

**PHIL 31: Ancient Philosophy**  
**Fall 2005; David O. Brink**  
**Saturday, November 5**  
**Paper #2**

Write a paper approximately 4-5 pages long on one of the following topics. The paper is due in class on Friday, November 18. If necessary and with suitable explanation, you can get an extension on the paper. But the extension must be arranged in advance of the due date. Otherwise, late papers will be penalized as described on the Course Description. Before starting, consult the Writing Guidelines handout on the course website. Students are welcome to discuss their topics and drafts with their TA or me.

1. **Meno's Paradox.** What is Meno's paradox, and why does it pose a challenge for Socratic inquiry? How does Plato (the character Socrates) reply to Meno's paradox, and what roles do his appeals to Recollection and the distinction between knowledge and true belief play in his reply? Do you find this reply satisfactory? Why or why not?
2. **Immortality in the Phaedo.** In the Phaedo Plato (the character Socrates) provides several defenses of the immortality of the soul. Pick at least one of these arguments that you find interesting, reconstruct it (them), and assess it (them).
3. **Plato's Defense of Justice.** In the Republic Glaucon and Adeimantus reformulate Thrasymachus' challenge to justice. What is their challenge, and how does Plato (the character Socrates) reply? What role does the division of the soul in book iv play in this eudaimonist defense of justice? Does Plato's defense of justice as psychic harmony answer the original doubts about justice? Why or why not?
4. **Aristotle on the Primacy of Form.** Explain Aristotle's distinction between form and matter and his reasons for assigning primacy to form. Would Aristotle agree with Gary Larson about the metaphysics of posses? (See Larson's cartoon below.) How do Aristotelian and Larsonian views compare with Presocratic views?



**“And so you just threw everything together? . . . Mathews, a posse is something you have to *organize*.”**