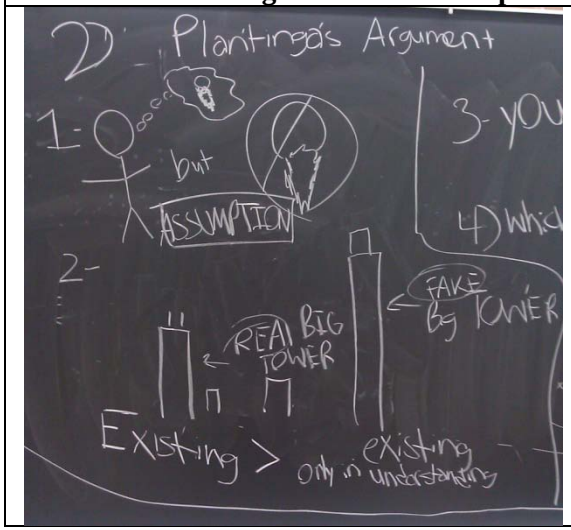
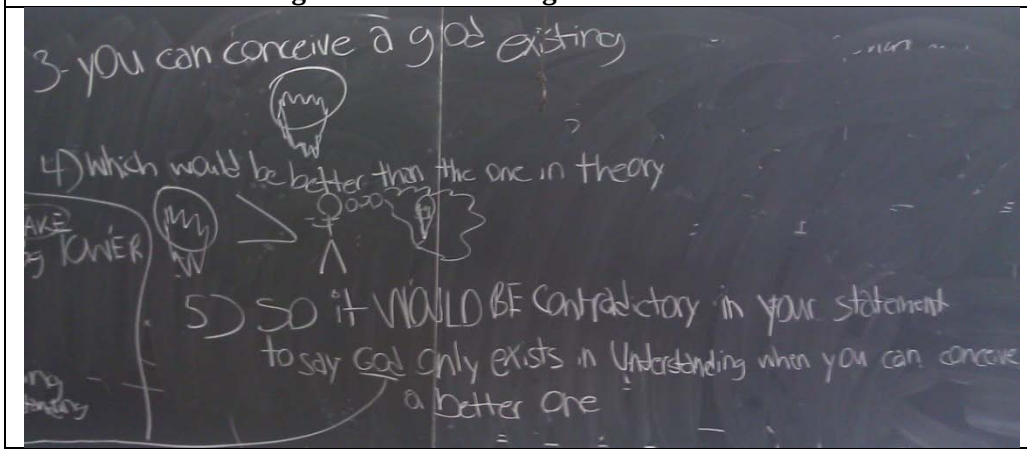
PHIL001. INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY – ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT, PART 2

First Part of the Argument – The Setup[1]	
	God =df. The being of which no greater can be conceived. 1. Assume God exists in the understanding but not in reality. 2. Existing in reality is greater than existing only in the understanding. (A really existing tower is greater than a tower that exists only in the understanding).

Second Part of the Argument – Generating the Contradiction	
	3. You can conceive of God existing in reality. 4. If (3), then God existing in reality is greater than God existing only in the understanding. (Since premise (2) says to exist in reality is greater than existing in the understanding). 5. Premise (4), it is contradictory to say that God (the being of which no greater can be conceived) exists in the understanding but not in reality. 6. Therefore, the assumption (1) must be false. **7. Therefore, God exists.**

[1] Pictures by John Barnowski

Objections #1 – Reject Premise 1 (Hobbes's Objection)

1	All ideas come from the senses and through imagination. Ideas are images.	Premise
2	In order to have an idea of something, one must have an image of it in one's mind.	Premise
3	If we understand God, then we should have an image of God in our mind.	From (1) and (2)
4	We have no image of God in our mind.	Rationale: God is infinite
5	Therefore, we do not understand God.	Conclusion

Objection #2 – Reject Premise 2 (Gaunilo's Objection)

1	Existing in reality is greater than existing only in the understanding	Premise (2) from above
2	If existing in reality is greater than existing only in the understanding, then a perfect island (df. = an island having all the perfections) exists.	Rationale: The argument above can be used to prove a perfect island exists.
3	A perfect island does not exist.	Rationale: Common sense
4	Therefore, existing in reality is not greater than existing only in the understanding.	Conclusion