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## Former LI man creates beer-throwing fridge

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The automatic transmission, the remote control, and now ... the beer launcher.

Long Island native John Cornwell, a 22-year-old Duke University engineering graduate, has built a device that can launch a beer from a refrigerator unit to a couch potato from up to 13 feet away, which may be another leap for mankind, at least the laziest of mankind.

"Have you ever gotten up off the couch to get a beer for the umpteenth time and thought, "What if instead of ME going to get the BEER, the BEER came to ME???" Well, that was how I first conceived of the beer launching fridge," writes Cornwell on his [Web site](#) . The former Huntington resident now lives and works in Atlanta.

Cornwell, who earned his degree in electrical and computer engineering, told the Associated Press: "It embodies the college spirit that I didn't want to let go of."

According to his resume posted online, he has won awards while in college and in Huntington High School, including a Duke University Engineering Design Award in 2004 and 2006. He also interned at Brookhaven National Laboratories in Upton in 2004, and was a member of Duke's Robotics Club.

The device works like this: The beer -- Cornwell uses Miller Lite cans in the video -- is contained in a fridge the size of one typically found in a college dorm room. An elevator device brings it into catapult position on top of the fridge, and the can, by remote control, is launched to the awaiting beer lover.

Cornwell hopes to sell the beer launching fridge for \$1,500, but the newer model at that price will be able to hold 20 cans instead of 10 held by the prototype. He's already made \$3,352 from views on the metacafe.com Web site.

Most of the bloggers who responded to the video were impressed by the invention.



"Mate, you are a legend!!" said Aussie-beerlover. "When can I get one that throws doritos?"

*This story was supplemented with a report by The Associated Press.*

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