

## About the Cover

# Illustrating String Theory?

The cover image was very weakly suggested by the interview with Ed Witten appearing in this issue. Very, very weakly. Mr. G. returns a great many hits to the search string

string theory pictures

but the visually interesting ones seem to be science fiction, and the ones actually relevant to the topic are visually rather dull line diagrams. We thought of Zen (appropriate, considering that the site of the interview was Kyoto), and in this respect liked the pair



Closed string



Open string

Concentrating on essentials, as it were.

That a great many expositions of string theory reproduce simple variations of these shows that others have faced the same problem we did. Picturing complex objects in 2D that exist in dimensions much higher, whose essential nature involves randomness, is conceivably an impossible task.

Instead, however, we went for something stringy and random, colorful if not mathematically relevant. Fiction rather than fact.

— *Bill Casselman*  
*Graphics Editor*

notices-covers@ams.org









