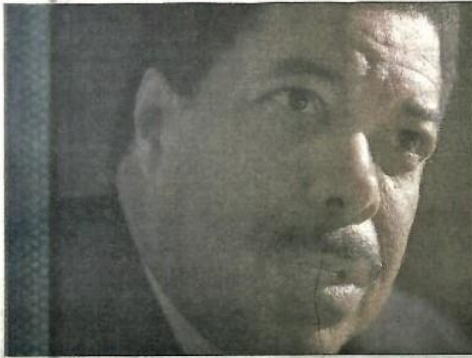


# DENVER AND THE WEST

Monday, November 6, 1995

SECTION B

THE DENVER POST



The Denver Post / Shaun Stanley

**JOURNEY MAN:** Mayor Wellington Webb discusses his travels and his second term as Denver's mayor.

## Webb goes, woes grow

### Mayor defends travels

By Christopher Lopez  
Denver Post Staff Writer

Mayor Wellington Webb will be making his 10th trip out of state since his re-election in June when he heads to Ethiopia this week for a sister city exchange.

But while the mayor has been traveling, back in Denver his administration has been suffering. Several key positions are vacant, there's been an outbreak of youth violence, and, on the brink of ski season, Denver Inter-

national Airport has taken yet another public-relations beating.

Webb has delayed naming an education coordinator — a position he pledged to fill immediately upon his re-election. He has now settled on someone and is expected to announce the selection Wednesday, a day before he leaves for Ethiopia.

He has stalled on finding a replacement for Revenue Manager Patricia Sehwartzberg, and he still has to make a number of other appoint-

ments for lower profile jobs on his staff.

Webb said his travels have been essential. He made three trips to Washington in the past 12 weeks — among other things to testify before Congress on funds for the Regional Transportation District and on the impact proposed federal budget cuts would have on Denver.

He also recently has attended three meetings, in different cities, for the U.S. Conference of Mayors — a body in which he has taken more of leadership role over the past two years.

And just nine days ago, he returned from London, where he met with ex-

ecutives of British Airways.

"If you take a look at any one particular period, you can say this looks excessive," Webb said in an interview last week. "But if you look at it over a four-year time period, there have been years when I didn't take a vacation."

Since Webb was re-elected to another four-year term, he's been gone from Denver on business 26 days and is scheduled to be away another 13 through the rest of this year. That itinerary includes the eight-day trip to Ethiopia, which begins Thursday.

Please see TRAVEL on 6B

## Rally boosts DPS tax

Webb, Romer fight uphill election battle

By Alan Gottlieb  
Denver Post Education Writer

A gaggle of children gamboled on the grass in City Park yesterday as about 100 supporters of Denver Public Schools' bid for a \$30 million property tax hike rallied one last time before tomorrow's vote.

"I feel it is turning in our favor," Mayor Wellington Webb told the enthusiastic, sign-waving crowd gathered on the west steps of the Museum of Natural History. "I also feel we have to keep at it. . . . We can't let up."

Webb came to the rally after walking some northeast Denver streets mustering support for the tax increase initiative.

DPS officials, while buoyed by endorsements from Webb, Gov. Roy Romer, the Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce and others, have been fighting an uphill battle to sell the tax increase to a skeptical public. That skepticism stems not so much from doubts about whether the schools need the money, but whether DPS would spend it wisely.

Webb urged people to cast aside those doubts. "Everyone can find

## PUPPY LOVE



The Denver Post / Dominic Chavez

Wesley Dannen, 9, gives a hug to one of three Klee Kai puppies at the Colorado Pet Expo yesterday at Denver's Currigan Hall. The

puppies, ranging in age from five months to two years, are described by their owners as rare 'Alaska huskies in miniature.'

## Rural schools hit by growth

Problems reach Western Slope

By Ellen Miller  
Special to The Denver Post

GRAND JUNCTION — Year-round schools, crowded classes, modular rooms — the signs of rapid growth that have plagued urban school systems — have reached the state's hinterlands.

It's a symptom of growth problems making themselves plain all across the Western Slope and particularly in the bedroom communities that are home to service workers for ski areas.

"Our growth is primarily people who commute to Glenwood and the upper Roaring Fork Valley," said Leonard Eckhardt, superintendent of Garfield County School District RE-2, which runs from New Castle through Rifle to just east of Rutison.

"They don't work here, but they live here," Eckhardt said. "We offer