

The Advertiser

State

Saturday, October 31, 2009

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Round-by-round

SEE P54

2010
AFL DRAW

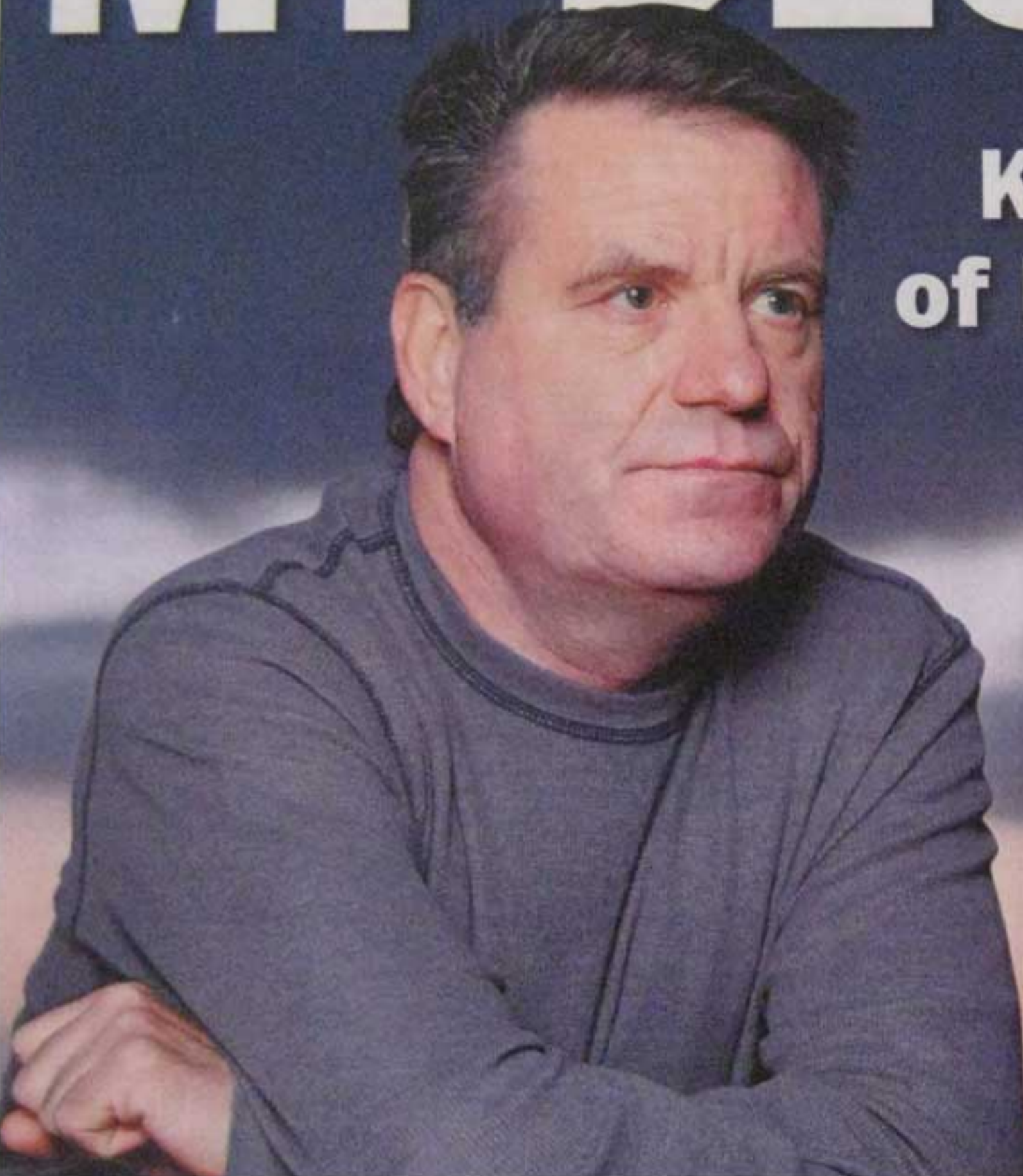


WIN A
TRIP TO
FIJI

SEE P116

MY DESPAIR

Kevin Foley tells
of his lonely heart



EXCLUSIVE

ROY ECCLESTON
EDITOR saweekend magazine

RANN Government hard man Kevin Foley considered quitting politics because failed personal relationships turned his life into a nightmare of loneliness.

Describing himself as "a bit of a lost soul" and "a lonely guy", the Deputy Premier and Treasurer has revealed he's been "to hell and back" over the past two years.

"There were occasions when the public scrutiny on me, and being in a fairly down place, I thought about chucking it in and running away to where nobody knows me," he said in an extraordinary interview with saweekend magazine in today's Advertiser.

Continued Page 10

saweekend
MAGAZINE INSIDE

Picture: MATT TURNER

BABY STUDY

Search for answers on allergy surge

THREE times as many children suffer allergies to staple foods than previous generations.

The alarming statistic has prompted scientists to study 1500 babies with eczema in an effort to reverse the trend. Eggs, milk, nuts, fish and shellfish topped the list of foods causing allergic reactions in young Australians under three years of age, but scientists could not explain why. **Page 5**

HACKED EMAILS

Downer in middle of diplomatic stir

A SIX-MONTH computer hacking operation targeting United Nations emails has caused a diplomatic stir surrounding Alexander Downer's peace mission in Cyprus.

Australia's longest serving foreign affairs minister has been tip-toeing through a diplomatic minefield in the notoriously volatile island state amid claim and counter claim of bias towards both Turkish and Greek loyalists. **Page 13**

EUROPEAN UNION

Blair tipped to be inaugural president

TONY Blair is shaping up to be crowned Europe's first president.

The former British prime minister is the front-runner for the new role of European Union president set to be created with the pending adoption of the Lisbon treaty.

Some of the European Union's 27 member states are in favour of a powerful president, such as Mr Blair, who can command respect on the international stage. **World**

MELBOURNE CUP

Alcopop shapes up in final workout

MELBOURNE Cup co-favourite Alcopop came through his searching final gallop with flying colours at Strathalbyn racecourse yesterday.

In front of the biggest media contingent in decades to watch a South Australian horse in the Melbourne Cup, Alcopop worked solidly with stablemate Bluepoles. Trainer Jake Stephens could not be happier with his horse's condition. **Sport**

Saw Weekend

The Advertiser

31.10.09

BROKEN HEARTED

self-made man who loves talking
reading, travel, footy. Looking for
genuine love. Upfront. Not tall,
dark, but reasonably handsome.
49-year-old m...
er. Social dr...
g, handy
oking, evi...

LOST SOUL

SINGLE GUY

medium build. Enjoys read...
kiing, golf, and watching
sporting activities. Since
with money.

I'M SO LONELY

Kevin Foley tells how his troubled personal life almost drove him to quit politics.

THE WAY WE WERE
AN ODE TO ELASTICS,
YO-YOS AND CLAG

CADEL EVANS
IF I DON'T BELIEVE
IN MYSELF, WHO WILL?

A photograph of Kevin Foley in a kitchen, wearing a dark t-shirt and glasses, focused on cooking. He is standing behind a stainless steel countertop with a gas stove. Two black frying pans are on the stove, both containing pieces of raw meat. He is holding a white cutting board with more meat on it. In the background, there are wooden cabinets, a framed picture, and a book titled 'THE LAND' by Jeffery Deaver. The lighting is warm and focused on the cooking area.

DOUBLE LIFE

Kevin Foley is the head-kicker who shreds opponents with a mix of bluster and bullying. But there's another side. Today he reveals for the first time the anguish caused by his failed relationships and lonely life.

WORDS ROY ECCLESTON MAIN PICTURE MATT TURNER

Kevin Foley prepares dinner at his West Lakes bachelor pad and, inset, in typical belligerent form in Parliament.

LONELY GUY

medium build. Enjoys reading, skiing, golf, and watching his activities. Sincere. money.

K

EVIN FOLEY IS on his best behaviour, a sure sign that things are going well. And they are. On this July evening Foley has Martin Hamilton-Smith right where he wants him, which is on a meat hook waiting to be carted to wherever they put dead Opposition leaders. Still, the journalists in the galleries above the parliamentary chamber watch on, hopeful that something unexpected might happen.

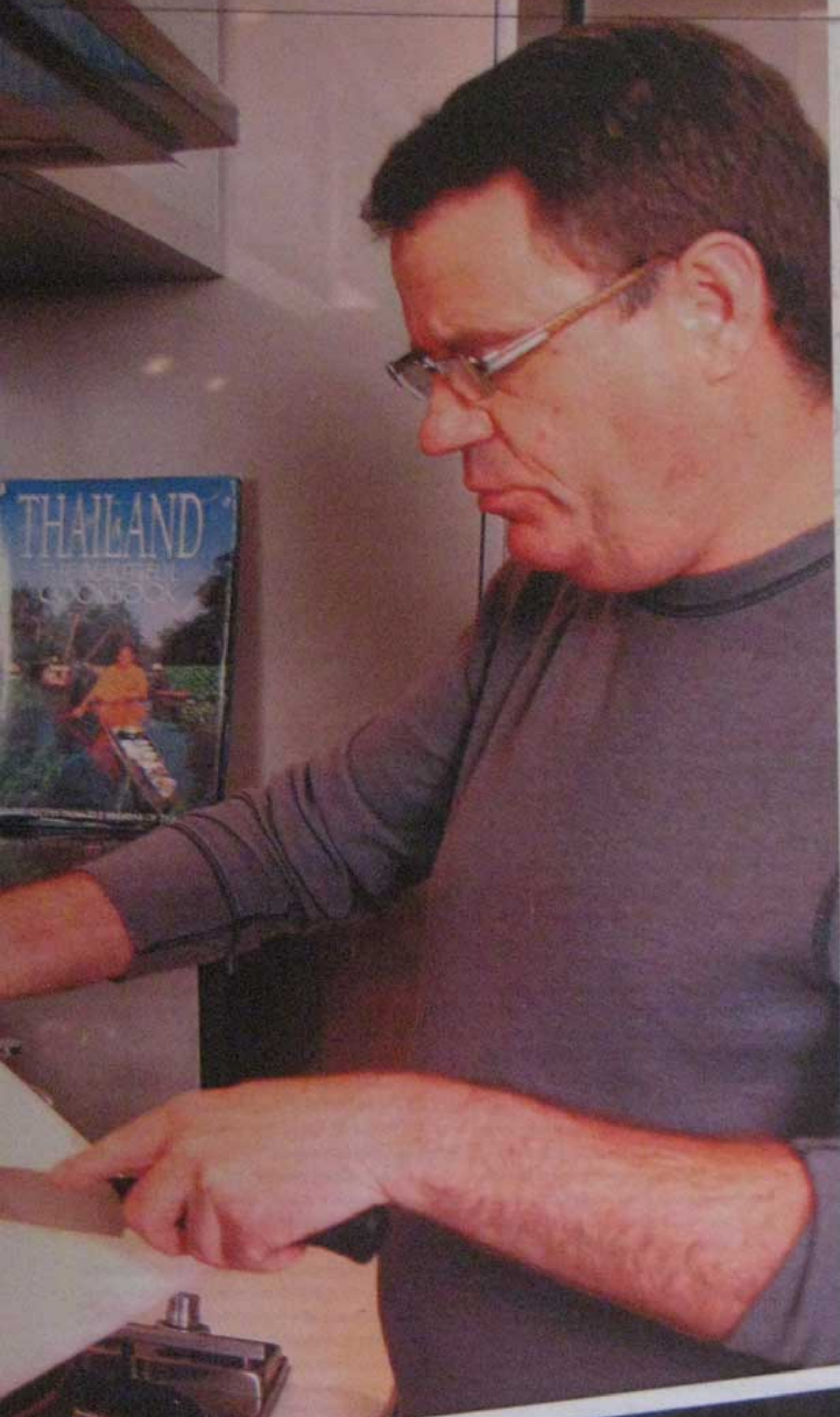
With good reason. Foley is unpredictable. You never know what he might do, or say, so you'd better be there just in case. It's why he's South Australia's most intriguing politician. He once read a newspaper in this session, known as Budget estimates, when he's supposed to subject himself to Opposition scrutiny. In 2007 he stormed out after claiming Hamilton-Smith was a liar, then sat in his office fuming, ignoring the Speaker's demand he withdraw the comment. Eventually he relented.

But tonight it's good Kevin, not naughty Kevin, on display. Hamilton-Smith is trying to needle him but he'll soon be gone, replaced by Isobel Redmond, and Foley is in good humour. And why not? He's the guy from Port Adelaide who quit school at 16 and worked his way up to be the Treasurer and Deputy Premier. In his business clobber - grey suit, white shirt, maroon tie - he could pass for a car salesman, plainclothes copper, or mafia hitman. He looks like he'd be comfortable with a beer in hand - sometimes too comfortable. He's got authority, bluster, a knock-about manner.

One of the Treasury officials near Foley to help answer tough questions admits he's edgy, since it's his first time. "Nervous!" exclaims Foley with what sounds like genuine astonishment. "Don't be nervous of this lot! Christ!" Foley certainly isn't, not in here. He's quick on his feet and his default mode is attack, although he can switch to sweet reasonableness in a moment. If there's a head needing a kick, he will oblige. He may make regretful noises later, but King Kev will do exactly the same thing next time.

Life is good. Or maybe not.

Away from the fray, something is up. Something that doesn't look right, and hasn't for a while. When Foley isn't in the paper because he's cracking Opposition heads, he's in the gossip columns, often over this girl or that. Some object to the divorced 49-year-old squiring women in their 20s around. Others complain about reputed antics outside a nightclub, inside a bar. And right now, sitting in his office overlooking Victoria Square, Labor's hard man is in tears and suggesting his boover-boy image is just a facade. "I'm actually quite emotionally fragile, believe it or not," he says, his voice choked-up. "In some ways I'm a bit of a lost soul."



“ I thought about chucking it in and running away to where nobody knows me. ”



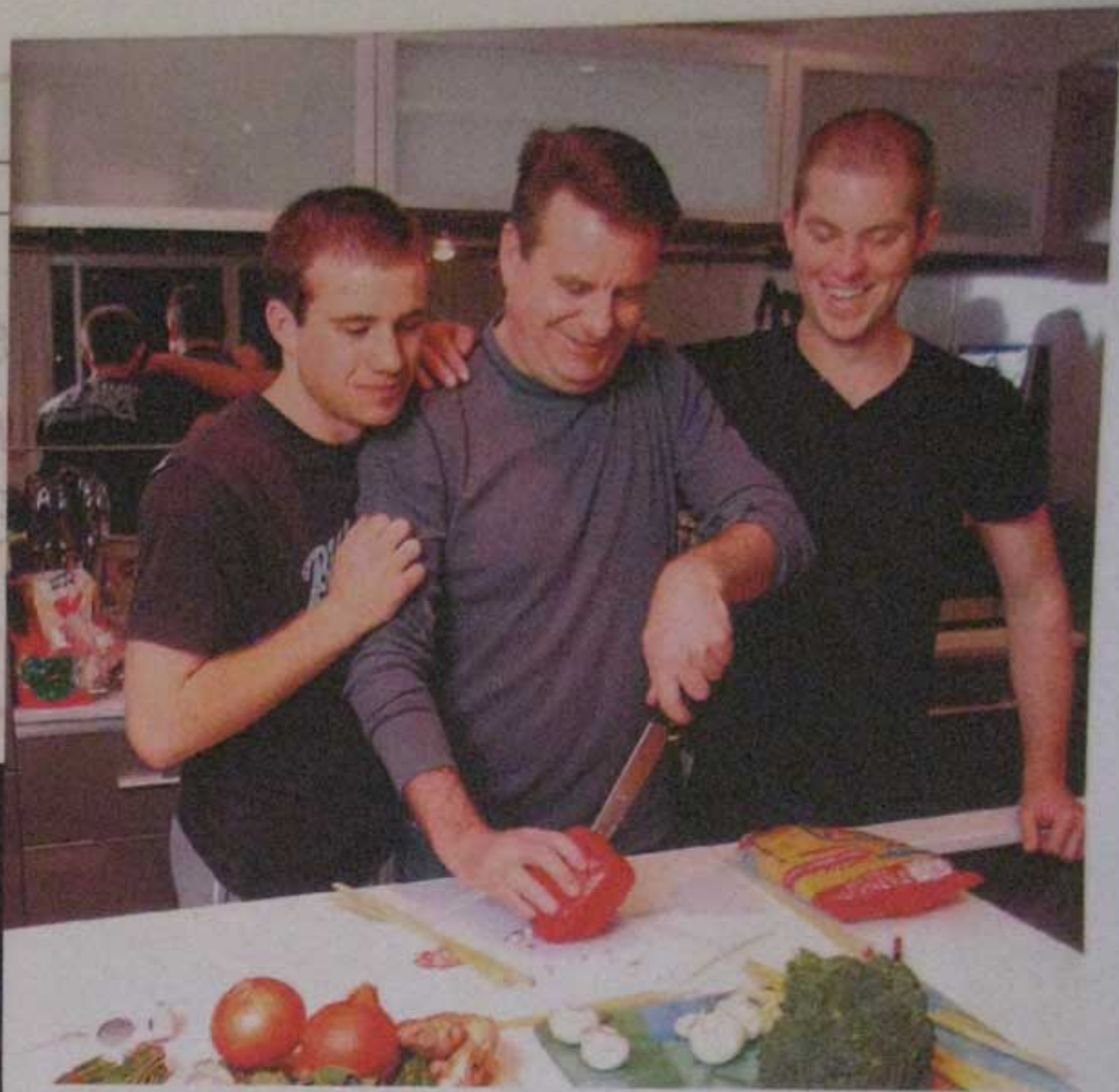
THE COUNTRY'S CURRENT longest-serving treasurer, Foley has presided over some of the best economic times the state has enjoyed. The credit ratings agencies have given him a AAA tick despite the global financial meltdown. The Opposition is floundering. Even Hamilton-Smith, licking his wounds, concedes Foley hasn't been a terrible treasurer, just a lucky one.

But despite the prestige, position and power, Foley has been struggling. He's rebuffed my interview request for months, and only relented because others are talking. Now he wants to put his side of the story. He wants to say he's not a bully, not a womaniser, not a cradle-snatcher. He wants to say that he is not a bad person. He wants to say he is sad and lonely.

It's a remarkable admission, which emerges well into a long discussion about his history, the economy, the coming state election. Then, one question seems to open a floodgate: Do you think you are misunderstood? Foley begins to sound emotional, less controlled. It was his decision with ex-wife Cathy to end their marriage six years ago, in 2003, that marked the start of his personal turmoil, he says. It was the right

Above: Foley with Emma Forster and, inset, Lisa Holmen.

Above right: At home with his sons Ben and Ryan.



move, he insists, although it meant he lost key times with his sons Ryan, now 21, and Ben, 18. Others say he really thinks it was the worst mistake of his life. It turns out he has been the one who has struggled to cope. "She's moved on better than I have and I have missed some of the growing-up times of my kids that a father would miss," he says, his voice wavering.

Foley had high hopes for a relationship with former TV presenter Emma Forster, now 34, but that ended in 2007 after about 18 months. The separation sent him spinning down into "dark places".

"I've had my share of personal troubles," he says. "And this is what has bothered me and hurt me and still to this day causes me some grief - that I have had the most successful six years of my working life coinciding with six years of the most lonely and upsetting period of my life." So deep was his despair, he says, that at times he considered quitting politics. "There were occasions when the public scrutiny on me, and being in a fairly down place, I thought about chucking it in and running away to where nobody knows me. But that was a dumb idea and common sense kicks in fairly quickly." He hasn't thought about it recently, he adds, insisting the economic crisis has given him "a second wind". Yet his personal problems have affected his work, and his moodiness has damaged relationships. "There is an emptiness in my life that I haven't been able to fill," he says. "Many would say that's because I search for it rather than waiting for it to happen. That is probably true."

FOLEY'S WEST LAKES apartment couldn't be anything but a blokey bachelor pad. Perched over the water it's all polished tiles and massive windows, as clean as a whistle, uncluttered. There's a small bookshelf full of political volumes, a modular lounge, a big flat-screen TV. Outside is a massive deck on which he recently entertained about 100 people for Ryan's 21st birthday. His ex-wife Cathy and her husband were there, and ex-girlfriend Emma. Now, on the spotless granite bench Foley has laid out the vegetables for a chicken stir fry for the two boys, me - and the camera. Some do make it to the pan, although as we chat he dispenses with the garlic, ginger and onions in favour of some ready-made from the fridge.

Then the boys are back from playing indoor soccer. There's no faking - Foley is a doting dad, and his boys clearly love him. He tells them to say what they think and then heads for the bedroom. Ryan is a supermarket manager, and Ben is head prefect at Adelaide High. It's Ben who is more forthcoming, and bothered, by what he sees as an unfair media focus on his father's personal life. "Just because dad's had a few girls ... they are all nice," he says. "Most are just friends. It's hard for dad to have relationships. The media pushes them (girls) away."

Ryan isn't too fazed. "I've never known him not to be in the paper - I'm used to it." The boys do think it was for the best their parents split because there were tensions, but they would like to see their father in a relationship again. Ben thinks he's feeling better now. "Dad's a much better person when he is able to do stuff for himself ... he's got better at cooking meals," he says. "He was lonely. Imagine living here by yourself ..." He adds that if his father found a partner it would ease the pressure on him and his brother, a reminder of something that Foley, in tears, said at our previous meeting. "My kids have been the rock."

Foley's history isn't well-known. One opposition MP says he suspected he'd once sold chocolate. It was soft drinks, and Foley admits he still gets the chills going into some supermarkets where he recalls having to stack the shelves with Cadbury-Schweppes cans. He left school at 16, bored and disliking authority. He was a clerk at a steel firm for 10 years, where he met his best mate Gordon Smith, one of the only people he can let his guard down with today. Then he moved to Cadbury-Schweppes which wasn't what he wanted. But he did get something valuable from that job - a psychological test.

"It said I would ultimately succeed in a profession where I could talk and communicate," he says. "That I was good on the big picture, but a bit slack when it comes to attention to detail - which many would attest to. And some very interesting other aspects of my behaviour." Would he care to share them? "No."

It was former federal Labor MP Rod Sawford who signed Foley up for the ALP, after the young man was inspired by Bob Hawke and Paul Keating. "I just thought these guys were shit hot," Foley says.



“I do not want to be a single guy any more. I don't enjoy being a single guy.”

Foley married early but it didn't last. His second wife, Cathy, is usually described as wonderful. Sawford would baby-sit the boys, but has since fallen out with Foley. “I don't dislike Kevin, I'm not a hater,” says Sawford. “I don't think he is either. If Kevin has a blue with you it will be to your face. He wouldn't stab you in the back. Foley has got courage and bravado, and he's got loyalty too.” But Sawford questions whether Foley believes in anything beyond power, celebrity, fixing things and deals. “It's never about vision. But he's a lot more open than a lot of other politicians. It gets him into trouble, but it's a positive thing.”

Foley's fork in the road came when he took a job with Lynn Arnold, industry minister under John Bannon (and later premier), instead of investing in a steel distribution business. “I didn't have, and probably still don't have, that element of courage that it takes to step in and take the high-risk road of running your own or building your own business,” he says. “I'm fairly conservative, so some would say I blinked.” A few mates bought the business and are now rich. Foley says he has no regrets – he wouldn't have done as well. “This will surprise some people but I do know my limits and my strengths and my weaknesses...”

So, being premier, is that the sort of thing that's too difficult? “I wouldn't say too difficult at all,” he says. “But it's not what I want.” There's room for doubt. One boozy night among colleagues last year, when Hamilton-Smith was making inroads into Mike Rann's political dominance, Foley nominated himself for the top job. Despite declaring he was “ready to lead” it was, he still insists, not a serious plot.

“Alcohol and stupidity,” he says airily. “There were a few people being stupid and I was one of them. It was not meant with any serious intent and it was just stupidity and I regret that night. I should have stopped it.” It damaged his relationship with Rann, which some close to the Premier insist remains much cooler than it once was. Foley disagrees, as does Rann.

“I should have shut the whole thing down, I'm his deputy and if colleagues of mine start saying silly things and mouthing-off, my job is not to join in with the chorus...” Foley says. “I hadn't had that much to drink myself. It was hubris, arrogance...”

It is difficult to gauge Foley's ambitions. He's said he wanted to be out of politics and into a business career by 50. He has just turned 49, and now says that's on hold. There's been speculation he'll quit mid-term, but he insists he wants four more years as treasurer, “the best job” in government.

People who know him very well admit they've never heard him say he wants to be premier. On the other hand it is laughable to claim Treasury is wonderful after almost eight years. This is what he says about it: “You grind every day ... the reality is that being treasurer is about stopping people spending money.” And, says one MP, Foley feels the strain. “He's cried in front of his colleagues ... along the lines, ‘you don't

know how difficult this is.’” Rann insists he's forgiven Foley. “He wears his passions and his feelings on his sleeve; there's a real raw honesty about Kevin,” says Rann. So it is fine he shoots from the lip? “This is the dilemma of politics. People say they want less spin and politicians to be more real, but when they are real they get criticised.”

STILL, NOT EVERYONE likes the stand-in premier with a woman on his arm banging on the door of a nightclub in Rundle St, closed after a 1am curfew. That, at least, is how it looked to *The Advertiser's* racing editor Ben Scadden during the Fringe Festival this year. The truth, says Foley, is different: he'd been inside with mates, popped outside to make a phone call, and been told he just needed to knock to get back in. The girl? Nobody he knew. “A woman came up in a bright red dress and wrapped her arm around me and started to joke when she saw me,” he says.

There is, he agrees, truth to the story of a stoush two years back in a bar at the Stamford Plaza Hotel where security staff asked him to leave, concerned about a loud row he was having with a woman from the Property Council – a row that centred on his then girlfriend, 24-year-old Lisa Holmen, who was on the council's staff. But, says Foley, he was just defending Holmen over a work issue. “I just went up to (the Property Council's) Chris Hagi and let her have it, which is my style,” he says. “They (security) did ask me to leave because I guess they felt I was being too upfront.”

Foley does let it all hang out. Opinions from those who've seen him up-close diverge wildly between strong support and strong dislike. Peter Vaughan, head of Business SA, says Foley's been a terrific treasurer, while Nathan Paine of the Property Council rates him a healthy 7 out of 10.

But one MP says: “He's got a wonderful capability to be everyman. He's affable, charming, but he's got this dark side as well. He has this tendency to, quite literally, cry and make you feel sorry for him. He lacks self-control and can be very aggressive and bullying.”

“He's a one-trick pony. Well maybe more than one. He does the humility, the apology, the jugular. I think that's how he struggles with women. The jugular on women is a bad approach. He lacks the nuances of

others. Mike Rann is a strategic thinker on quite a different level.”

“He's not one of those politicians who are one thing behind closed doors and another in front of the camera,” says another person who has seen him up close. “He can be a prick to anyone.” He can be lazy, insists this person, but with bursts of energy. “Every night he goes home with a bag of Treasury documents – sometimes they came back unopened.” Foley doesn't always handle pressure well, says this person, tending to blame others when things go wrong. Another says: “His staff seemed to cop the brunt of his bad moods. He had a hard time separating his personal and private life, it seemed to me”. Not just staff – he berated Education Minister Jane Lomax-Smith, insiders say, in some very loud and aggressive policy disputes.

Foley, one observer notes, is “delicate”. “He's abrupt on the surface but underneath he can be fragile.” Surprisingly, Foley agrees with some of the criticism. “My problem is that I reckon I do about 85 per cent of this job really well,” he says. “But I know 10 or 15 per cent of me goes over the top and that is when I say too much, when I speak my mind, when I lose my cool ... I suffer very quickly from the emotion of, ‘oh no, did I really say that?’ and I feel the pain of it.” Calling South Australians a bunch of whingers was an example, he says. “I don't think the Premier had a great breakfast,” he says of when that made the papers.

Foley argues he isn't a bully, or at least doesn't mean to be. “But if that is the way they see me that must be the way I come across.” At a press conference on a “shonky” contract relating to Adelaide's water supply one reporter was told his question was stupid. That seemed to subdue another, who prefaced a question by a hope that it, too, wasn't “silly”. At that same conference, Foley claimed a United Nations representative who'd expressed concerns about the Magill Training Centre was a blow-in who'd flown first-class from New York. He came from Melbourne. Kick heads first, ask questions later.

Yet Foley says it upsets him people think badly of him. “I know I'm a good person. I am still very close to the mother of my children, a beautiful person whom I went to school with and married for a long time. We have raised two beautiful kids who are well-mannered, embarking upon very worthwhile careers and as parents we have done a very good job. I'm actually very emotionally fragile, believe it or not. Maybe my arrogance or perceived arrogance hides a more fragile Kevin Foley than people would appreciate. I shed a tear more often than most ... I am ... emotionally I'm a bit soft.”

Adelaide isn't a big city, and someone like Foley is always going to attract attention when he's playing the role of man about town. And he does sometimes bring it on himself. When he attended a Greg Norman golf course project on the Yorke Peninsula in June,

From left: Foley with son Ben and father Jack; at a promotional event with former opposition leader Martin Hamilton-Smith; with former wife Cathy in 2002; performing in Parliament; launching the Clipsal 500 in 2007; with Premier Mike Rann. Bottom right: Campaigning with a very young Ryan.



2007, he flew in a helicopter with Holmen. Even best mate "Gordy" Smith recalls saying to him: "Kev, what are you doing?" But Foley's reaction was that he'd be hammered over Holmen whether he took her there or not.

In any case, Foley says there's nothing wrong with dating younger women, or older women. "I've got a terrible image out there," he says. "People think I'm a womaniser, I've had three relationships since I have been single with three fantastic people which haven't worked for various reasons. I know all three of them are still very good friends ... we just weren't right for each other. Despite public opinion, most women are reluctant to go out with me because of what comes with it. I'm a single guy, I've been out with people older than me, I've been out with people my age, and I've been out with younger people. It's not age, it's the person and I haven't yet met the right person."

The words tumble out, and it's easy to believe that at this minute Foley would trade his AAA rating for a stable home life. "I'm a lonely guy, but I can't be in a relationship for the sake of it. I want a partner that I can settle down with and have a long-term relationship, a loving relationship like I had with Cath. I do not want to be a single guy any more. I don't enjoy being a single guy ... I don't like the sort of stuff you do as a single guy in terms of having to meet people."

At the same time, Foley does enjoy a drink and getting out. "I do like a drink and drink is a trap in this job, yeah, but I'm also very fit, work out regularly, keep my weight under control and I do watch what I drink," he says. "But ... I am allowed to have a private life and my most enjoyable night is actually at home cooking an Indian curry, with a really crappy DVD with bloody ... an action flick ..."

It seems like a dam has burst, as he pours out his troubles. "You know, it has been hard for me to find the right partner because despite what people think, where do I go to meet people? And once they know what I do for a living they run a million miles an hour. But make no mistake, I don't like my personal life now. I am ... lonely. And that has affected my work. A couple of my colleagues have borne the brunt of that loneliness as it has manifested itself."

He doesn't give details about what he means, but

pushes on. "I think there has been a period in the last 12 months when I went down pretty low – pretty low as it all got on top of me and when that happens those closest to you in a work sense feel it, and those people know who they are and I am really sorry about that, but again I'm not holding back anything from anyone. My kids have been the rock."

For the latter part of the interview Foley has seemed to be choked up, but now he is in tears. He says, a short time later, that he had thought of getting out because he felt so empty. "I don't want to seek any public sympathy for me because who would be sympathetic towards a treasurer who taxes everyone? And it is not an excuse for my behaviour which at times has not been as it should have been, publicly, but when you are a single guy with a degree of emptiness and loneliness, sometimes you do things that upon reflection you wish you hadn't."

After three conversations with Foley, it's clear he'd been fooling himself that he could walk away from a long marriage and immediately shift into a new life, with greener pastures. He got an early inkling of the stresses he'd unleashed the first day he met Rann to tell him of the split, in a Norwood café. Foley began to cry, publicly, and Rann suggested they needed to go to his home for some privacy.

"I think the fact that after Cath and I broke up, I entered into some relationships fairly quickly, I think postponed the period that a person needs to adjust from a long-term marriage to being single," he says. "A year or so ago, or two years ago, for a period, pretty much after the break up with Emma Forster, I went to some dark places, emotionally." It wasn't just Forster, it was the hangover from the divorce as well.

What got him through? "It was time. And some counselling. And to be honest I'm not sure I'm fully over it yet. I'm loving the job now and hungry as ever for the work. But ... I've been to hell and back and there's no one to blame but myself."

Forster remains a pal. "I'm still very good friends with Kevin and his sons," she says. "If he was a terrible person, I would not have kept that relationship." Forster says they were just not suited. She told him the relationship was like one of those kangaroos you see by the road, hit by a truck, close to death but still twitching. "Somebody's just got to pull the trigger and put it out of its misery," she told him. So they did. When she took up with another man not long afterwards, he was shattered. Now, she says, he's looking for a relationship, not a playboy lifestyle. "He's been out with younger women – it doesn't make him a bad person." She says he does get hurt. "Kevin is a very emotional person, not in a negative way. He's in touch with his feminine side."

Foley's paid a high price for his career, thinks Smith, his long-time water-ski mate and one who was there after his bucks night when the lads dressed a hungover Foley in a leather thong and took pictures

(Foley nabbed the shots a few years later). He says Emma's loss was huge because "she was great for Kev", making him behave normally rather than as a politician. But it's politics Smith blames for his mate's troubles. "People don't know what the job has done to the person. I would not do it for quids."

Nick Xenophon, who Foley called a "f...ing c..." one night in the parliamentary bar, also sees another side. "When I won the 2006 election he sent me a long congratulation on my achievement, which I did not get from Rann," the independent Senator recalls. He also got a text when he had heart problems: "Mate, you are a pain in the arse, but I'm concerned about you, look after yourself." "Scratch behind the bluster and there's actually a decent human being there," Xenophon says. "He'll probably hate me for saying that."

Even Hamilton-Smith, who blamed Foley for encouraging a thuggish culture in state politics, doesn't hate him. "Kevin is the sort of guy you need at least one of in your team," he says. "I didn't have one. I quite like him. You tend to forgive him his trespasses."

AS HE'S COOKING dinner at his West Lakes apartment, Foley is a lot more cheerful than the previous time I saw him. In fact he's positively chipper. It may be because of what happened earlier that day, when he launched the 2010 Clipsal 500 field. Foley explains how he had to go up on stage but figured he would be booed. He's always booed at things like that. Nobody likes the guy who taxes them. So he thinks he might bring up on stage with him the opposition MP present. Then he thinks that's too cruel, so he considers a racing driver instead. Nah, he eventually decides, just do it yourself.

But, instead of booing, they cheer – or at least applaud. Foley is stunned. "I never get cheered, I always get booed (some in the crowd take that as a cue to oblige) so you've made my day – my week – my year!" Grinning widely, he asks them to do it again. For a while at least, the lonely guy has something to smile about.

To comment on this story email saweekend@adv.newsfile.com.au or go to adelaideadvertiser.com.au/saweekend



I'm a lonely guy: Foley bares his broken heart

From Page 1

"But that was a dumb idea and common sense kicks in fairly quickly. And certainly I haven't thought about that in recent times at all but, there is an emptiness in my life that I haven't been able to fill."

Mr Foley became choked up and teary during the interview. The 49-year-old said he believed his troubles were a delayed reaction to a mutual decision with ex-wife Cathy to divorce in 2003.

While he had several relationships following the break-up, it was the split with girlfriend Emma Forster in 2007 that he said sent him spiralling down into "dark places". He sought counselling to help overcome the despair.

The normally-feisty politician admitted his public behaviour in the past few years hadn't always been good. He offered himself to colleagues as an alternative leader to Mike Rann one night last year.

His problems had put stresses on relationships with colleagues, he said.

In a candid, lengthy and emotional interview, Mr Foley said he didn't like people thinking he was a bully for his tough political style.

He said the personal trauma



FAMILY MAN: Kevin Foley with his sons Ryan and Ben in 2007.

of trying to find a partner and relationship to replace his marriage of more than two decades had put enormous stress on him and continued to trouble him.

"I'm a lonely guy, but I can't be in a relationship for the sake of it. I want to find a partner that I can settle down with, and have a long-term relationship, a loving relationship, like I had with Cath," he said.

"I do not enjoy being a single guy any more. I don't like the

sort of stuff you do as a single guy in terms of having to meet people."

Mr Foley said he despaired of finding the right woman because "once they know what I do for a living, they run a million miles an hour".

"But make no mistake. I don't like my personal life now. I am lonely. And that has affected my work," he said.

Forster, a former TV presenter, remains a friend as does Cathy, he says.

Mr Foley blamed his deep despair on a culmination of events.

"It wasn't just the result of a breakdown with Emma. I guess you could say it's a second failure in six years. I'd never properly sorted myself out after my marriage break-up. And after the break-up with Emma I'd really questioned where my life was going.

"I guess it was a culmination of having postponed the period of learning to live in my own skin and be a strong person. And it all started to crash down. The break-up with Emma was a catalyst for me to confront things I should have confronted three or four years earlier.

"But I think men are emotionally weaker than women and a lot of people had told me it would take me a lot of years to get through the broken marriage.

"But for two or three years I just carried on with life as if I'd moved on when I hadn't. It all had to come crashing down at some point and the break up with Emma, in a sense, was a catalyst."

If you feel depressed, call Lifeline on 131 114, Sane on 1800 18 7263, or beyond-blue on 1300 22 46 36.

Union Hall protest planned

SAMELA HARRIS

AS with a lion roused from slumber, Adelaide is starting to roar protest against the demolition of Union Hall in the University of Adelaide.

Two applications have been lodged for heritage listing and now, with a Save the Union Hall Committee formed, a rally is planned for November 13.

Even the grand-niece of the theatre's architect, Louis Laybourne Smith, has joined the movement - not, says Anne-Marie Meegan-Turner, because of her blood connection but because she is a violinist, conductor, music teacher and one who believes the loss of Union Hall is a serious blow to the art.

"(Ballet schools and music groups) were displaced to the Scott when it was turned into a lecture theatre and now the Scott is also being turned into a lecture theatre and they have nowhere at all to go," she said.

The University announced Union Hall would be bulldozed in January to make way for new science buildings in its \$400 million redevelopment program.



MARK Kavanagh, who earned his racing stripes as a jumps jockey in Mt Gambier after growing up next to Bart Cummings in Glenelg North, yesterday held court in the Sport of Kings when his horse, Shocking, powered to victory in the \$5.65 million Melbourne Cup at Flemington. Before a buoyant crowd of 102,161, Shocking burst clear of overseas raider Crime Scene, ridden by Streaky Bay-born Kerrin McEvoy, in the final strides of the race. **FULL STORY - pages 4, 5; Sport**

SHOCKED: Trainer Mark Kavanagh and jockey Corey Brown with the Melbourne Cup yesterday.

Picture: MICHAEL DODGE



Why Kevin Foley decided to reveal his depression to the world

I'M FRAGILE, NOT BROKEN

KEVIN Foley yesterday declared himself a lifelong sufferer of depression, turning embarrassment over his admissions of personal turmoil into a campaign to encourage people to seek treatment for mental illness.

The State Treasurer, who is on medication,



ROY ECCLESTON

insisted he would continue his political career for at least four more years, despite the depression which he said had been made worse by relationship troubles since splitting with his wife in 2003.

Continued Page 6

Why Kevin Foley decided to reveal his depression

pression. It's a treatable, manageable condition. KEVIN FOLEY

From Page 1

The surprising revelations by Labor's hard man were triggered by a candid interview about his personal troubles with *The Advertiser's* saweekend magazine, published on Saturday.

Mr Foley yesterday said he'd planned to keep his condition secret but changed his mind after the article in which he admitted he was "emotionally fragile", had been to "dark places", and had considered quitting politics.

In the article, he blamed his loneliness over the failure of several relationships, including his marriage, but chose not to reveal the underlying mental

illness. Mr Foley said he now wanted to give a fuller explanation of the problems. He revealed his illness to Cabinet on Monday and to sons

occupy his mind. "I realised I had to do something," Mr Foley said yesterday.

"I went on the net. Punched in beyondblue,

ageable condition." The Treasurer used his revelation to go on the front foot, condemning Opposition questioning of his emotional state as an insult to the one in five Australians who will at some point suffer depression.

It was not an admission of failure but evidence of courage and character to admit to the condition, he said.

"It's not a job stopper, not a career-stopper," he said, describing his illness as mild to medium. "If the Libs want to call me a looney, so be it."

Mr Foley insisted he would stay in the job thanks to counselling and medication - which he is still taking - and offered himself as a role model for those who felt they could not cope.

"My message to South Australians today is it's possible that you can suffer from depression but it doesn't mean that you have to give away a meaningful and fulfilling career," he said.

"My message to all South Australians is if you suffer from depression, or think you're suffering from depression, or just feel like the world is just raining down on top of you, seek help."

He recommended beyondblue.org.au, which he said had helped him find psychiatrists and psychologists after a self-diagnosis online.

Mr Foley becomes one of a few Australian politicians who have admitted depression, including former West Australian premier Geoff Gallop and federal Liberal frontbencher Andrew Robb.

But many, including Winston Churchill, have suffered from the "black dog" illness.

The path to the decision to go public began in the Treasurer's private office in early September, in an saweekend interview for a profile prompted by Mr Foley's behaviour around town.

During a series of questions about how the difference between the public and private Foley, the Treasurer opened up about the pain he said he felt over misconceptions about him.

Asked if it bothered him he was seen as a bully, he began to sound upset. "I'm actually very emotionally fragile, believe it or not," he said. "Maybe my arrogance, or perceived arrogance, hides a more fragile

"I went on the net. Punched in beyondblue, a self-assessment came up . . . and it made a clear pointer that I had a problem."

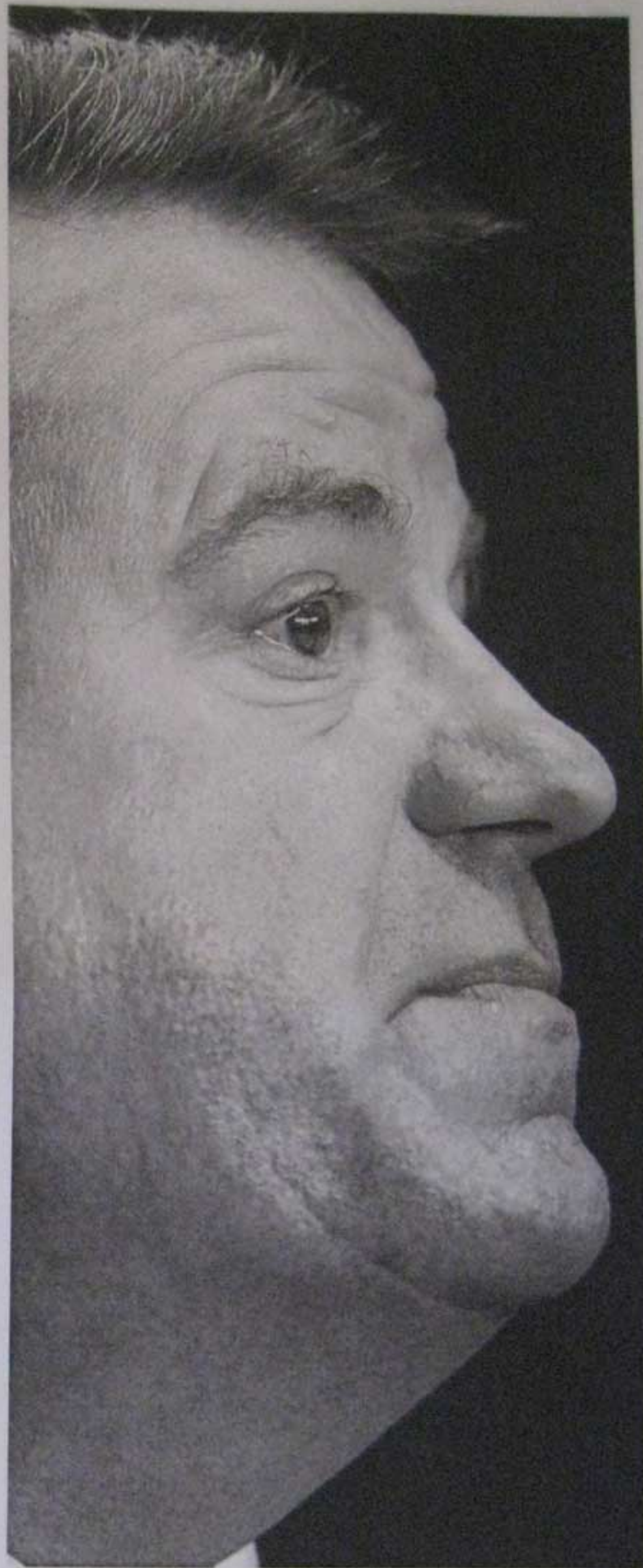
Ben, 18, and Ryan, 21 yesterday.

Mr Foley began to suspect his condition almost three years ago one quiet Sunday afternoon - one which made him feel horrifically empty, with no work to

a self-assessment came up, I played around with it and it made a clear pointer that I had a problem.

"I'm not bipolar, manic, or at the extreme end of depression.

"It's a treatable, man-



SA Weekend last Saturday.

Kevin Foley than people would appreciate," he said. "I shed a tear more often than most."

While he did not admit he'd been depressed, he gave strong indi-

cation he'd suffered mentally, later describing how he had been to counselling because of the despair he felt over his personal life.

Yesterday, Mr Foley said yesterday he had not intended discussing his personal problems to saweekend but "somehow found myself" venturing into that area.

"I had no intention of revealing I suffered from depression because I felt it was something I could keep private," he said.

"As it turned out the article was well-written, but I had to admit it was incomplete in the end - because I'd opened the door I didn't think it

would take long for people to connect the dots."

He said the marriage break-up in 2003 with Cathy and the break-up with Emma Forster in 2007 were catalysts that magnified his underlying depression.

"It all came crashing down," he said yesterday, describing an inability to cope with the loneliness that came from living without a partner.

"I spiralled down into a very, very dark places and it was clearly a catalyst for me seeking help."

Mr Foley said he had thought of quitting, but realised he could not run away from depression.

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