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### C.R., Iowa City men convicted of armed robbery

*Dick Hogan Gazette staff writer*

Two young Eastern Iowa men could be about 40 years old by the time they get out of prison. Christopher J. Kibler, 18, of Iowa City, and Derome M. Robertson, 19, of Cedar Rapids, were convicted Tuesday by a Linn County District Court jury of first-degree robbery and possession of an offensive weapon.

Both face up to 25 years in prison on the robbery conviction and possibly another five years on the weapons count. The state's 85 percent rule applies, meaning they would have to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences, said Jerry Vander Sanden, assistant Linn County attorney.

Sentencing is set for May 9. Judge L. Vern Robinson ordered both men held without bail.

Kibler and Robertson were charged with holding up the Kum & Go store at 2743 Mount Vernon Rd. SE, on Nov. 14. Vander Sanden said a Gazette carrier delivering papers at 4 a.m. spotted a car after the robbery that had pulled up and parked. Officers found Kibler, Robertson and a 17-year-old Iowa City girl inside. Police also found in the car a sawed-off shotgun, ski masks and cash taken from the store, Vander Sanden said.

The girl was charged in Juvenile Court with possession of an offensive weapon.

The store clerk told officers two men entered the store, displayed a shotgun and demanded money. They ran from the store after the clerk complied.

It was the third robbery at the Kum & Go store in less than a year. The store also was the site of the Sept. 8, 1989, murder of clerk Brian Schappert, 22, whose throat was slashed during an apparent robbery. Schappert's murder still is unsolved.

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