Church". The two lectures were Jimmy Ichihana and Giovanni Livera, and we had a gigantic successful Flea Market.

Dennis Phillips.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Day of Magic Report:

After a long pause the Ring/Assembly held a “Day of Magic” on September 21st. Vice President Craig Fennessy led the volunteers, Jacki Manna and others in doing the arrangement and set up. Thank you for your efforts. In the final accounting, the club did realize a profit and that will go a long way in funding our IHOP meeting place and guest lecturers. The fellowship hall at the church had 3 areas. The largest was for tables for our Flea Market. I was please to see the hall packed and there were bargains galore. There was a smaller auxiliary area with more tables and bargains and the third area was a seated area for the two lectures.

The first lecture was Jimmy Ichihana, a master at card magic. Jimmy loves sharing the happiness of magic with the world, giving his spectators the gift of unforgettable moments and memories of impossibilities with the pasteboards. He has been on Penn and Teller’s Fool Us a number of times. <https://www.seemagiclive.com/magicians/jimmy-ichihana>

Giovanni Livera shared his magic with things other than cards. His classic bits with a large machine nut off a rope, clever patter with a Pom-Pom stick, 3 shell game, an enchanting salt shaker and coin routine and a hilarious routine with volunteers who keep adding pennies to a square of pennies and they disappear.

We were thrilled with the return of the “Day of Magic” and another one will be coming.

Dennis

**Long time member, Ed McGowan, was made a “Lifetime Member” of FAME.**

**Here is Ed being given the certificate by President David Freeman at the September 18th meeting.**



**Kent Gunn with his original Cup and Balls lecture.**



\*\*\*\*\*

**Meeting policy:**

Face masks, if you wear one, will not be ridiculed. We are understanding that some people may be immunocompromised. We also respect your personal choices.

Stay prepared, healthy, and informed about current Public Health issues and contagious outbreaks.

Be respectful of others and if you suspect you have any contagious illness , avoid group contact.

**COVID UPDATE:**

Recombinant variant XEC is continuing to spread, and looks a likely next challenger against the now-dominant DeFLuQE variants (KP.3.1.1.\*).

Here are the leading countries reporting XEC. Strong growth in Denmark and Germany (16-17%), also the UK and Netherlands (11-13%).

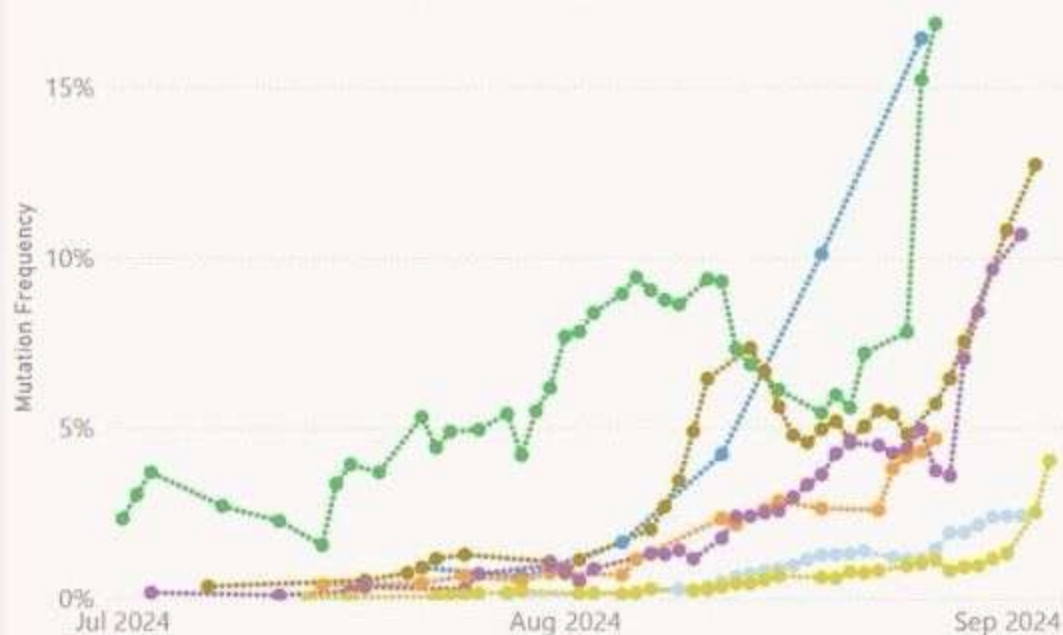


SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Mutation Matching - Countries. Data from gisaid.org, with nextclade lineages. Source files & info on g

n=80,331 sequenced genomes, up to 4 September 2024

Mutation(s): C18657T, C19716T, C25006T - % of all lineages

Canada Denmark France Germany Netherlands United Kingdom United States



Global



\*\*\*\*\*



**Dennis Deliberations ... Ring # 170, Assembly #99**

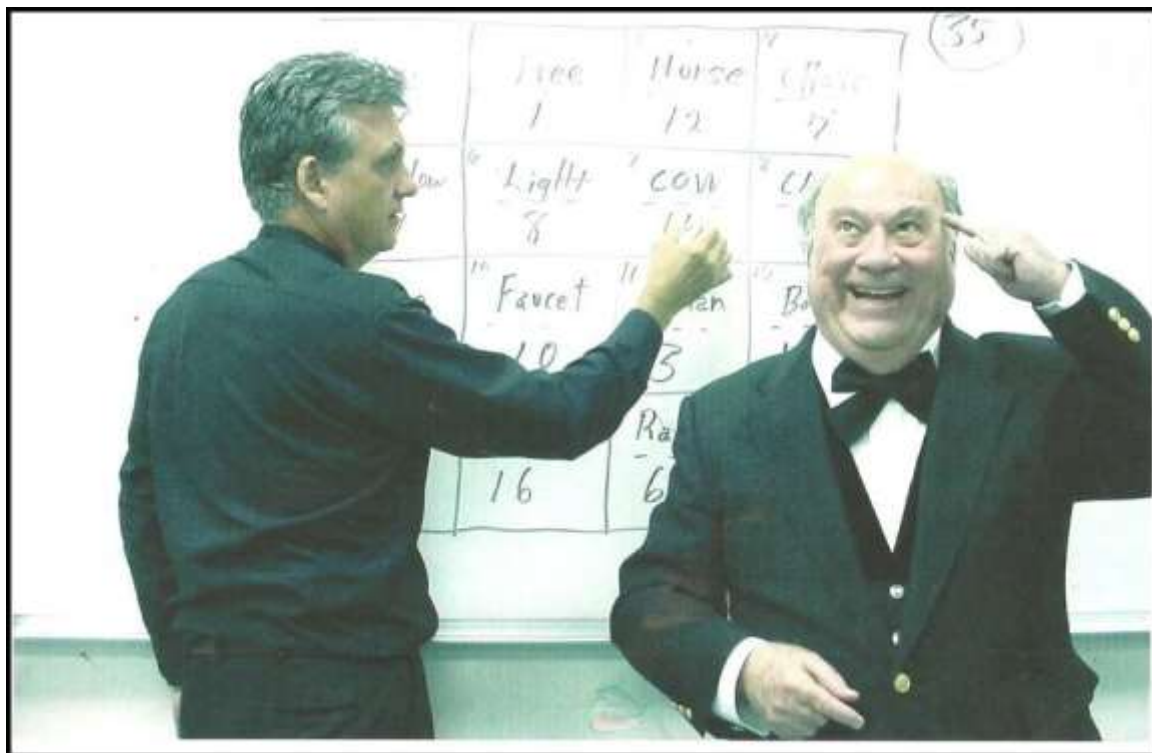
**“The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring”**

***Card tricks are great, but this is why I do a lot more than just card tricks.***

THEY: So you are a magician?  
YOU: Yes.  
THEY: Can you saw a lady in half?  
YOU: No, actually I do close-up magic.  
THEY: Like card tricks?  
YOU: Yes.  
THEY: My father used to do card tricks.



\*\*\*\*\*



Dennis and Bev clowning around with a Magic Square. I honestly do not remember the premise.



From the Ring Photo Files of a past Ring Board:

L to R : Bev Bergeron, Dennis Phillips, (?) , Dick Randall, Lee Nobel, Lee Langer, Art Thomas

\*\*\*\*\*

### A place to visit when in Paris!

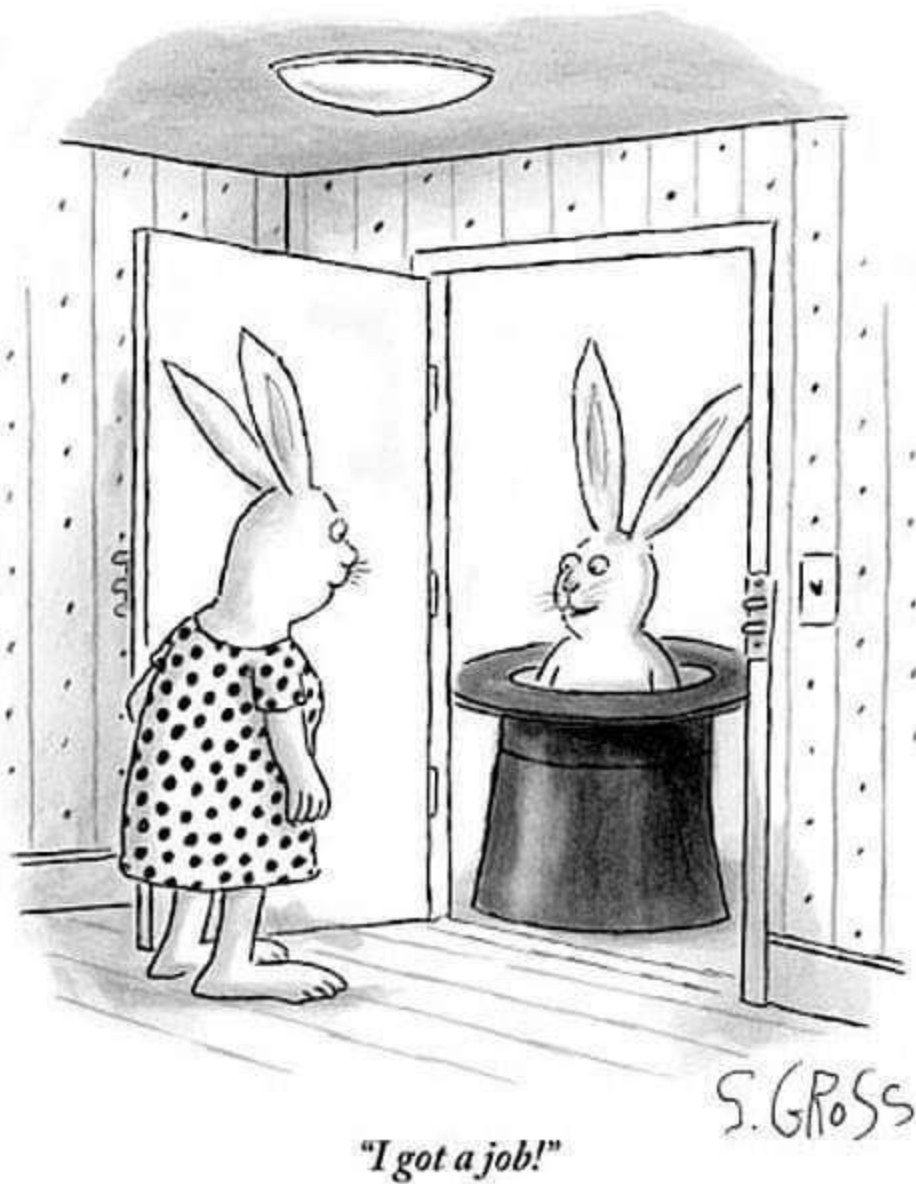
#### Museum of Magic

11, rue Saint-Paul  
75004, Paris

<https://museedelamagie.com/>



\*\*\*\*\*



\*\*\*\*\*

Here are 10 Mistakes that I see many Illusionists make: ( we have all made at last one of these. Be honest)

- 1) Creating, investing in, and producing an illusion show without having a market to perform the show.
- 2) Buying a new illusion without considering practical issues such as transportation, storage, set up time and manpower issues/ costs.



3) Thinking that the illusions alone make the show. Without the personality of the illusionist the illusions are just objects made of metal and wood.

4) Packing the show with as many illusions as possible. More does not mean more. Sometimes less is more.

5) Presenting an illusion in a show without proper rehearsal and without thinking about the blocking, choreography, economy of action and stage movement.

6) Performing an illusion with multiple dancers dancing across the whole stage during the illusion.

7) Using choreography from the 1980s where the illusionist dances with his assistant before and after an illusion while wearing costumes that went out of style 30 years ago.

8) Buying and performing pirated or unauthorized illusions. Not being able to afford an authorized illusion is not an excuse. It just means you are not ready to perform illusions yet. The sad thing, as of this writing, every single illusion prop coming out of China is pirated.

9) Using the same music as other illusionists use, especially well-known performers.

10) Lining up multiple illusions and props on stage throughout the show thinking that it will impress an audience. It does not. It makes the stage look cluttered and reflects badly on the professionalism of the show.

You can see many illusionists making these mistakes.

These ideas from JC Sum, Singapore)

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

The late Tom and Sherry.

One of the classiest club acts from their era!

\*\*\*\*\*

Dick Zimmerman is not a name you instantly think of when you think of magicians.

In fact, magic was only a sideline for Dick as he was an executive with Mattel.

However, this routine, from a Merv Griffin magic special is well worth watching and worthy of being housed in the vintage magic collection.

In particular, is a sweet, intimate trick with a rope and a small circle. Watch for it.

Dick did make a mark in the magic community.

\*\*\*\*\*

Stunning Las Vegas mansion once owned by magician Lance Burton with its own grotto spa hits the market for \$10 million

The property sprawls over 14,756 square feet and boasts six bedrooms as well as its very own private cave

The celebrity castle is said to be located at the 'top of the world' because it is nestled atop a mountain

Built in 2006, the stunning property sits on a 10.05-acre lot and features a turret that overlooks the valley

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-13735545/las-vegas-magician-lance-burton-house-selling-10-million.html>



\*\*\*\*\*

## Split Image by Mark O'Brien



Mark O'Brien special guest star on "Total Panic" to celebrate NICK's 10th Birthday on cable.

**Split Image** is an illusion devised in the mid-1980s by magician Mark O'Brien.

It is considered to be the direct predecessor to the more famous Modern Art standing sawing illusion devised in 1995 by Jim Steinmeyer. Steinmeyer acknowledges Mark's unique creation on Page #8 of Steinmeyer's Book "Modern Art" .

(A number of years ago I met Mark O'Brien, an illusionist from the east coast, who had worked out a similar "upright cutting." For the record, Mark's illusion was his own origination, developed independently from mine and used a completely different principle—to very good effect! Mark is still performing his cutting in his own performances.)

It includes many of the features later included in Modern Art .Unlike Modern Art, the "Split Image" allows the audience to see completely through the boxes.

It is performed exclusively by O'Brien.

The magician introduces a tall vertical box, the front of which is made up of three doors. The upper and lower doors are equally sized, being tall but narrow, while the middle one is vertically narrow, but extends the full width of the box. The doors are opened, and a female assistant enters the box and stands facing forwards. The magician then closes the doors

and latches them shut, locking the assistant inside. With the doors closed, the assistant is completely hidden from view.

A large metal blade is then driven through the side of the box, in line with the middle of the center door, cutting the assistant in half through her waist. The upper half of the box, comprising the upper door and the upper half of the center door, is then slid sideways onto an adjacent table, completely separating the two halves of the assistant. The upper and lower doors are then opened to show the assistant still standing within the box, but clearly divided in two. Matching doors on the rear of the box are then opened, allowing the audience to see right the way through the box.

With the doors closed, the box halves are then slid back together, the blade removed, and the doors opened to allow the now restored assistant to exit the box.

As this is a very rare illusion, not many performances have been recorded. There is a rare video in this story.

The 2011 movie *Walking Through Fires* was based on Mark O'Brien's own story of how he had recovered from two devastating and mysterious fires that destroyed most of his illusions shortly before the opening of his headline show in 1999. In this movie, O'Brien played himself and performed a number of illusions. This included a performance of his original Split Image sawing (which had survived the 1999 fires) on actress Brandy Fox, who had been cast to play his wife and principal assistant Clarissa.

- On April 1 1989, O'Brien appeared on kids TV channel Nickelodeon on the premiere episode of *Total Panic*, performing Split Image and other illusions.[\[1\]](#)
- In 2000, while appearing at the Miami Dade County Fair and Exposition, O'Brien performed his Split Image sawing on singer Gloria Estefan.
- Kristy Swanson sawed in half in *Grapevine*.

Also in 2000, O'Brien acted as magic consultant for episode 5 of the TV show *Grapevine*, during which actress Kristy Swanson was sawed in half in a performance of Split Image. The magician in this episode was played by actor Michael Weatherly, who later went on to star in *NCIS* and *Bull*.

\*\*\*\*\*

I asked Chat GPT to create an image of a classic illusionist levitating a woman. (This is a free program for your smartphone) My goal was to see what cultural ideas we had from a crowd-sourced AI inquiry.

Note that their image has the assistant upright and animated rather than laying horizontally





\*\*\*\*\*

Dennis